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THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1931

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YSU Moot Court team reigns supreme

Staff Report

On Friday and Saturday, eight Youngstown State University students went head-to-head against some of the nation's most prestigious educational institutions and brought home several honors.

Senior Zachary White tied for first place in individual oratory. Freshman Jake Schriener-Briggs also placed third in that category.

In October, 285 teams of 570 students from across the country competed in regional tournaments. The best 80 teams made it to nationals in Virginia Beach, Va., including four of YSU's six teams.

In addition to the individual honors, White and his partner Josh Prest reached the "sweet 16," as the team's coach, Ron Slipski, called it. Catie Carney and James Toliver reached the "awesome eight."

"I believe that, intellectually, they are amongst the best young people in the nation, and they worked their tails off. They wanted it. They went to work, and they didn't let up until it was done," Slipski said.

Though other schools may have had more resources at their disposal, he said, YSU's success came from something

more valuable.

"I like to call this the Work Belt rather than the Rust Belt," he said. "All of us in this community have a tendency to think that the rest of the world somehow is better than we are. They're not."

The YSU students began preparing in the summer, studying case law and practicing their arguments. During the fall semester, they met three times a week for three credit hours, but, as the competition drew near, they stepped up their game.

"I spent at least 10 hours a week preparing from May-January," White said in an email. "My teammates put in just as much work as I have, and I consider it a team accomplishment."

The competitors argued cases involving constitutional law in front of judges, lawyers and law students, using existing court cases as precedent.

To prepare the team even further, Slipski arranged for his students to practice at the 7th District Court of Appeals in downtown Youngstown.

"It was very real from the beginning," Carney said. "It's probably the closest real life experience you'll get to being a lawyer."

She said the YSU students were well prepared for the



From left, Jacob Schriener-Briggs, Catie Carney, James Toliver and Zachary White show off their awards from last weekend's American Collegiate Moot Court National Tournament. White and Schriener-Briggs won individual orator awards, first place and third place, respectively. Carney and Toliver, who were teammates, made it to the quarterfinals. Photo courtesy of Zachary White.

tournament, even though they didn't expect to perform as well as they did.

"But when we kept making it through rounds — top 32, top 16, top eight — it just got really exciting," she said.

Carney said word of their

success spread fast throughout the tournament, and YSU won some prestige along with the awards.

"People started talking about Youngstown. They know we compete. They take us seriously," she said.

Slipski extended the honor to all who would dare take the hands they are dealt and turn them into success.

"YSU students can accomplish anything," he said. "All you have to do is put your nose to the grindstone."

Addicted to the Web 'Fidgitals' can't wait for their next fix

Kacy Standohar
NEWS EDITOR

By combining the words "fidget" and "digital," The New York Times has coined a description of people who compulsively use social media.

A recent study by the University of Maryland's International Center for Media and the Public Agenda shows that people who frequently check their smartphones and other devices suffer withdrawal symptoms when they are taken away.

Molly Jameson Cox, an assistant professor of psychology at Youngstown State University, said people are becoming accustomed to having information readily available.

"We start to think that it's the normal thing for people to do," she said.

Jameson Cox said people are becoming dependent on that ever-present access.

"We live in an immediate gratification world. We start to expect it all the time," she said.

Jameson Cox said that in social interactions, there is still the expectation of things in our culture like eye contact, standing close and touching. Face-to-face communication is a skill that is going out of style.

"People are much more comfortable and protected when there is a piece of technology in between them and the person they're talking to,"

she said.

Joanne Cantor, author of the book "Conquering Cyber Overload" and creator of the Your Mind on Media website, said it is hard to break away from social media because it is so appealing and rewarding.

"No matter what else you need to be doing, you always know that there's something interesting going on with your friends," she said. "If you're a college student, it's like there's always a party going on down the hall, so you have to have extra discipline not to drop your work and join in."

Cantor said it is a problem not only for the college-student generation but also for older generations because of the constant interruption from your work to check email and Facebook updates.

"People end up multitasking all the time. Research shows that multitasking dumbs down your brain," Cantor said. "It interferes with your brain's ability to reason or to integrate what you're doing with what you already know."

Jameson Cox said she believes there is a generational gap that would eventually cause people to lose the ability to validate one another.

Cantor agrees that social media definitely interferes with the quality of interaction.

"We should think about what the goal of our communication is. Facial expressions and vocal tone are really important when we're talking about relationships," Cantor said.

Cantor said she wrote the

book and began lecturing at schools because she discovered that she was a cyber addict.

"I wasn't getting anything done. I couldn't concentrate. I was really stressed out and my memory was going," Cantor said. "I noticed that because I was always online, I was always multitasking and experiencing information overload. I looked at the research on multitasking and information overload, and what I discovered was that there were good reasons I was having these problems."

Cantor said she uses mind exercises when speaking to students to help demonstrate

the problem instead of just telling them.

Several faculty members, including Jameson Cox, are trying to tap into their students' habits by using interactive social media in the classroom.

But a psychology of social media course has not yet been incorporated into the curriculum.

Jameson Cox said she uses social media to download websites, books and journal articles to use in class. She said it is convenient to be able to use different mediums.

"I also see that because it's gotten so integrated into our society that people think they couldn't live without it," she

said. "It's led us to be a little lazier. We don't have to work as hard."

Rumors that social media addiction will be known as an actual psychological addiction is still a controversy, Cantor said.

"It's clear that many people have trouble detaching from media, even when it interferes with important parts of their life," Cantor said. "For many people, it's hard to break the habit, but it can be done."

Cantor said if students young and old are able to find a balance and take breaks from social media to have face-to-face conversations, they would be much better off.



ILLUSTRATION BY PARIS CHRISOPOULOS/THE JAMBAR

Bon voyage, 23 N. Hazel St.



Andre Costello and the Cool Minors perform on the stage of Cedar's Lounge on Aug. 30. The local hotspot will soon end its residence downtown. Photo courtesy of David Pokrivnak.

Taylor Phillips
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
REPORTER

After serving as a landmark of downtown Youngstown's nightlife for more than 35 years, Cedar's Lounge will relocate after this weekend to a yet undisclosed location.

To celebrate the lounge's final days at 23 N. Hazel St., a "Cedar's Mini-Fest" will be held Friday. The event,

presented by Wild Kindness Records and Pixel Pop Photography, will feature performances by the Building, Andre Costello and the Cool Minors, Rahkeem Brown, and the Raspberry Reich; records and local wares; comic and art vendors; and more.

David Pokrivnak said the event is a way for his record label, Wild Kindness Records, to offer "our respect and a grand send-off."

"[Cedar's] is the only place in the area to find such

a high threshold of talent and creativity," Pokrivnak said.

Alyssa Olmi, a sophomore at Youngstown State University, said Cedar's isn't just one of the oldest bars downtown — it's also the most unique.

"What makes it so cool is that it reaches out to so many different crowds," she said. "One night will be swing dancing, and then the next night, a live band will be playing."

Every Thursday night

from 10 p.m. till 2 a.m., Cedar's hosts Swing Night, which members of the YSU Dance Club often attend.

Kristi Yazvac, vice president of the YSU Dance Club, said Cedar's is a stress-reliever for many club members.

"Cedar's was always our getaway place whenever we were stressed over school or just wanted a fun night outside of the dorm," Yazvac said. "We had at least three-fourths of the club go-

ing each Thursday for Swing Night, and we became regulars there."

But although Cedar's will soon leave its North Hazel Street location behind, its legacy will persist, she said.

"Cedar's is just a classic. When you go to other bars downtown, they just don't have the character Cedar's seems to have," Yazvac said. "Youngstown has made some changes over the years, but Cedar's always seems to have stayed the same."

MLK breakfast celebrates diversity

Justin Carissimo
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, Youngstown State University will host its 11th annual diversity breakfast on Thursday.

Breakfast will be held in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. In addition to refreshments, the event will include a keynote speaker and an awards ceremony.

William Blake, director of the YSU Office of Student Diversity Programs, said maintaining diversity is one of the university's major missions.

"We have a very diverse population. The university represents not only Youngstown, but different groups throughout [the] world," Blake said.

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, the 117th consecrated bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, will serve as the event's keynote speaker.

McKenzie is the first woman to be named to the office in more than 200 years of the AME Church's existence.

She oversees the 10th Episcopal District of Texas. President Barack Obama has appointed McKenzie to serve

on the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

DeAndre Radcliffe said he plans to attend the diversity breakfast — his third — and is elated to have the chance to sit down with McKenzie.

"We have plans to get lunch or coffee downtown this week. I'm very excited to sit down and speak with her," Radcliffe said.

The event will also include the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Awards. Twelve students will be honored.

Students will be receiving awards in three categories: community service, student recognition of diversity and mentorship roles.

The YSU Office of Student Diversity Programs encourages students to celebrate the honors and to enjoy the event.

"Here, we have a chance to experience different culture, learn a lot and leave with a full stomach," Radcliffe said.

Tickets are available at the YSU Info and PC Lab, which is located on the second floor of Kilcawley Center. Tickets are \$15 for students and \$25 for general admission.

For more information, contact Carla Nalbach at 330-941-2087 or Blake at 330-941-2086.

Banding together

Local band strives to achieve goal

Caitlin Sheridan
REPORTER

On Friday, University Pizzeria will host six bands that are joining forces to help another local band reach their dream of recording an album.

The concert will start at 6:30 p.m., and it is open to those 18 and older. The cover charge is \$8, and all proceeds will benefit Set to Reflect, who will also be performing.

Kristen Occhiove, an employee of University Pizzeria, said she expects a fun, entertaining night.

"Each band will bring their own following and that could be anywhere from 20 to 50 people per band. We are expecting to see quite a few people throughout the night," Occhiove said.

Performing with Set to Reflect will be Run for the Skylines, Where Are You Houston, Save Us From the Archon, Alteras and Oroboros.

Set to Reflect is a post-

hardcore band that adds its own style into its music and has been performing together for more than a year and a half.

The band consists of five members: Alan Bryan, lead guitarist and backup vocalist; Matt Luthie, guitarist; Trevor Jenkins, bassist; Tony McVaney, lead vocalist; and Will Green, drummer.

The band members said they want their audience to receive one message from their music: Never give up.

"We want people to know that there is hope in this lost world," Green said. "No one is alone. We're all traveling through this crazy thing we call life together, and we should all have each other's backs."

The members have open minds about their future as they plan to record 11 new tracks in February.

The members of Set to Reflect said they want to "get rich or die trying" and "roll with the punches from there."

Alteras, another band performing, is a punk-rock band that includes elements of clubhouse music to create a unique sound.

The Austintown band also has five members: Jake Clasen, vocalist; Jordan Woolley, guitarist and programmer of synthesizers; Matt Heitzer, drummer; Tony Adams, bassist; and Mike Dulay, guitarist.

"We were just groups of guys who loved to write music and perform, so we banded," Clasen said.

The band has been playing original tracks since 2011.

"I like the listeners to be able to create their own personal connection with each song," Clasen said.

Clasen also said he is happy to help a fellow band.

"We'd never turn down an offer to play a show for a cause. It's hard to make money in this industry. Set to Reflect are good guys trying to get an album out. We got to do what we can to help," he said.

Minor arrest records can keep college students out of job market

Desiree Stennett
ORLANDO SENTINEL (MCT)

Every year, thousands of college students across the nation leave home for the first time and make decisions with potential to affect their lives for years.

Along with choosing career paths, taking classes and asserting their newfound freedom, some also end up with criminal charges on their records.

A U.S. Department of Justice report released in June showed that students who have been arrested, even for minor crimes, face extra obstacles in an already shaky job market.

A criminal record "will keep many people from obtaining employment, even if they have paid their dues, are qualified for the job and are unlikely to re-offend," according to Amy L. Solomon, a senior adviser to the assistant attorney general in the Office of Justice Programs, and author of the report.

Her report pointed out that "the majority of employers indicate that they would 'probably' or 'definitely' not be willing to hire an applicant with a criminal record."

In October, one 20-year-old woman from Broward County, Fla., was visiting the University of Central Florida campus when she was caught holding an open can of beer and charged with misdemeanor underage drinking.

Like her, many students have their first run-in with law enforcement over relatively minor crimes. But even minor infractions could have implications later on.

"You don't want to have that mark on your record," said University of Central

Florida police Chief Richard Beary. "With the job market as competitive as it is, even that misdemeanor arrest could have an impact on you depending on what position you're trying to get."

Though it is unclear what proportion of the arrests made by university police involve students rather than members of the general public, the FBI's Uniform Crime Report shows that thousands of arrests are made on Florida college campuses each year.

People who aren't enrolled in schools are on campus for various sporting and social events, and those arrested who are not students are often charged with theft and other property crimes.

Cary Carlisle, a Pensacola, Fla., bail bondsman, has seen plenty of first-time-offender students come through his doors and said that, although the numbers are low, the experience usually forces those students to grow up fast.

"It's usually a pretty eye-opening experience for them," Carlisle said. "After a while the reality hits them, and all of them are usually scared because this is the first time they have had a brush with the law."

In addition to the long-term pitfalls, students also face short-term consequences, university spokeswoman Zenaida Kotala said.

After an arrest has been reported to the university, the student suspect must go before the Office of Student Conduct, which evaluates each case.

The office's student-conduct board — made up of faculty, staff and students — holds hearings for suspected violators and levies sanctions ranging from formal warnings to expulsion.

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Letter to the Editor

Sobhu Nije created the art used in this column.

2013 AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Presented by the Month of the Month: "It's history that you and you look back, you are both history." (Columbia West Africa)

<p>Saturday, Feb. 2 Noon to 5 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center THE AFRICAN MARKETPLACE The African Marketplace features a wide variety of vendors from the U.S. and Africa as they display and sell African outfits, artifacts, artistic creations, books and jewelry. The marketplace also celebrates African culture in music and dance, provided by the highly talented Harambie Youth Group of Youngstown.</p>	<p>Tuesday, Feb. 19 7 p.m., The Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center WITH GRACE I STAND One-woman play by E.P. McNight E.P. McNight depicts trailblazing African American women in this entertaining production. A graduate of Fordham University, New York, she received her master's degree in Educational Psychology. McNight is a poet, actress, writer, producer, host, teacher and a member of Screen Actors Guild. She currently travels throughout the country with her highly acclaimed show, "Question America: The Legacy of Fannie Lou Hamer."</p>
<p>Thursday, Feb. 7 7:30 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center THE AFRICAN AMERICAN PYRAMID AWARDS A presentation and awards ceremony celebrating the achievements of outstanding Youngstown City Schools students. Teachers, mentors and parents who have devoted service to student honorees will also be recognized. Co-sponsors: The Family Empowerment Institute and Youngstown City Schools</p>	<p>Thursday, Feb. 21 7 p.m., The Gallery Room, Kilcawley Center "AFRICAN CULTURAL HERITAGE: MISSING VALUES IN THE QUEST FOR MODERNISM" Lecture by Dr. Emmanuel Christian Nyarko Dr. Nyarko is a Ghanaian educationalist whose specialization is in Art Education. He obtained his Ph.D. from Ohio University, where he was a Fulbright student, and has been a lecturer at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science in Kumasi, Ghana. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Center for National Culture in Kumasi and president of the Ghana Association of Visual Artists.</p>
<p>Wednesday, Feb. 13 Reception: 5 p.m., Art Gallery, Bliss Hall Panel Discussion: 6 p.m., Zane Auditorium, Butler Institute of American Art AFRICAN ART DISPLAY By Sobhu Omar Nije Sobhu Omar Nije grew up in The Gambia, West Africa, in a family of artists. He developed an interest in the arts, especially in the magic of color and patterning on fabric, and studied art and architecture at Hamilton College in New York. He is on the roster of Teaching Artists for the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts and the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. Co-sponsor: The College of Fine and Performing Arts at YSU</p>	<p>Saturday, Feb. 23 7 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center AFRICAN MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA By Toby Foyeh and Orchestra Africa Toby Foyeh is the leader of the Toby Foyeh African Orchestra and attended Berklee College of Music in Boston and Howard University, Washington, D.C. The orchestra specializes in African music with its origins in the traditional Yoruba ethnic group of Nigeria and focuses on a dynamic mélange of jazz, rock, pop and Latin rhythms or "AfriJam" music. Co-sponsor: The Office of Student Diversity at YSU</p>
<p>Friday, Feb. 15 7 p.m., The Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center "BLACK ARTS AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT" Keynote lecture by Mwatabu S. Okantah Mwatabu S. Okantah is an assistant professor and Poet-in-Residence for the Department of Pan-African Studies and director of the Center for Pan-African Culture at Kent State University. An author of several published poems, he holds degrees in English and African Studies from KSU and a master's in Creative Writing from City College, New York. Also a performer, Okantah has collaborated with the Cavalari String Quartet, the Rhodes Street Rude Boys, and leads the Muntu Kuntu Energy Group.</p>	<p>Monday, Feb. 25 7:30 p.m., Jones Room, Kilcawley Center BLACK FACULTY RESEARCH SHOWCASE Black Faculty Research Showcase is a celebration of Youngstown State University's Black faculty—an opportunity for them to share their research for feedback and general discussion. Presenters include Dr. Frank Akpaddock of the Regional Center for Urban Studies and author of <i>City in Transition: Strategies for Economic Regeneration of Inner-City Communities—The Case of Youngstown, Ohio</i>; and Dr. Victor Wan-Tatoh, director of the Africana Studies Program and author of <i>The Toxic Influence of Religion in Recent Presidential Elections</i>, among other accomplished faculty. There will be a book signing at the end of the event.</p>

Events co-sponsored by:

For further information about African American History Month events, call the Africana Studies Program at 330-941-3097.
Event parking is available at the Lincoln Deck and lot M24, next to McDonald's on Fift Avenue.

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WITH DR. ARNOLD SPEERT, SEARCH CONSULTANT AGB SEARCH, INC.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2013

TIME: 4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: YSU, TOD HALL, BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONFERENCE ROOM

THIS WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DR. SPEERT TO GATHER INFORMATION FROM YSU CONSTITUENTS ABOUT THE DESIRED TRAITS OF THE NEXT UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT.

NEWS BRIEFS

\$55,000 Wean grant to benefit internship program

The Center for Nonprofit Leadership, part of YSU's Williamson College of Business Administration, recently received a \$55,000 grant from the Raymond John Wean Foundation; it will go toward the WCBA's second Summer Honors Internship Program, scheduled for this summer. Regional nonprofit and public sector organizations in the tri-county area that are interested in receiving a full-time co-funded intern are encouraged to apply. Applications are available on the WCBA website, and they are due by Feb. 15. Students can begin to apply for the program in mid-February. Only YSU students with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA and a declared major are eligible; applicants must also be either seniors or graduate students by summer. For more information, contact Laura McCaskey at 330-941-1870 or ljmcaskey@ysu.edu.

Planetarium to host weekend shows

YSU's Ward Beecher Planetarium will feature "Footsteps" on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. It will also screen "The Super Sky Show" at 1 p.m. and again at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

POLICE BRIEFS

Car keyed in M-1 deck

Around 2 p.m. on Friday, a 19-year-old male student told YSU Police that his blue 2011 Chevrolet Cruze had been lightly "keyed" on the driver's side front and rear doors while parked in the M-1 parking deck. He told YSU Police that he hadn't been having problems with anyone who might've keyed his car. YSU Police did not notice key damage to any other cars.

Student experiences health problems

A university police officer reported to the University Courtyard Apartments after a 20-year-old male student said that he was having chest pains and trouble breathing. An ambulance arrived at the scene, and it transported the student to St. Elizabeth Health Center.

Department reports theft

YSU Police reported to the YSU English Department, located in DeBartolo Hall, around 1 p.m. Friday in reference to a theft report. A black leather office chair worth \$150 and an orange office chair worth \$50 were reported stolen.

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Universities need to do more to control expenses, help students

Peter Morici
THE BALTIMORE SUN (MCT)

Colleges and universities charge too much, deliver too little and channel too many students into a lifetime of debt. Genuine reform must be brought to bear to curb those abuses.

College graduates still earn more and are unemployed less often. However, with so many recent graduates serving cappuccino and trading water in unpaid internships, a four-year diploma is not quite the solid investment it once was, and it should not be so often viewed as such a necessity by society.

Since 2007-2008, the average pay for recent four-year graduates has fallen nearly 5 percent, while the average earnings of a typical American worker, as tracked by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, is up 10 percent.

Graduates in high-demand disciplines can still earn good starting salaries and expect rising earnings as experience grows, but in many majors they increasingly face market conditions that have bedeviled skilled manufacturing workers for decades: too many folks chasing too few jobs.

Academics tend to see a university education idealistically — cultivating critical thinking and facilitating a satisfying life — but most middle-class families view the situation in more practical terms. For them, a diploma is a capital investment often purchased at extortionate prices.

Over several decades, Americans have become convinced that many jobs require a college education which, when evaluated in terms of their objective skill requirements, shouldn't. Convenience restaurant managers and cellphone salespeople don't need an education in literature, math and politics beyond what a decent high school education imparts. Yet, employers often press for several years of college or a degree — because college graduates are cheap and plentiful — but still end up training new hires in rudiments of hospitality management, operating systems and the like.

The result is that too many young people are pressured into a costly education they don't need and for which they may be ill-prepared. And universities, enjoying such a captive market, have over-expanded, acceded to faculty demands for light teaching loads, layered on costly bureaucracies, and unconscionably raised the cost of college to beyond what it frequently is worth to students and society

as a whole. Outstanding student loans now exceed \$1 trillion, with 1 in 6 in default — a ratio that will likely grow.

Unlike loans taken to capitalize a small business or buy a house, student loans are not dischargeable in bankruptcy, and stories abound of folks in their 40s and 50s still saddled with onerous debt and the elderly with garnished Social Security benefits.

Colleges and universities often fail to furnish families with all the information necessary to make sound choices — including the probability a student will complete a degree in four years; the full cost of completing a degree; and likely salaries and prospects for repaying loans, especially according to major and for students who only attend a few years and do not complete a degree.

Too often, university presidents are like the bankers who wrote bad mortgages during the housing boom: They admit students, facilitate lots of borrowing, and pay themselves well but don't have much skin in the game.

For their students to qualify for both government-sponsored and private bank loans, universities should be compelled to provide audited information about the likely time required and cost of obtaining degrees in various majors; salaries graduates earn the first years after graduation, and the resulting repayment burdens; and similar data for those who attend less than four years. Like CEOs of corporations who must now attest to the accuracy of financial statements, university presidents should be required to do the same, and be subject to similar legal penalties for failure.

Student loans should be dischargeable in bankruptcy when these investments don't work out; otherwise, we will continue to create debtors for life. And universities should be on the hook for a significant share of defaulted loans — perhaps, 25 percent to 50 percent.

Well-run institutions would get their costs and tuition under control, seriously evaluate and become transparent about the prospects for a decent-paying job after majoring in art history as opposed to mechanical engineering, and have little problem lining up private investors to insure their share of prospective default liabilities.

Schools that take students' money and deliver too little for it would go the way of Circuit City or the St. Louis Browns, and stop blighting the futures of young people.

2013-2014 Financial Aid Awareness Week


Stop by one of our tables for information on financial aid for the 2013-2014 academic year. The priority deadline to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on the Web and the YSU Institutional Aid Application is February 15, 2013.

The following is a list of places, dates and times when staff from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will be available to distribute forms and answer questions:

Monday, January 28, 2013	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tuesday, January 29, 2013	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wednesday, January 30, 2013	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Thursday, January 31, 2013	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

*All dates are in the Kilcawley Center - 1st floor across from bank

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GOOD GRIEF! 'DOG SEES GOD' PARODIES 'PEANUTS' COMIC STRIP

Taylor Phillips
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

If Charles M. Schulz could see his beloved "Peanuts" characters in their teen years, he'd come across sex, drug abuse and alcoholism — at least according to Bert V. Royal's comedy-drama "Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead," which will be staged by Youngstown State University Theater's Black-box Productions from Thursday through Sunday.

"Dog Sees God" reimagines the "Peanuts" characters as teenagers in high school who are dealing with issues that real teens experience every day. The main character, CB, is a take on Charlie Brown; he's been struggling with his sexual identity ever since his beloved beagle died.

Fans of "Peanuts" should prepare themselves for some unexpected twists in "Dog Sees God." For instance, Linus has been renamed Van, and he's now the school drug addict. Pig-Pen, now known as Matt, has reinvented himself as a germaphobe, and CB's sister, originally known as Sally, changes her philosophy on life four times during the play.

David Palmer, a YSU junior from California, directs the university's production of "Dog Sees God."

"CB tries to discover what happens in the afterlife after his dog dies," Palmer said. "While attempting to find the answers, he finds his friends are [too] drunk, high, angry or crazy to really provide him with any comfort or answers."

Palmer said he can easily relate to CB.

"Not only am I a gay man that came out in high school, but I was a bully as well,"

Palmer said. "I have had those experiences with bullies not accepting me for who I was, and it was awful."

Ashley Whited of Struthers, who plays the character of Marcy, said "Dog Sees God" reminds her of high school — a time during which she was struggling to find herself.

"I did things and acted a certain way to get the approval of my friends," she said. "Half of the time, it wasn't even worth it."

Junior Matthew Malloy of Beaver, Pa., plays Van.

Although the play may push some boundaries, it's worth it, he said.

"It's easy to tell people that this play is about messed up 'Peanuts' characters," Malloy said. "It is used to get an inspiring message across about issues, such as suicide and drug use."

Natalie Martzial of Boardman plays Van's sister.

"My character is based on the 'Peanuts' character Lucy," Martzial said. "She ends up being a pyromaniac locked up in an insane asylum because

she burnt a girl's hair off."

Martzial said the play has a powerful message.

"For anyone who's ever lost someone to suicide or knows someone that has been bullied, the show serves as a sense of hope that things can get better," she said. "The play really embodies that it is never too late to extend a hand to someone who is feeling left out."

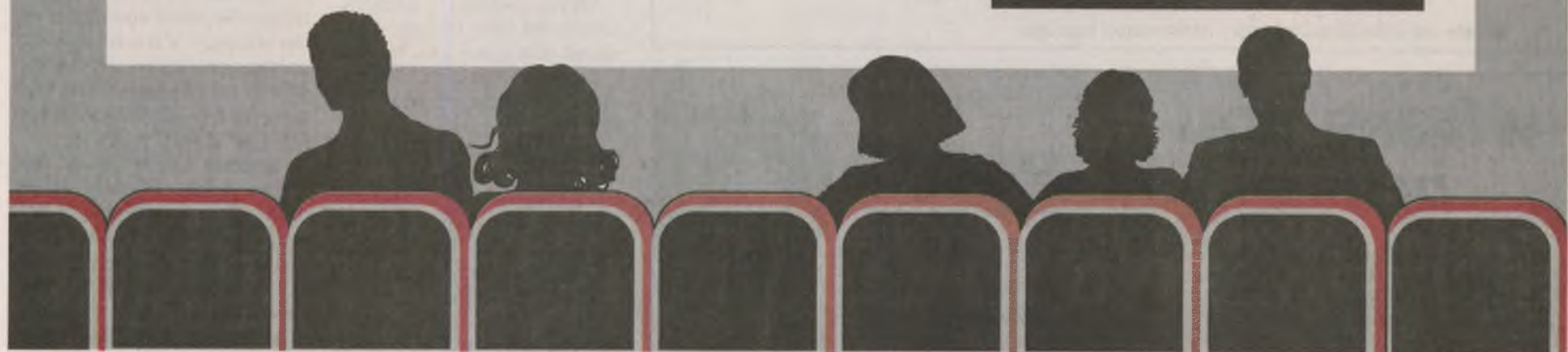
For tickets to "Dog Sees God," call the University Theater Box Office at 330-941-3105.



ILLUSTRATION BY PARIS CHRISOPOULOS/THE JAMBAR.

A professor's imagination comes to life

based on the novel
ONE FOR SORROW
written by
CHRISTOPHER BARZAK



Marissa McIntyre
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Chris Barzak, an assistant professor of English at Youngstown State University, will see his visions come to life now that his first novel, "One for Sorrow," is being adapted for the big screen.

"They hope to start filming in February," Barzak said, adding that the start date is tentative and dependent upon casting.

Julia Gergits, chair of the YSU English Department, said she couldn't be more proud of Barzak.

"I remember he said he didn't think

about it much because it's rare," Gergits said.

Barzak said he has a visual imagination.

"I can see it moving in my head much like a movie. The hard part was translating my visual imagination to literal prose," Barzak said.

The story revolves around a friendship between two teenagers, Adam McCormick and the ghost of Jamie Marks. It takes place after Marks' body is found in McCormick's backyard.

"One for Sorrow" was released in the fall of 2007. By the spring of 2008, Carter Smith showed interest in making Barzak's novel into a motion picture. Smith optioned the rights in 2012. He also developed the script and

sought out producers.

Barzak said Smith has kept in constant contact and brainstormed with him on changes that would be made in transitioning the story from novel to motion picture.

"He genuinely cared what I thought about the changes, and that has made the experience unique," Barzak said.

Barzak said he's excited to see the outcome of the movie. He said he wouldn't mind making a cameo in the movie and hopes the novel can also make an appearance.

"There is a scene where a main character is reading a book in the closet," Barzak said. "By reading the book, it is implied that he's reading 'Catcher in the Rye,' but I think it would be cute

if he was reading 'One for Sorrow.'"

The movie will be filmed in New York, but Barzak said the names of the places in Mahoning and Trumbull counties that appear in the book will stay the same.

Gergits said everything Barzak does reflects well on the YSU community and on Youngstown.

"Certainly, if anyone looks at our Chris, he's a YSU product as a whole," Gergits said. "He grew up in the area, attended YSU as a student and now teaches for us part time."

Gergits said she is excited to see Barzak's vision on the big screen.

"It's not easy to get published, and it's certainly not easy to do what Chris has done," Gergits said.

Twitter can change the world

Slow down, Democrats. The world's most pressing problems haven't dissolved just because President Barack Obama is back in office.

He still must fight an uphill battle against a notoriously stubborn Republican-controlled House if he wants to make any headway in gun control, climate change and the national debt.

If progress is any indicator, and there hasn't been any, they aren't going to get much done.

Instead of sitting back and waiting until the midterm election to participate, speak up now. It's easier than ever to get engaged.

The Pew Research Center conducted a study on social network use in various countries across the globe. Half of the U.S. uses some social medium. In Egypt, 30 percent use social networking sites, and 34 percent of Tunisians use them.

The uprisings that led to both countries overthrowing their dictators in the Arab spring got their start online.

In the U.S., we use social media to complain about traffic, let our online friends know what a great time we're having at the bar with our "real friends" and watch cat videos.

Sharing a politically partisan meme or cartoon isn't progress and won't lead to real change.

We're all guilty of it. The problem in today's digital society isn't that we can't take its collective eyes or thumbs off the keys for an extended period of time. It's that when we're using our devices, we're not maximizing our time.

Instead of discussing reasonable solutions to our gun violence problem, we're consuming easily digestible, candy-coated garbage with little substance.

The problem is priorities. Too many people want to be entertained.

Justin Bieber has more than 33 million Twitter followers, while Paul Krugman, one of the leading economic thinkers and New York Times columnists, has only 940,000.

Well, Bieber does have better hair. Imagine the world we would live in if 33 million people used the benefits of technology in support of their causes.

JAMBAR POLICY

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

OUR SIDE POLICY

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

YOUR SIDE POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com or by following the "Submit a Letter" link on thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 500 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence for printing. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff decides that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of YSU.

Got an **opinion?** **Submit online**
Letter to the Editor



The views of this artist do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar.

What ever happened to common courtesy?



David Roberts
COLUMNIST

Generally, when I walk into a building and see people behind me, I politely hold the door open for them to grab on their way in.

It has never occurred to me that this act of kindness could be seen as an inconvenience of any sort. It has always seemed to be a common courtesy.

Unfortunately, over the years, I have started to see that common courtesy may become a casualty of the past. I am not saying that people are becoming ruder, but, more so, a heightened level of apathy has developed in our society.

It seems that people have become so accustomed to these courtesies that they feel participating in them is an overall waste of effort. I can assure you that when somebody holds open a door for me, I do

not find it cliché and I appreciate the effort.

I would like to think that the whole reason the English language has the phrase "thank you" is for verbal compensation for common courtesies.

There are plenty of other examples where people do things that do not match up with common courtesy. For instance, when somebody sneezes, oftentimes the people around them will remain silent and act as if nothing happened.

Honestly, for the life of me, I cannot find a valid argument why one person cannot simply say, "Bless you."

The era of texting and cell-phones has created a completely new problem.

"If you're talking to someone and they are on their phone at the same time, I always feel they aren't really listening to me. It's a big pet peeve of mine," said Stephen Flask, a graduate student at Youngstown State University.

You would not take out your phone while talking in a job interview, so why should you when talking to anybody else?

People these days seem to live by the lifestyle of live and let live; their problems are their own and your problems are yours. With that logic, you are responsible for opening your own doors and blessing yourself when you sneeze.

This logic is not completely flawed because, in the end, we are responsible for ourselves. But, I think taking it as far to say that you should not hold open a door for the person behind you is a bit much.

You aren't losing anything by helping out others, even if it is as trivial as holding open a door. That small act may just turn someone's bad day into a good one.

Granted, that may be a bit of an optimistic outlook on the whole thing, but what's wrong with keeping an optimistic attitude and doing the little things that could very well lead to an optimistic outcome?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Think you've had a bad semester? It could be worse: You could be President Anderson.

Over the past few weeks, everything that Dr. Anderson embodied during her time at YSU has been simply swept aside. Dr. Anderson placed the students of YSU at the forefront of university decisions, but the board of trustees has proven that it does not share these same sentiments.

It is easy to overlook the importance of this one committee, but the direction of the university hangs in the balance with its selection of a new president. The composition of the new presidential search committee therefore merits close scrutiny. A cursory glance at the members making up the committee yields no immediate red flags, but when looking deeper, one can see just how badly the students and staff at YSU may be having the wool pulled over their eyes. The 17-member committee, which will choose the next president from the candidates whittled down by AGB Search Inc. has a very unbalanced makeup.

The committee is made up of all nine YSU trustees, two student trustees and two former trustees. The non-trustee members are Bege Bowers, retired associate YSU

provost; Chet Cooper, professor of biological sciences and president of the YSU Academic Senate; Carl Nunziato, YSU graduate and former vice president of National City Bank; and Suzanne Fleming, former coordinator of the Northeast Ohio Regional Leadership Task Force, YSU Center for Human Services Development.

So, out of the 17 members, 13 of them have ties to the board of trustees. That is 76 percent! That is a huge amount of clout for just one area of the university, especially one that has little interaction with students and especially considering that there is only one professor.

The number looks even more out of place when looking at the last presidential search committee, which was formed in 2009 and had 22 members. In this instance, there were only seven members affiliated with the YSU Board of Trustees (or just 32 percent of the committee). The other members included three professors, the president of the YSU Alumni Society, a YSU union president, the president of the YSU Foundation, a dean, the assistant director of the honors program and members of the community, just to name a few.

Also absent from the new committee is any member of the city

government in a time where cooperation between the university and the city is paramount to the success of both.

Although this vast change in committee composition could just be happenstance, it is very likely with President Anderson's exit that this is an uncomfortable trend within the university that will continue for years to come. The amount of trustees on the search committee could easily give them the final say in who, ultimately, is the new face of YSU.

Although this may not happen, the composition of the search committee lends itself to thoughts that the presidential selection process is not necessarily in the best interest of students. Although the timing may be too late, the board of trustees may need to consider altering the composition of the search committee. I understand that choosing a presidential search committee — let alone a president — is no easy task, but all I am asking is that the views of the students and staff at YSU not be overlooked. The last thing YSU needs to do is distance itself from the student body.

Is it too late?

Kevin Snyder
YOUNGSTOWN

Need Advice?

We've extended the deadline for Counselor's Corner to give more students a chance to submit. Please go to thejambar.com and follow the the Counselor's Corner link on the home page.



Track and field season off to a running start

Cory Bartek
SPORTS REPORTER

Brian Gorby, head coach of the track and field teams at Youngstown State University, said he's pleased with his student-athletes' performance in the spring opener, the Great Dane Classic at the Armory Track in New York City.

"It was probably the best opening meet in the program's history," Gorby said.

The men's team placed 10th out of 24 teams, gaining 20 points from 12 competitors. The women placed 12th out of 21 teams, racking up 20 points from 18 competitors.

"The staff and everyone were excited to see them to see them open up like that," Gorby said. "They exceeded all expectations."

Gorby said he expects both the men and the women to reach the top of the Horizon League this season.

"The women are very deep and have a good chance of making a run at the title," he said.

The women, who are the reigning champs of the HL women's outdoor track and field championships, are hoping for that success to carry over into the indoor season.

Junior sprinter Ciara Jarrett said she has high aspirations. She wants to win her title in the 200-meter and the 60-meter, and she also wants to do well in the 4x4.

Gorby said YSU's program is well rounded, from the coaches to the athletes.

"It's a very exciting time to be at YSU," Gorby said. "Out of a 70-kid team, 40 of them are elite."

Senior sprinter Tarelle Irwin said he has high expectations for himself, as well as for fellow senior sprinter Michael Davis.

"Being that I'm a senior now, the spotlight is on us, and expectations are high," Irwin said. "As long as we finish one and two in conference, I'll be happy."

Gorby said he's looking forward to the YSU Invitational, which will be held on Friday, and the YSU National Invitational, which will take place on Feb. 1 and 2. Both will be held at the Watson and Tressel Training Site.

"It's one of three major meets running that day, along with the New Balance Games in New York City and the Notre Dame Invitational," Gorby said. "We're expecting about 14 teams to show up."

Gorby said the opportunity to host meets is a "dream," but he also expressed the amount of work that goes into doing so.

"Being able to sleep in your own bed and have your own family and friends cheer you on helps you break down barriers that could be otherwise unimaginable," he said. "At the same time, there's a lot of hard work and sacrifice with hosting an event, like putting stuff up and tearing stuff down."

Jarrett was optimistic when asked about how hosting an event affects participating student-athletes.

"Everybody from school is able to come out and watch us run, and there's a lot fans, but the worst part of hosting is definitely tearing everything down afterward," Jarrett said.

Irwin said running at a home meet has its benefits.

"You're not as nervous. It's all repetition. You practice here every day, and you know how the track works," Irwin said.

Both Irwin and Jarrett said they're grateful for the WATTS.

"It's a beautiful thing," Irwin said. "To have a facility like this really allows us to excel."



YSU senior sprinter Tarelle Irwin competes in an event last season. Photo courtesy of YSU Sports Information.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Women to take on Vikings in Cleveland

The women's basketball team will take on Cleveland State University at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Wolstein Center. The game will be broadcast live on 570 WKBN, iHeartRadio and the Horizon League Network. If the Penguins win, it'll be their first victory against Cleveland State in seven years. Last weekend, YSU defeated the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 67-50, then fell to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, 59-41. Last week, Cleveland State lost to Green Bay, 52-49, and to Milwaukee, 63-60. YSU will host Loyola University Chicago on Saturday at 4:35 p.m.

HL honors Penguins

On Tuesday, the Horizon League announced that sophomore swimmer Ashley Dow was named as the HL Swimmer of the Week, while freshman diver Bec Stafford was named as the Diver of the Week. Dow, who is from Texas, recently helped YSU beat Wright State University, while Stafford, who is from Australia, took top honors at meets against Cleveland State University and Wright State. The Penguins will compete again on Friday at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Former YSU football invited to All-Star game

Lamar Mady, a former YSU offensive lineman, has been picked to play in the Texas vs. The Nation Game on Feb. 2 at Eagle Stadium in Allen, Texas. Last year, Mady was an honorable mention All-Missouri Valley Football Conference selection. Former YSU tight end Will Shaw played in the Casino Del Sol All-Star Game on Jan. 11, while Donald Jones, a former YSU receiver, also competed in the Texas vs. The Nation game in 2010. For more information on the Texas vs. The Nation game, visit the game's official website, <http://www.texasvsthenation.com>.

PENGUIN SPOTLIGHT



Kamren Belin

Year: Junior
Height: 6'7"
Hometown: Atlanta
Position: Forward

In YSU's 75-72 win against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Saturday, Kamren Belin scored a career-high 21 points. For the season, he averages 8.2 points per game and 5.4 rebounds per game. Belin, a junior, is a philosophy major in his first year at YSU. He previously played for two years at Cowley County Community College in Arkansas City, Kan.

Youngstown is Super Bowl bound

Steve Wilaj
SPORTS EDITOR

When Elliott Giles moved from Miami to Youngstown in 1997, it wasn't for the weather.

That year, Giles was a wide receiver on Youngstown State University's Division I-AA national championship football team, which was coached by Jim Tressel. Giles' playing days for the Penguins lasted through 1999.

It was during that time that Giles learned to appreciate Youngstown.

"That was one of the biggest reasons that I decided to stay here," Giles said. "During my three years here at YSU, Coach Tressel always had us players go out into the community. Me having an education background and being involved with kids, it was almost a natural feel for me to go out into the community, go out to local schools and volunteer my time."

Fourteen years later, Giles — now with his family — remains in Youngstown and continues to give back to the community.

"I get a lot of compliments from parents," Giles said. "They say, 'Hey, you're not even from here, but you put so much into the university and the city.'"

Giles is one of five members on the national committee of NFL FLAG, a youth flag football league that promotes active lifestyles.

In addition, Giles is president of the Youngstown Youth Flag Football Association, which is geared toward children between the ages of 5 and 14 who live in the tri-county area.

"When I started to play flag football as an adult, I wanted to figure out how I can implement kids into this program," said Giles, who founded Youngstown's youth league in 2007. "I did a little research with the NFL and, as they say,

the rest is history."

On Feb. 3, two teams from Giles' local league will compete for the flag football national championship. Coached by Giles, the teams are the Youngstown 9-11 boys and 12-14 girls.

Eight teams will play for the championship, coming from Chicago, Florida, New York, Virginia, Las Vegas, California, Texas and Ohio. The event will be held in New Orleans, the site of Super Bowl XLVII.

"It's not every day you can go down to the site of the Super Bowl, spend a couple days down there in that venue and just soak it all in," Giles said.

The boys team will play as the Jets, since they qualified out of the New York regionals. The players are Kameron Kreps, Parker Sherry, Luke Fulton, Michael O'Horo, Connor Crogan, Jaize Zeigler and Dominic Posey.

"It's been extremely exciting," said Sherry, a quarterback. "This is going to be amazing to go out there and compete on television and be able to see other kids from other teams."

The girls team, representing the Bengals after winning in Cincinnati, consists of Rilee Leider, Emily Moretti, Dakota Naples, Jahnice Berry, Sarah Bury, Brittany Mook and Znaya Brown.

"I'm very excited," Bury said. "It's my first time down, so I'm not really sure what to expect, but we're just going to try our hardest and play our best."

However, Giles said he isn't entirely focused on the competitive aspect of the trip. The day after the tournament, his teams



Former YSU standout Elliott Giles speaks to his flag football teams before a practice in preparation for the NFL FLAG championship tournament. The tournament will be held in New Orleans on Feb. 3. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

will take part in the NFL Experience, which includes numerous activities and a chance for the kids to meet NFL players.

"Not only is the actual tournament going to be awesome, but the day after is going to be such a tremendous experience for these kids," Giles said. "I'm excited for them to soak it all in and create some memories that hopefully will last a lifetime."

That shouldn't be a problem, as players like Bury are already excited for the unique opportunities.

"It will be a good experience just to see everything that's going to happen," she said. "I don't care who we meet. I'm just excited to see [the NFL players]."

Still, Giles said he thinks his kids can win it all. He added that his teams are prepared, as they must be; under NFL FLAG rules, play cannot interfere with play during games.

"As a coach, when I get there in New Orleans, I'm just going to sit back and watch these kids do what they learned and hopefully win it," he said.

Consider Sherry another believer in Youngstown's abilities.

"I just want to win a championship and have our coach proud of us," he said.

Naturally, Giles said he is already proud of his teams. He's also excited for the prospects of exposing his Youngstown league nationally.

"Now that our kids are competing on a more national level, it's going to bring more notoriety to our organization," said Giles, who estimated that his league has impacted roughly 7,000 youths since its start. "Hopefully, we'll get more kids to take part in flag football."

The tournament will cap a busy 12 months for Giles. In the past year, he was inducted into the YSU Athletics Hall of Fame and created the Elliott L. Giles Scholarship.

"I guess it solidifies my career and what I've done here," said Giles, who holds the most yards per catch and most yards in a game records for YSU. "These past 12 months have just been an unbelievable experience for me. I'm truly humbled by everything, ... and I'm just going to continue to give back and help this city as best I can."