



## FREEDOM FIGHTER: A Gay Soldier's Battle for Equality

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United States Army Captain Steven Snyder-Hill appeared on YouTube during the 2011 Republican primaries, asking the assembled candidates which of them would protect the rights of LGBT soldiers to live openly while serving in the military. His question was met with jeers from some members of the crowd, and none of the candidates spoke to his defense.

On Friday, Steven Snyder-Hill, author of "Soldier of Change: From the Closet to the Forefront of the Gay Rights Movement," visited Youngstown State University to deliver a lecture concerning his experiences and the continued campaign he and his partner, Joshua Snyder-Hill, have fought to help secure rights for the LGBT community.

During his presentation, Steven Snyder-Hill recounted stories from his time in Iraq, explaining the struggles he faced trying to maintain a relationship with his partner. From calling Joshua Snyder-Hill "Jessica" to deflect suspicion to replacing the phrase "I love you" with the code word "Oliver," Steven Snyder-Hill was forced to hide his relationship while serving in the military due to the then-active Don't Ask Don't Tell policy.

The DADT policy was enacted under the Clinton Administration in 1994 and remained active until September of 2011. Its purpose was meant to prevent military personnel from discriminating against homosexual members of the military, while also requiring homosexual military personnel to keep their sexual orientation hidden from their fellow service men and women.

Steven Snyder-Hill recounted the day he left for

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PHOTO BY GRAIG GRAZIOSI/THE JAMBAR

U.S. Army veteran Steven Snyder-Hill visited campus Friday to share his experiences as a gay soldier and the hardships he and his partner faced during the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy.

## Fall Fire Fest: The Celebration Continues



PHOTO COURTESY OF PENGUIN PRODUCTIONS.

Penguin Productions is inviting students to welcome the cool, fall weather at Fall Fire Fest — a bonfire, concert, and pep rally next Thursday night.

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Youngstown State University's Fall Fire Fest is returning for its second year in honor of Homecoming Week.

Students, faculty and anyone that lives in Youngstown

are invited to attend the free event. The festival will take place on the green on Grant Street in Youngstown on Thursday, Oct. 16 from 7 to 11 p.m.

Penguin Productions, along with Part Athletics, Local Acts and The Campus Recreation Center, sponsor the event. Lo-

cal businesses in Youngstown have also partnered to help with the event.

Taylor Garland, Macey Nortey and Carolyn Jesko — Penguin Productions committee members — are coordinating

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## College Democrats Return to YSU

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With the upcoming election on the horizon, the Youngstown State University College Democrats are re-establishing themselves on campus.

Ernie Barkett, a freshman economics student, is taking on the role of president for the newly re-formed College Democrats. He said he has been involved politically for several years and intended to join the organization prior to enrolling at YSU.

"When I heard it wasn't there, I was the first one that asked to re-charter it," Barkett said.

Jordan Wolfe, a member of the previous incarnation of the College Democrats, said the number of people showing up to meetings began to dwindle following the 2012 presidential election.

"By the end of the [fall] semester, there were about four people left with the president, who was supposed to graduate, being one of the four, which then left three other people in the group to take over the exec," Wolfe said.

Wolfe said other responsibilities, combined with the lack of enthusiasm from the group's members, kept him from taking on the role of president, and the group fell apart as a result.

The College Conservatives re-formed last year, but in Barkett's opinion, the university was lacking representation on the other side of the aisle.

"We felt that the university needed a progressive voice," Barkett said.

Mark Stanford, president of the College Conservatives, said he's hopeful that the two groups will find opportunities to work together going forward.

"We're excited to have another group on campus voicing different political views," Stanford said.

David Betras, chairman of the Mahoning County Democratic Party, also encouraged Barkett — who is an executive committee member of the Mahoning County Democratic Party — to re-charter the group.

"In other parts of the state, the College Democrats are very active. I've just never been able to energize them at YSU since I've been chairman, so hopefully, under Ernie Barkett's leadership, that will change," Betras said.

Betras stressed the importance of having young people involved in the political process.

"Historically, young people do not vote in the numbers that

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## What the Frack?



PHOTO COURTESY OF GARRY KNIGHT/FLIKR.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROGRESS OHIO/FLIKR.

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Raymond Beiersdorfer, Youngstown State University geology and environment sciences professor, organized a fall speaker series last year on the environmental concerns of fracking entitled “Fall Semester Speaking Series on Energy and the Environment.”

So far, there have been five talks, featuring guest speakers from Ohio State University, the University of Colorado and Purdue University. Beiersdorfer was the first to speak on Sept. 3, and said he wanted to take advantage of the university platform by teaching students, faculty and community members about hydraulic fracking.

“Last spring, I did two [talks],” Beiersdorfer said. “They were really well-received. Randy Dunn, former YSU president, said the campus had to be a marketplace for ideas: ‘Universities should educate people.’”

Beiersdorfer said the attendance at the talks, which take place every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Moser Hall Room 2000, has been moderate.

“The most we had was 40 people. We’ve been averaging in low 20s. I have

been inviting local community leaders each week and none of them have shown up. Many members of the community are attending each week, but no people in positions of responsibility,” he said. “My personal opinion about the elected officials in Youngstown is that they do not want to learn about the risks of shale gas development. They have appeared, to me, to be willfully ignorant about the risks.”

Doug Fowler, a FrackFree America associate and former YSU professor, agrees with Beiersdorfer and said that persons in power most likely understand the risks, but have chosen to keep the information from the general public.

“It’s just so sad,” Fowler said. “Democracy can only function if the public continues to be educated. This is the new evolution; this is what nobody talks about now.”

Fowler said the type of fracking that occurs now is not the same drilling that took place many years ago.

“This is not the fracking of 40 years ago. We’ve set down these large scale gas and oil fields inside areas that are already settled,” Fowler said.

Fowler’s advice to students is conserve energy through small and simple steps.

“It’s okay to shop in a second-hand

store. It’s okay to use second-hand books. The only way to save energy is to save energy, end of story. The solution is going to be developing alternative energy, scaling back our lives and thinking about the population,” he said.

Thomas Linzey, of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, will be speaking on Wednesday.

“I’ll be talking about how communities across the United States have begun to seize the authority to say ‘no’ to energy projects, even though the law is structured to give energy corporations more rights and powers than the communities in which they do business,” he said.

Linzey said he believes that individuals who wish to see change in legislation must start at a local level.

“The current system of law is rigged in favor of certain interests over community interests; it will take a community rights movement to change the law,” he said. “Most people think we live in a democracy, but when our communities don’t currently have the legal authority to say no to those things that harm them, then we don’t have a democracy.”

The series runs through November, and Beiersdorfer said plans are in the works for another series next semester.

### FREEDOM PAGE 1

Iraq, the effects of the DADT policy still in action.

“While all of the other soldiers were saying goodbye to their loved ones, Josh and I had to hide under an escalator to say ours,” Steven Snyder-Hill said.

Under DADT, same-sex couples were not recognized by the military, barring them from the rights allowed to married couples — such as healthcare, housing allowances and leave for emergencies concerning one’s spouse or significant other.

“I felt like I was fighting for everyone’s freedom except my own,” Steven Snyder-Hill said.

While Joshua Snyder-Hill often worried about his partner in Iraq, Steven Snyder-Hill struggled with the same concerns.

“Since, according to the military policy at the time, Josh and I were nothing more than friends, if anything were to happen to him, it’s very unlikely I would have been allowed to take emergency leave to go see him,” Steven Snyder-Hill said.

Following the repeal of DADT and his controversial video during the 2011 Republican primaries, Ste-

ven Snyder-Hill became an overnight hero to those fighting for their right to marry. Eventually, Steven Snyder and Joshua Hill were married.

To date, the Snyder-Hill couple, who are Ohio residents, have successfully challenged Ohio’s refusal to allow homosexual couples to hyphenate their last names for reason of marriage, campaigned nationwide for LGBT rights and co-founded the organization C-Bus of Love, which takes homosexual couples from Ohio to Washington D.C. where they can be legally wed.

“As of right now, I have more rights on a military base than I do in the state of Ohio,” Steven Snyder-Hill said.

Steven Snyder-Hill’s lecture took place only a few days before Youngstown State University’s “Coming Out Week,” a week of activism and awareness events aimed at educating students to the LGBT community’s efforts to gain equal rights under the law.

Jackie LeViseur, director of alumni and events management, was primarily responsible for bringing Ste-

ven Snyder-Hill to campus, and hopes students can take his message to heart.

“He came here for free to share his story and to speak on behalf of others who have had a similar experience,” LeViseur said. “It’s important for us to celebrate who we are and to learn from somebody. He really has a message to share, one of courageousness, and he’s fighting for others to be free.”

Brian Wells, co-adviser to YSUnity, YSU’s LGBT student organization, spoke to the influence he hopes Steven Snyder-Hill can have over the students who hear their story.

“Steve is a fellow Ohioan, and could be your neighbor, your brother, your friend ... he can really speak to why fighting for issues of social justice are just as important in Ohio as they are in other, more progressive regions. I hope he’s inspiring to our students, and I hope his message was educational and an opportunity for growth for those who attended,” Wells said.

Tim Bortner and Lisa Ronquillo, YSUnity’s current and former presidents respectively, were present at

the lecture, and expressed gratitude and hope for continued progress towards a safe environment for all students on campus, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

“It was very inspirational — I’m glad he came and spoke,” Bortner said. “Especially heading into Coming Out Week, I hope we can continue to promote education and awareness through events like this.”

Ronquillo spoke to the central message of Steven Snyder-Hill’s lecture, which she believes is applicable to all demographics of students, regardless of sexual orientation.

“He’s inspiring. He’s someone we need to continually tell his story ... [the Snyder-Hills] are just like everyone else. They aren’t out to shape the world based on some agenda, they just want to love,” Ronquillo said. “If we can hear that story more and more everyday, the hatred will stop.”

*Additional reporting by Spencer Curcillo and Alexis Rufener.*

### FIRE FEST PAGE 1

this year’s event, and have been busy lining up festivities to include this year. Jesko explained that the festival started out last year as a celebration of Homecoming, but has grown into a larger fall event for everyone in Youngstown.

“Live on Lincoln was our [Penguin Productions] major event this year. We normally have two main events, one in spring and the other in fall, and we started Fall Fire Fest last year. We still wanted to keep it going because it is a really good program to partner with Homecoming, athletics and everyone. We’re just really working on creating the atmosphere around Fall Fire Fest,” Jesko said.

Garland added that the event allows everyone in Youngstown to celebrate fall together.

“We just wanted to host a fall event where you could be outside, enjoy the weather ... that whole fall atmosphere and provide some kind of live entertainment,” Garland said.

The event will feature local bands such as The Vindy’s, the Labra Brothers and The River’s Own. Nortey said that Penguin Productions was trying to incorporate a unique theme and find musicians that appeal to YSU students.

“Obviously we had Life in Color partner with the Covelli Center and that brought in a completely different crowd because it’s electronic dance music and dance music, so we drew a different crowd there whereas in the spring, we did the live on Lincoln theme and brought in a diverse group of bands. I think we’re going with that theme,” Nortey said. “We’re going to try and pull different genres of music and see what we can come up with just to kind of appease our student population.”

The committee members also said that Coach Eric Wolford is going to speak sometime during the night for a Penguin Pride Rally, where he will enthruse students for the football game. The event will also feature a variety of food vendors, drink vendors and a bonfire later on in the night, along with a few other surprises.

“It’s like a bonfire, pep rally concert. Students get free cider, free hot chocolate and free caramel corn provided by Student Government. It’s going to be a really casual atmosphere. Hay, straw for everyone to sit on, a beer vendor, a cash bar sponsored by the Catholic Student Association, a photo booth sponsored by Housing and more,” Jesko said.

Nortey said that over 700 students attended last year’s event, and the committee hopes to have an even better turnout this year. The committee expressed excitement for the upcoming event.

“I am so excited. So much planning goes into it, and you don’t even realize it. On the day of the event, it’s just like ‘Wow, we did this.’ I’m just pumped,” Nortey said.

Garland said that she is excited as well, and that getting to see all of their planning unfold at the event is rewarding.

“It’s just the best when you are there at night and you step back and see everyone enjoying themselves and having fun ... it’s one of the best feelings,” Garland said.

Jesko added that the group committed a significant amount of time and energy to the festival, and hopes that students enjoy themselves next Thursday.

“We just want to provide students with an opportunity to hang out and have a good time on a Thursday night for Homecoming,” Jesko said.

# THE JAMBAR COM

## Mississippi Hospitals on the Lookout for Ebola

**GREG GORDON**  
McClatchy Washington Bureau  
(MCT)

When patients walk into the Biloxi (Miss.) Regional Medical Center burning with fever or displaying nausea symptoms these days, emergency room staffers face a potentially crucial moment.

Like at other hospitals across Mississippi, they're on the lookout for people who recently traveled from West Africa — or have been in close contact with someone who did — and might be carrying the deadly Ebola virus that is raging through Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

After a hospital in Dallas initially sent an Ebola victim home, risking the spread of the infection to at least 50 others with whom he had contact, federal and state health officials are working to ensure that anxious medical staffers at hospitals nationwide are prepared to identify and isolate those with highly suspicious symptoms.

"The key issue is to identify them as quickly as possible," Mississippi's state epidemiologist, Dr. Thomas Dobbs III, said in a telephone interview. "Even before they come into the emergency room would be ideal. And then to isolate them immediately to limit potential transmission. Individuals exposed to Ebola patients before isolation are going to be considered contacts and will need to be monitored."

Biloxi hospital officials declined on short notice Friday to estimate how often they are confronted with walk-in patients presenting flulike symptoms resembling the early stages of Ebola. Should they identify such a patient, those attending the new arrivals have been advised to immediately don protective gear to avoid coming in contact with the suspicious patient's body fluids.

Mississippi hospitals don't have the ability to confirm presence of the disease in blood tests, Dobbs said. As a result, they won't learn for a day or two — the time it takes for a courier to deliver blood samples to a laboratory at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta — whether the stricken patient has Ebola.

The preparations by health-care providers across mostly rural Mississippi, considered to face a lower risk than states with big cities and more frequent airline flight connections to Africa, underscores the gravity with which U.S. officials view the worsening epidemic overseas and its potency as a national security threat.

"I'm confident that we are doing everything we can to prevent an Ebola outbreak in the United States," Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., said in a statement. "I'm not overconfident. Things can go wrong. But I do think we have the most highly trained professionals on the face of the earth."

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant said the state's top health officer, Dr. Mary Currier, has assured him that the Department of Health "has been working to guarantee all the various components are in place and that we are prepared to respond to a possible Ebola case should it occur."

"I understand the concerns of Mississippians with the recent news of a man in Texas being diagnosed with the Ebola virus," Bryant said.

Bryant's office said state agencies involved in the preparations will brief the governor on Wednesday at the State Emergency Operations Center.

The disease is surging through Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone faster than health authorities have been able to respond. While current estimates put the number of those afflicted in the thousands, the CDC has said that its worst-case computer model showed that, absent an effective response, 1.4 million people in Liberia and Sierra Leone will contract it by Jan. 20.

Michael Osterholm, head of the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, likened the worsening epidemic to a forest fire that has been allowed to burn unattended for days.

In an article in Politico last week, he wrote that West African migrant workers who help with the harvest from May to October are now likely to spread the disease to as many as a half dozen neighboring countries. In the coming weeks, Osterholm said, they will travel from their villages, crossing borders along little-known trails. They'll take temporary jobs in gold mines and plantations, and illicit charcoal-production operations, he said. They may be infected and not know it, because the virus' incubation period extends up to 21 days before symptoms appear.

Mississippi remains an unlikely destination for Ebola victims.

Dobbs said that while a few health-care providers and other state residents returned from West Africa over the summer, travel restrictions seem to have halted such trips. Mississippi church groups that arranged missions to West Africa last year appear to have canceled any plans to do so this year, he said.

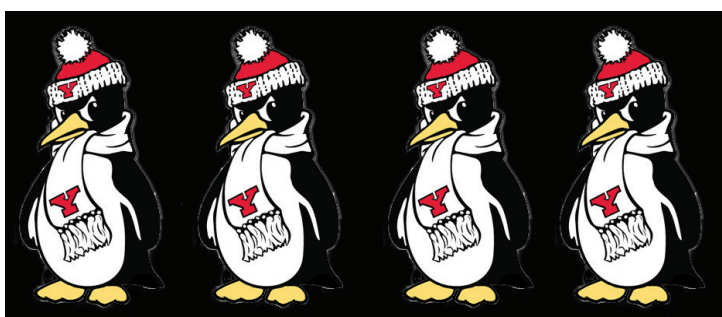
Nonetheless, Dobbs said his office has been preparing Mississippi medical providers for the Ebola threat for months, since the CDC began warning about the latest outbreak in Africa.

"We have a step-by-state guide for what to do if an Ebola suspect walks through the door," he said. "We have links and information and guidance for every step of the chain for identifying who's at risk, identifying what testing needs to be done, and all procedures in the hospital, including isolation, environmental care, waste disposal."

Dobbs also is preparing for worst-case scenarios that could involve quarantining anyone exposed to an Ebola patient until the 21-day incubation period passes.

Another component, he said, would entail monitoring any workers who were exposed to an Ebola patient without wearing protective equipment so that "they could not subsequently transmit the disease if, in fact, they do become infected."

"We're worried enough to be prepared," Dobbs said, "but we're not panicked."



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**NEWS BRIEFS**

*Musicology Performance and Lecture Set*

The latest in a series of Dana School of Music musicology lectures will feature Guy Capuzzo, associate professor of Music Theory at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. He will be performing and presenting Friday, Oct. 10, in Bliss Recital Hall.

*Head of Environmental Legal Defense Fund Lecture*

Thomas Linzey, executive director of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund presents "A Community Revolution: Elevating the Rights of People and Communities Over Corporations" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, in Room 2000 of Moser Hall. The free lecture is part of the Fall Semester Speaker Series on Energy and the Environment.

*Ethics in the Medical Field*

Cindy Kravec, MD, has nine years of experience in internal medicine and will be speaking about ethical issues in the medical field. The presentation is on Oct. 7 at 6:30 pm at Inner Circle Pizza on Elm Street. The event is sponsored by the YSU Catholic Student Association.



**Third Annual Veterans and ROTC Reunion to be Held This Weekend**



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK WILLIAMS/YSU OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Harry Meshel, a YSU Board of Trustees member, and Vernon Haynes, a professor in the psychology department, stand with Jim Olive, the 2013 Cincinnatus Award Recipient during last year's Veterans and ROTC Reunion. The award will go to alumnus Bernie Kosar Sr. at this year's reunion.

**SCOTT BRINDIAR**  
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The Office of Alumni and Events Management at Youngstown State University will welcome military alumni back to campus next weekend during the third annual Veterans and Reserves Officer Training Corps Reunion.

The event will begin on Friday at 6:30 p.m. in the atrium of Williamson Hall with the annual reunion dinner. The following day at 5:30 p.m., there will be a reunion picnic at the newly opened YSU Veterans Resource Center. Afterward, all alumni are invited to the YSU vs. Western Illinois University football game at 7 p.m.

The Veterans and ROTC Reunion at YSU is an annual gathering of local veterans, most of who are YSU alumni, including graduates of the ROTC program at YSU.

During the dinner, the YSU Office of Veterans Affairs will introduce keynote speaker Colonel Patricia Brunner, and present the Cincinnatus Award to alumnus Bernie Kosar Sr.

Brunner received direct commission in the United States Air Force Nurse Corps as a first lieutenant in 1991.

The Cincinnatus Award,

awarded to Jim Olive last year, is named after the ancient Roman soldier Cincinnatus, who is considered the symbol for honor and noble service. Annually, the YSU Office of Veterans Affairs awards the honor to an individual who they believe best represents the spirit of the military.

Kosar, who is receiving the award this year, is a 1959 YSU and ROTC graduate who served in the US Army Reserves for six years and completed his service as Captain.

Rick Williams, YSU Office of Veterans Affairs Coordinator, played a central role in planning the event, as in years past. However, this year he will get to show off the new YSU Veterans Resource Center to reunion attendees.

"The YSU Veterans Resource Center is a wonderful and state-of-the-art center for YSU Student Veterans," Williams said. "The center includes a study hall area, classroom, board meeting room, veterans lounge and computer lab. The office of Veterans Affairs has been relocated to the new center and various related veterans programming is being planned for the future."

The new Veterans Resource Center will be available for touring during the

picnic on Saturday.

"The reunion is open to all veteran and ROTC alums of YSU," Williams added.

Heather Belgin, YSU Office of Alumni and Events Management Events Coordinator, said the event strives to reunite old friends, but also to share the changes that have come to the university and Veteran's Affairs.

"This is the third year for the event," Belgin said. "[The Veterans and alumni] enjoy the opportunity to learn about the latest happenings with the ROTC and Veterans Affairs on campus, while reconnecting with fellow veterans and ROTC alumni."

Pat Billett, alumnus and alumni society board member, is proud that YSU offers the event.

"YSU is a national leader in being veteran-friendly and is very supportive of its alumni," he said.

He also encourages students to get involved with veteran and alumni affairs.

"I find this weekend, in particular, very exciting," Billett said. "I believe it's important for students to begin networking and interacting with alumni early on in their academic career. You never know who you might meet and what doors might open."

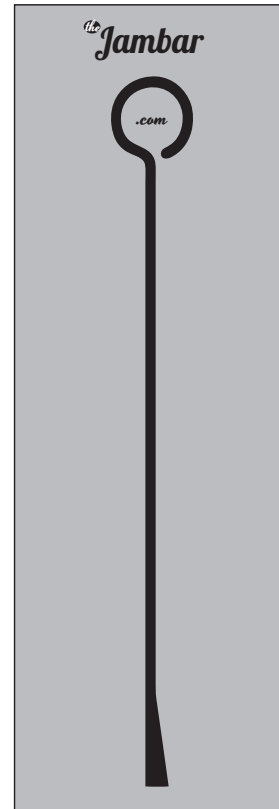


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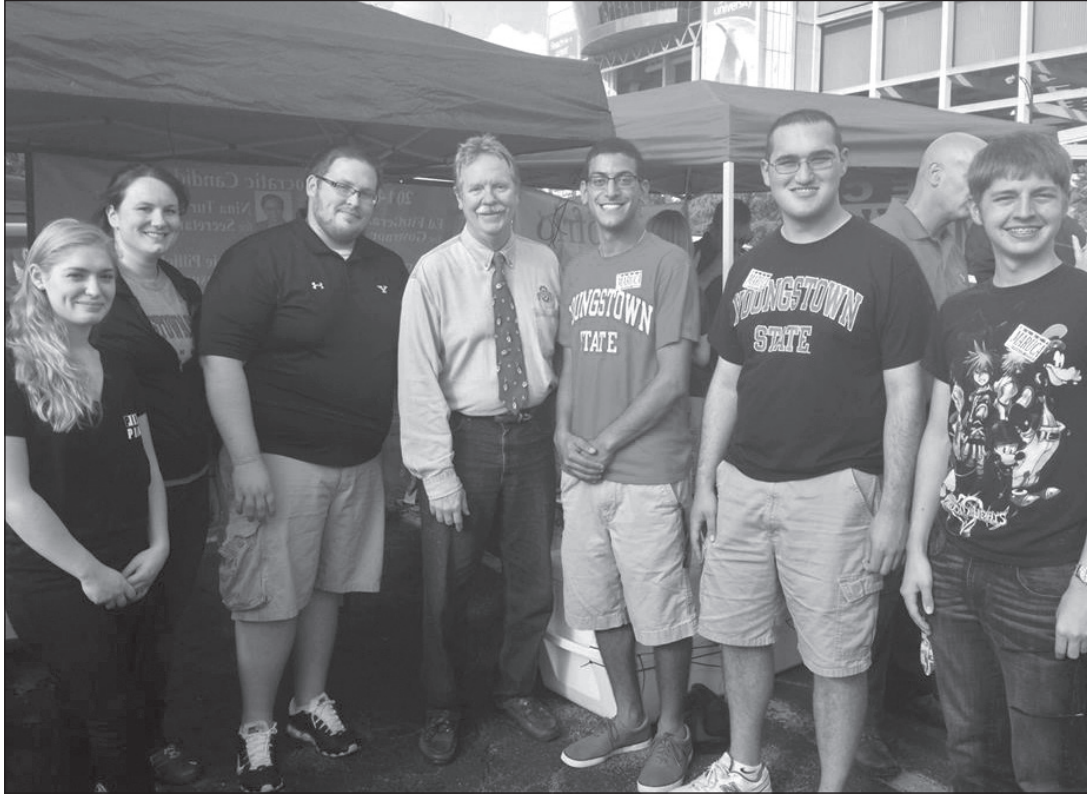


PHOTO COURTESY OF ERNIE BARKETT.

Tom Letson (center-left), a Democrat member of the Ohio House of Representatives and current candidate for a seat on the Supreme Court of Ohio, stands with Ernie Barkett (center-right), president of the newly re-formed College Democrats, at a recent YSU tailgate. Though member numbers began to dwindle after the 2012 presidential election, the upcoming November elections brought new life into the group.

they need to vote in. The irony of it is, the decisions that are being made now are things that are going to affect them more than the older people that vote religiously," Betras said. "We're laying the foundations upon which all young people are going to have to stand, so they should have a say in how it goes."

Barkett echoed Betras' thoughts. "I believe that us, the youth, we really need to get out and vote. We need to get our voices heard," Barkett said. "Just getting the youth involved in the political system again, and getting them energized about being able to vote and voting for representatives is important."

Betras said college students are a natural constituency for the Democratic Party. "Young people tend to be more liberal than they are conservative, and I think that the Democratic Party is more in line with what we want to do with college funding and things of that sort," Betras said. "One of the biggest problems facing us is education and how much college education costs, so that's why college students need to get involved in the process."

With state higher education funding as a percentage of tuition on the decline at YSU, Barkett said this is a key issue for students. "We want to keep tuition costs as low as possible," Barkett said.

He also added that increased funding for the public school system will help bring good students to the university.

Barkett is supporting Ed FitzGerald's bid for governor this fall, and he said that FitzGerald's agenda is more responsive to the needs of students at YSU than Governor John Kasich's policies have been.

"I believe that [FitzGerald's] policies would work much better for the state of Ohio, much better for this area, and much better for college students," Barkett said.

Wolfe said he doesn't think the organization will fall apart again following the 2014 election.

"The difference going into next year is the build-up for the presidential campaign," Wolfe said. "You're going to have primaries and get an idea of who's going to be the presidential candidate."

Barkett said anyone interested in joining can reach the group at [collegedemocratsysu@gmail.com](mailto:collegedemocratsysu@gmail.com), or through the student organizations link in the YSU portal.

"We'd love to have more members. With more people comes more power," Barkett said. "I'd love to keep this organization growing."

## Hong Kong Protests Thin as Talks with Government Continue

DAVID PIERSON  
Los Angeles Times  
(MCT)

Crowds of demonstrators thinned out at two main protest sites Monday as fatigue and the specter of a negotiated deal between government officials and student leaders eased some of the tension that had gripped the semi-autonomous Chinese city for over a week.

A government official said late Monday that progress was being made in preliminary talks with one of the primary organizers of the protest, the Hong Kong Federation of Students.

"We hope we'll be able to hold a talk within this week and in an open transparent manner," said Ray Lau, undersecretary of the Mainland and Constitutional Affairs Bureau.

Experts say it remains doubtful that the demonstrators will win their chief demands: the resignation of Hong Kong Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying and the

holding of direct elections to fill his post in balloting scheduled for 2017.

Lester Shum, a student leader for the federation, said Monday evening that the two sides had yet to reach consensus on what the talks would be about, let alone agreed to political reform.

"We want to be able to reach consensus on framework before going ahead," Shum said. "We don't want this to be just a consultation or chat."

He added: "What we are aiming for is to break this impasse and advance political reform but the government hasn't shown signs of wanting to do that."

Though still early, the preliminary talks succeeded in holding back police from forcefully evicting thousands of protesters in Admiralty and a second sit-in venue in Mong Kok.

Protesters had been bracing for a confrontation with authorities Sunday evening after Leung gave an ultimatum to clear the sites by Monday so that residents

could return to school and work.

Though many protesters remained in both areas, they did honor an agreement to clear a path for civil servants to return to work at government headquarters in Admiralty. Secondary schools that were closed last week were also reopened.

After massive shows of support Sunday in Admiralty and Mong Kok, many demonstrators began to leave Monday.

Hong Kong's business community has increasingly complained about the disruption and university administrators have urged students to get off the streets and return to class.

"The government has been calling on businesses and other sectors to come out and issue angry statements that they are losing money," said Willy Lam, a political analyst and professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "They want people to think the occupy movement has spoiled Hong Kong's reputation."

## They'd Have to Run the Table, but Democrats Could Hold Senate

DAVID LIGHTMAN  
McClatchy Washington Bureau  
(MCT)

Despite being written off already, the Democrats could retain control of the Senate this November — if they can steer the debate to local matters, generate an epic turnout, and paint Republicans as dangerously extreme.

Analysts already rate the chances as excellent that Democrats will lose the majority control, with Republicans already safely ahead in three states and needing just three more. The prospects for the Democrats remain daunting.

Republicans are well ahead and favored to win Democrat-held seats in Montana, West Virginia and South Dakota, while having a good chance of replacing Democrats in Arkansas, Alaska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Iowa, Louisiana and Colorado. Republican-held seats in Georgia, Kansas and Kentucky are possible Democratic pickups.

A Democratic victory could look like this: They lose the three states where they're behind by double digits. But they hold a few of the other vulnerable seats, such as North Carolina and New Hampshire, where their candidates are leading, or Colorado or Iowa, both close. And they take a Republican seat or two, such as Georgia or Kansas.

They'd end up with a smaller majority, but still in control. Democrats stand to benefit from the sudden emphasis on foreign policy, as Obama's approval numbers are up slightly, and perhaps from a recovering economy. A McClatchy-Marist poll found that one in three people now see things moving in the right direction, and while still a low number that could be ominous for Democrats, it's up from 28 percent in August.

Democrats now have 55 of the Senate's 100 seats. Maintaining that control remains a tough task, but following four rules could swing things their way:

Rule One: Stress your history as a neighbor and native who happens to work in Washington.

"The ultimate technique is to localize," said independent Colorado pollster Floyd Ciruli. "Control the message." That's why endangered Democrats such as Sen. Mark Udall of Colorado talk about flood control. Sen. Mark Pryor of Arkansas appears in ads with his father, once a popular governor and senator, and Sen. Mark Begich of Alaska announced a plan to bolster the Arctic economy. The plan includes strengthening the Coast Guard, which Begich, as chairman of a Senate Coast Guard subcommittee, is positioned to influence.

Rule Two: Stay away from Obama, whose approval numbers in most of the competitive Senate states are dismal. Trouble is, the Senate Democrat who opposed Obama the most last year was Pryor, and even he backed the president more than 90 percent of the time.

"For good or evil, you're stuck with the president of your own party," said Lee Miringoff, director of the Marist Institute for Public Opinion in New York.

Vulnerable Democrats are trying hard to come unglued from Obama.

As the president visited North Carolina in August to address the American Legion, the state's Democratic senator, Kay Hagan, criticized the administration's veterans policies, telling the group, "I have told the president that promises alone aren't going to get it done."

Republicans won't let Hagan, battling with Republican Thom Tillis, forget her Obama ties. Tillis is trying to bring the Islamic State crisis into the picture with an ad charging, "While ISIS grew, Obama kept waiting, and Kay Hagan kept quiet."

Hagan, Tillis said, routinely missed Senate Armed Services Committee hearings on global threats. Hagan countered that she's chaired three closed hearings dealing with terrorist threats.

In Louisiana, Sen. Mary Landrieu last year didn't attend an Obama event in New Orleans, citing another obligation in the state. She began running ads months ago insisting that the administration's oil and gas policies were wrong. She has criticized Obama for his plans to trim carbon dioxide emissions.

Rule Three: Demonize Republicans, individually and collectively.

Democrats need African-American voters in swing states, and they warn that Republican ascendancy "will make our lives miserable for the next two years," said Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Marcia Fudge, D-Ohio.

She said Republican gains would accelerate efforts to impeach Obama and jeopardize many civil rights protections.

Unmarried women, who voted overwhelmingly for Obama in 2012, are another favorite Democratic target. All year, the party has played to that constituency by citing Republican reluctance to increase the minimum wage, and the GOP's widespread opposition to abortion and the Affordable Care Act, which provides new protections against gender discrimination.

"The economic message is really, really powerful. Unmarried women want candidates who know what it's like to walk in their shoes," said Page Gardner, president of the nonpartisan Voter Participation Center, an advocacy group promoting turnout among unmarried women.

Rule Four: Turn out supporters like crazy. The Democrats' Senate campaign committee, in partnership with local races and parties, expects to spend \$60 million getting out the vote in about 10 competitive states.

They're hiring about 4,000 people to answer issue and candidate questions, pass out literature, help voters with absentee or early ballots and provide rides to the polls.

Republicans have already spent \$100 million, mostly on Senate races, in 13 states. Party spokeswoman Kirsten Kukowski called the effort "an insurgent campaign against incumbent Democrats who are well funded, have famous last names and have had years of infrastructure but you wouldn't know it by looking at the polls."

The Republican plan includes recruiting precinct captains who get to know local voters, as well as more reliance on technology.

Will following the rules keep the Senate under Democratic control? Not out of the question, said the analysts. "It's hard," Miringoff said. But doable.



## NERDS UNITE *at* LAWN-CON 5

PHOTOS BY GABRIELLE FELLOWS/THE JAMBAR

**GABRIELLE FELLOWS  
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“First of all, the term ‘comic book geek’ used to be a negative term. Nowadays, it actually took quite a swing upwards. More people are coming out of the ‘nerd/geek closet’ than ever before,” Chris Yambar, a comic artist and writer, said.

Yambar’s Lawn-Con began in the artist’s own yard years ago. Now, for its fifth year anniversary, the convention resided at the B&O Station in Youngstown.

Yambar is a painter, writer, cartoonist, publisher, designer and recorder. He is best known for his comic, “Mr. Beat,” and his involvement in “The Simpsons.”

The convention offered national and indie comic creators a place to showcase their work and their talents — as well as live music, stand up comedy, portfolio reviews, local wrestling acts and a cosplay contest

for all attendees.

Yambar said he is excited, but not surprised at the turnout of this year’s lawn-con, especially with the dawn of the “geek revolution.”

“You can look at all the movies that come out every single year ... the sci-fi, the super hero, the action/adventure, the animation. ... They’re probably the biggest grossing genres that ever walked the face of the Earth. A lot of females are entering into this as well — the hobby, the art form, the cosplay, the creative aspect ... all that. And that’s exciting. It’s proving that it’s not going away. It takes on a lot of different forms, but its not going away,” Yambar said. “It crosses the age, gender and income barriers. ... It’s right there. You even see people sporting nerdy apparel, like the green lantern movie — even though it sucked — and people aren’t ashamed to wear it anymore ... even subdivisions of anime. That’s everywhere. We are in magical times.”

Nothing was more magical than seeing men, women, adults and children of all ages gather to celebrate

the nerdism that is Lawn-Con. Tents were set up down the stretch of pavement in front of the B&O Station and were filled to the brim with original artwork, free comic books, homemade art and other local and indie goods that were for sale.

Tom Goldthwait, a Youngstown State University graduate student in the computer science program, and Fiona Kelly, a YSU undergrad student, had a tent set up at the convention for their company, Derailed Games. The two artists, along with art director Nick Uroseva, decided to make their own board game called Vigilance. According to the designers, the game idea was formed July 2013 and has an unknown release date.

“To come up with the idea, we looked at a lot of different conventions that we were going to in the future. We realized a lot of the games there had a superhero theme,” Kelly said.

This realization helped the designers to create their own game with a similar theme.

“The plotline is basically ... [there is a city] ... called Peril City, and bad things keep happening. You need to go around and try to solve all of the problems. You’re trying to build up prestige by solving problems and doing favors for people. The winner is whichever hero gets the most prestige,” Goldthwait said. “The crises are randomly generated, so they come from a deck. The players actually get the crises into their hand and they play them when they want to, but they have to play a card every turn. We want to play-test it until we get it exactly where we want and then look heavily into a crowd-funding

campaign for finding a publisher to work with us.”

Another local vendor was Anne Marie Lutz, an author who claims this area as her hometown. Her books include “Color Mage” and “Sword of Jashan” and she also had a short story in the 2013 “LocoThology” anthology. Her books were picked up a few years ago by a small press publisher from Amherst, Ohio. She was at the convention to promote and sell her books, as well as sign copies.

“I didn’t always write seriously because I was working, trying to make a living and feed myself. I started writing again, seriously, about six years ago,” Lutz said. “I started going to book conventions and critique groups. Everybody in my critique group wrote some kind of speculative fiction, science fiction, fantasy or something like that. Eventually I got picked up by a publisher and now my books can be ordered on barnesandnoble.com and amazon.com.”

Yambar believes that Lawn-Con will continue to grow as long as the population as a whole harbors a love for creativity and, deep down, hopes to see the Bat Signal in the night sky or the USS Renegade spotted next to Hubble Space Station.

“How cool would it be to be driving somewhere, and you look up and there’s Spiderman? I mean, it’s kinda groovy, and people just want to have that feeling of escape,” Yambar said. “But you know then that your insurance rates are going up cause they’re beating up on some building downtown, you know? And you could get a chunk of concrete going through your house at any moment, there is a bit of insanity in it, but that’s why it works.”



## EDITORIAL

# Universal Love – No Strings Attached

This Sunday, Pope Francis launched the Extraordinary Synod on the Family — an assembly consisting of bishops and cardinals that will review the Catholic Church's teachings regarding sex and marriage.

As the public continues to express increasingly liberal attitudes toward hot button issues like same-sex marriage, divorce and contraception, Francis said the Church must also reconsider its position on these topics — insisting that church leaders and clergymen “lend an ear to the rhythm of our time.”

Aside from a possible amendment to the marriage annulment process that would make it easier for couples to obtain a Church-recognized divorce, this week's synod is not expected to establish major changes within the Church.

We believe, however, that major change with regard to sex and marriage is needed and that this synod may be the first of many steps necessary to bring the Catholic Church to where it needs to be in the modern era.

Despite the numerous controver-

sies engulfing the Catholic Church in the past few years, the Church remains one of the largest philanthropic organizations in the world and a massive trendsetter for both Catholic and Christian congregations alike. It is also one of the largest organizations that asserts “love and charity” as one of its primary goals.

It is the unfortunate truth, though, that many of the current beliefs the Catholic Church endorses have created a major obstacle, walling off factions of believers — like couples whose marriages have gone awry, homosexuals who have been told their love is sinful and generally people who have embraced a different lifestyle than the one supported in this strict paradigm — who still support the underlying loving philosophy of the church.

Current ideologies regarding sex and marriage have also unintentionally supported social ills worldwide, especially in third-world countries where the faith has grown rapidly. People in Africa are needlessly dying from AIDS and starvation due to overgrown populations because

they have been told that the use of contraception is wrong; men and women alike are suffering in an unloving marriage because they believe divorce is wrong; militant groups, claiming to be Catholic, are brutally murdering gays in Africa under the guise of moral superiority.

Let's pretend that this week, the result of Francis' meeting would be a wholesale acceptance of homosexuality, as well as a more lax view on divorce and contraception. Calling the reaction to this change uproarious would be a gross understatement. Forget every other major news story, this announcement would be on every pundit's lips for weeks to come.

Such commotion would be misplaced because the Catholic Church is fundamentally an organism of change. The modern Catholic Church is an entirely different beast than the one Peter and the apostles built, and this is how it should be. The leaders of the Church are well aware that any religious organization must evolve and adapt if it hopes to survive.

It is again time for evolution and adaptation. It is no longer enough for

the Catholic Church to assert a pro-life agenda in matters of war, abortion and capital punishment alone. It is now time for an overhaul of Catholic attitudes concerning beliefs of marriage and sex, especially considering the severe, albeit unintended, consequences. Though they cannot change the hearts and minds of all misguided, or downright malicious, people within the Church, this change begins at the Vatican.

Regardless of each of our own religious beliefs within this editorial board, we all agree that the Catholic Church is an institution that has a tremendous ability to do good and cause overwhelmingly positive changes throughout the world. This, in and of itself, is reason enough to change these policies because to continue to do good, the church must cease hemorrhaging active participants. In addition, the church can serve as a home for everyone, including the downtrodden and dejected alike; the word Catholic, after all, means universal. No man, woman or child should be ostracized from the promise of universal love.

# No Threat More Threatening than Climate Change

Philadelphia Daily News (MCT)

In a speech to the United Nations recently, President Barack Obama said that climate change is a more serious threat than terrorism.

So, why aren't more Americans terrified?

A parade of panicked politicians talk about the Islamic militant group the Islamic State as if it were a combination of Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Soviet Union, faulting the president for not taking drastic action sooner. But climate change? What's the hurry?

A majority of Americans (67 percent, in an August Pew/USA Today poll) believe the Islamic State is, like al-Qaida, a “major threat” to our national security. Yet, fewer than half (48 percent), almost none of them Republicans, see climate change the same way.

An evaluation of the actual danger posed by the Islamic State is a subject for a later time, but at least right now, the group — while it is vicious and barbaric and wants to hurt us — has limited capability to make that happen on American soil.

Yet, climate change already has invaded the

homeland, reducing to ruins the homes of thousands of Americans, turning them into refugees of a sort. In his U.N. speech, Obama listed just a few of the terrors we already have experienced: “Along our eastern coast, the city of Miami now floods at high tide. In our west, wildfire season now stretches most of the year. In our heartland, farms have been parched by the worst drought in generations, and drenched by the wettest spring in our history. A hurricane left parts of this great city (New York) dark and underwater.”

Earth's rising temperature represents a greater menace than any terrorist “sleeping cell.”

Extreme weather events are not the only danger: As food and water shortages increase and already vulnerable people suffer dislocation and loss, the stability of governments and even civil societies are jeopardized.

In an ironic twist, climate change could itself have been a factor in the rise of the Islamic State. To be sure, the repressive regime of Bashar Assad, in Syria, is the major reason for the civil war that has fed the group's rise. However, some experts point also to the social upheaval tied to a widespread drought caused by climate change, the worst since the beginning of agricultural civiliza-

tion, according to an expert quoted by the Center for Climate and Security, a think-tank advised by retired senior military and security officials. The drought destroyed the livelihood of millions of farmers and herders who migrated to the cities, and whose desperation is a contributing factor to rising militancy.

Still, while most Americans worry more about terrorism than the environment, activists sense a change. You wouldn't know it from watching mainstream media, but the message about the need for action is getting through to more ordinary Americans than in the past: The estimated 300,000 to 400,000 people who participated in the largest “climate justice” march in history on Sept. 21 aren't putting away their signs and going home for good. The numbers of people engaging in civil disobedience is expanding. A movement to persuade institutions to divest from fossil fuels is still tiny, but growing.

We should do what we can to support them: In the not-so-long term, it won't matter what harm the Islamic State can or can't do if a rising planet temperature has the effect most scientists predict: global chaos.

**ROOKERY** NEWS: WF 8<sup>AM</sup> 11<sup>AM</sup>

### 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.

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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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# Overconsumption Threatens the World's Wildlife

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (MCT)

Between 1970 and 2010, the planet lost 52 percent of its wildlife, according to data collected by the World Wildlife Fund and the Zoological Society of London. That's an alarming statistic even while certain creatures like otters, wolves and buffalo make a comeback.

The Living Planet Report released last week is based on an index that measures 10,380 representative populations of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. The report said the number of land and marine animals both plunged by 39 percent in less than half a century, while the worst loss occurred to freshwater animals at 76 percent.

Deforestation across every continent accounts for much of

the decline in numbers of land animals such as elephants, gorillas and big cats that depend on lush forests for food and habitats in which to mate. The poaching of animals is another cause of this disaster.

Overfishing has devastated the number of marine animals faster than they can replenish themselves. Whales, sharks and dolphins are threatened as much as small fish, as fishing nets that are miles long drag indiscriminately across the ocean floor. Freshwater fish are also in steep decline as dams and pollution that disrupt habitat take a toll.

Coral reefs are succumbing to diseases caused by industrial farm runoff that empties into oceans from damaged rivers. Oxygen-depleted zones hundreds of miles wide are popping up in the world's oceans. Consequently, bird

populations decline as their feed stocks die off.

The report says that 1.5 Earths are needed to maintain humanity at the rate that it consumes resources for “food, fuel and fibre, the land we build on and the forests we need to absorb our carbon emissions.” World leaders need to take seriously the WWF's call for international talks on sustainable development goals and actions, including on climate change, that will reduce the depletion of resources and the harm to Earth's wildlife.

Changing mankind's patterns of consumption, waste and pollution will not only transform economies arguably for the better, but it is also the only rational thing to do on a planet with a growing human population and finite natural resources.



# Down and Dirty

## BROWN, RIVERS LEAD RESURGENT D-LINE

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It was a couple years ago, but Penguins defensive lineman Octavius Brown can remember his days at the Georgia Military Academy like they were yesterday.

Playing football at the Milledgeville, Georgia junior college, it was always the same routine: Mornings started at 5 a.m.; beds were made in "hospital corners" style; suits were always the dress

attire; shoes were always sure to be polished. And workouts were always sure to be treacherous.

"We'd be crawling through mud — things like that," Brown said. "It was probably the hardest time of my life. Did some horrible and tough things. So it shaped me into a man at an early age. Got me ready for everything."

Nowadays, the senior still finds himself in the trenches from time-to-time. It's usually on Saturdays — at the center of a resurgent Youngstown State University defensive line.

This past Saturday, Brown and the Penguins D-line helped lead the way to a 14-7 victory at Missouri State University, hounding the Bears for four sacks and eight tackles for loss.

"We wanted to attack them before they could attack us and I think we did a good job," said Brown, who transferred to YSU in 2013. "We just try to be more physical."

"We had to hear the whole offseason that we don't have all-conference D-lineman, we don't got this, don't got that. So we've been waiting to go out and be competitive and more physical than everyone we play."

While Brown sits in the middle of the line, Derek Rivers works on the outside. The top Penguins (4-1) pass-rusher this season with 4 1/2 sacks, Rivers comes from a similar background as Brown.

Coming out of high school in 2012, the 6-foot-5 sophomore — after being

"under-recruited" — chose to attend Fork Union Military Academy in Virginia to play football. Like Brown, he described his military year as a tough one.

"That was rough, but it really helped me mature and have a mindset of where I needed to be," Rivers said.

So he came to YSU last season, playing sparingly as a freshman while collecting three sacks. After the 2013 campaign, Rivers was informed he'd be an every-down player this year.

"I worked really hard in the offseason," he said. "The main thing I had to do was get my weight up, but still keep my speed. I feel like I did a pretty job of that."

Jumping from 225 to 240 pounds, Rivers has been at the forefront of the Penguins' defensive line success.

The talented group also features, among others, junior Terrell Williams and senior Desmond Williams on the edge, as well as junior Emmanuel Kromah in the middle.

"For a few guys, last year was our first year in and now we just fit into the system better," Rivers said. "We've matured as a group, and we're also a little bigger and more physical."

They're led by defensive line coach Tom Sims, who Rivers and Brown both rave about.

"He's done so well with us that we can coach ourselves basically," Brown said. "He tells us to give nothing less than all of what you can give."

And that strategy has worked wonders so far. Moving forward, the Penguins' defensive linemen simply want to continue to feed off Sims — as well as each other.

"Coach Sims hypes us up before every game," Rivers said. "He tells us what we have to do, and we go out there and get it. We're like a family. When one of us does good, everybody feeds off that and does well too."



PHOTO BY DUSTIN LIVESAY/ THE JAMBAR.

Youngstown State University's Derek Rivers (11) tackles Missouri State's Ryan Heaston (23) during Saturday's matchup at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. The Penguins defeated the Bears 14-7, behind a strong defensive performance.

# Defending in Disney

## CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS PARTICIPATING IN DISNEY CLASSIC

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Since the fall of 1996, runners from middle school all the way to college have converged on the Disney Wide World of Sports complex in Orlando, Florida to compete in the Disney Cross Country Classic.

Again this year, the Youngstown State University men's cross country team will be tested by the Disney Classic. The Penguins will have veterans in the fold when it comes to the 8k run, as they look to defend their title as the fastest team in the event.

Senior Eric Rupe will look to defend his championship in the 8,000-meter race; fellow senior Nick Gilha and junior Austin McLean were the other two Penguin representatives in the top five of the 8k standings. Senior Jon Hutnyan and junior Ethan Wilson also contributed to the event, placing 11th and 27th respectively.

McLean remembers how shocked he was last year when the team won the 8k.

"We didn't take it as big of a deal as we should have because Miami's not thought of as a cross country school," McLean said. "It was still a great accomplishment, especially with a limited number of guys on the team so we were really happy about that."

Head coach Brian Gorby oversees both the men and women's programs. He calls last year's win over Miami, Florida a major accomplishment.

"We didn't beat Miami in the 90's," Gorby said. "But our program has really taken off and to beat Miami is a huge victory. To be streamed live on ESPN3.com was pretty nice, too."

McLean believes that the team

can repeat as winners of the 8k.

"We've got some great recruits," he said. "We have all of our team back from last year. We run fast and team-oriented, and we're extremely smart at racing. Between us and Malone College, I think the top 13 finishers will be from those programs."

Four of the runners finished last year's Disney Classic in the top 11 of the leaderboard. Gorby thinks this year's team is even better.

"We've got our entire roster from last year back in the fold," Gorby said. "Plus, we've added freshmen runners like Alan Burns, Ryan Sullivan and James Nedrich. We ran a time trial the other day and we ran faster than we did in Florida a year ago. We hope to put five guys in the top eight."

While the men's team finished second in last year's Disney Classic, the women also performed well, placing fourth at the meet.

Sophomore Michelle Klim admitted that the trip to Disney World, though, will be rough this year, given the myriad of distractions the tourist attractions have to offer. However, they won't be in the park for very long.

"I imagine they'll put us on a schedule," she said. "After a day, we'll get together and get down to business and take it seriously."

The women's team will be competing in the 6,000-meter race in Saturday's meet.

Gorby said he believes Malone College will be the main obstacle between YSU and the championship.

"Both of us are extremely strong. We go to Disney and out of 30 or 35 teams, we'll battle for the title," he said.

Despite the threat that is Malone College, Gorby expressed satisfaction with the state of his team.

"With this staff and our roster, I think we can win," Gorby said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION.

Austin McLean finished 12th at the Disney Cross Country Classic last year, helping the YSU men finish second in the event.