

Delving Into Disability Services

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With recent advancements in medicine and technology, the quality of life for disabled individuals has improved drastically. However, in order for disabled individuals to fully enjoy this higher quality of life, their environments must also reflect the advancements in disabled care.

While many Youngstown State University students with disabilities are taking advantage of the services the campus provides, certain environmental factors still hinder some students' mobility.

YSU's Disability Services, housed under the Marion G. Resch Center for Student Progress, has helped address some of the issues that YSU students might have concerning the program's care.

While there have been multiple complaints to the offices concerning repairs to buildings, bathrooms, parking lots and automatic door openers, the staff said that they are satisfying and exceeding the regulations set for universities by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The Americans with Disabilities Act is an act of law that prohibits the discrimination



PHOTO BY GRAIG GRAZIOSI/THE JAMBAR.

against people with any sort of handicap. The law prohibits discrimination against disabled people in employment, public accommodations, government activities and communication.

This act is responsible for creating guidelines that all public buildings and works must follow.

William Spencer, the staff architect in the university facil-

ities department, is in charge of making sure the university meets not only the ADA guidelines, but also a specific set of regulations called the Ohio Building Code. He states that everything that can be done for the students is done for the students, but many don't recognize it.

"We'll get complaints concerning the automatic door openers not working or the

bathrooms not being big enough for certain wheelchairs," Spencer said. "What many don't know is that the automatic door openers aren't required in the guidelines — we just do it to go above and beyond for our students. When the majority of YSU was built, there were no ADA codes. There was no specification for aisle widths for wheelchairs or specialty wheelchairs. We're

making a lot of renovations over the summer, but sometimes older buildings and areas make it difficult to [create better] accessibility."

Gina McGranahan, assistant director of the department of disability services, said that while disability services does meet and mostly exceed the

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HOUSE REPUBLICANS' PROVISION ENDANGERS FACULTY UNIONS

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A new provision has been introduced by Ohio Senate Republicans that would reclassify faculty involved in the decision making process at state universities as managers, potentially stripping them of collectively bargaining rights.

The provision is included in Substitute House Bill 64, the Senate Republicans' revision to Governor John Kasich's budget, and the redefinition applies to faculty members that participate in decisions with respect to courses, curriculum, personnel or other matters of academic or institutional policy as supervisors or management level employees.

The law specifically cites those who participate in faculty senate organizations, among others.

These employees would be forbidden from participating in collective bargaining unless the employer elected to allow it. Under current law, employers must allow collective bargaining if the faculty members elect to engage in it.

The American Association of University Professors, a trade organization composed of professors and academics, called the legislation "alarm-

ing" and said it is an attempt to eliminate faculty unions at Ohio's public colleges and universities.

The Ohio Education Association is preparing a similar action alert to be sent out tomorrow morning.

Annette Burden, president of the Youngstown State University chapter of the OEA, said she has been in contact with the OEA regarding this issue and that the organization intends to begin calling legislators in the house tomorrow.

"At this point, they are not sending out alarms because they are trying to take precautionary steps to make sure that this does not move forward," Burden said.

Harry Meshel, a member of the YSU Board of Trustees, said the provision could force faculty to give up their roles in key positions at the university.

"It is in the details ... if you don't grant them additional authority [as a manager] that means something, it would cause some [faculty] to relinquish authority ... to say or do anything. The faculty ends up on a lot of boards and commissions in different universities, and they do have a good voice," Meshel said. "You have to look at the details to determine who gets hurt and how much they get hurt."

Michael Slavens, president of YSU's Student Government Association, said it could keep professors from participating in academic senate.

"You already see a bit of a struggle trying to get faculty on committees. ... If this was to

actually go through that would completely destroy that because then they wouldn't want to be tied to even the potential of trying to make a decision," Slavens said.

Paul Sracic, chair of the political science department at YSU, said there have been efforts to achieve this in the past.

"Different states have dealt with it in different ways, Governor Walker in Wisconsin basically repealed the rights of professors in the University of Wisconsin to form unions," Sracic said. "This is pretty similar to language in Senate Bill 5, a couple years ago, that was subject to the referendum, so this is not the first time this has happened in Ohio. In fact, I think this is really similar."

Meshel said this is a trend among conservatives.

"The Republican majority in the houses do not want to give the teacher's union or any other unions any stronger positions than what they have today," Meshel said. "They don't want teachers to have union. They don't want public employees to have unions at all."

The Supreme Court has previously held that the definition of faculty as management is legitimate in National Labor Relations Board v. Yeshiva University in 1980, which denied faculty protection under the National Labor Relations Act. According to Sracic, this decision has come under question in recent years.

"The Yeshiva case definition

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Why Haven't the SGA Election Results Been Revealed?

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A flash flood of school pride, team colors, sidewalk chalk and rock painting overtook Youngstown State University campus last week as the annual Student Government Association elections were underway. Votes were cast and counted, but those results have yet to be revealed to the student body.

As reported by The Jambar shortly after the election, the initial pothole hit by the elections process was the filing of grievances concerning actions taken during the campaign. Both parties have said they believe all grievances were filed against the Ashley Orr and Jacob Schriener-Briggs ticket.

Grievances are formal complaints intended to point out violations of the SGA election bylaws and can be filed by any student, faculty or staff member at YSU. The bylaws concerning election campaigns include regulations on where campaigning can occur, what kind of language can be used in campaigns and how soon campaigning can begin.

The SGA elections board examines the legitimacy of these grievances and, if they deem necessary, schedules a hearing to decide on punitive measures for the involved tickets.

In the SGA elections last spring, six grievances were filed — five against Max Gocala and one against current SGA President Michael Slavens. After review by the elections board, Slavens' ticket was docked 5 percent of their votes and Gocala's ticket was docked a total of 4 percent of their votes.

As of the printing of this article, neither of the tickets has been contacted to attend a hearing concerning the grievances. Until the grievances are addressed in a hearing — likely resulting in the docking of votes from the offending party should the grievances be upheld — the results of the elections cannot be disclosed to the students.

The Jambar reached out to the elections board for a list of the filed grievances, but was denied access by vote of the election board.

While review of the grievances has contributed to the lack of closure on the election, it is not the only anchor weighing down a decision.

Slavens said he believes an inexperienced and fully student-run elections board may play a part in the delay.

"According to my understanding the communication between

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DRUND: KEEPING COMMUNICATION OPEN

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The Youngstown State University athletics department uses Drund — a web application management system formed by the technology company named Drund and produced with the help of YSU alumni.

Lee Yi, the founder of Drund, created and launched the system in May of 2010. Since its creation, Drund has gone through several tests before officially becoming a product application.

Drund operates as a private application management and communications platform that is branded specifically to customer needs and helps to manage online life safely from any Internet connected device, such as a phone or computer.

Adam Magaña, the product leader for Drund, explained that some of Drund's characteristics are similar to social media sites like Facebook and Twitter.

"We're more of a communications platform, but we often compare a lot of our features to Facebook or Twitter or Dropbox. We have some Dropbox style features like file storage, but really what we are at the core is just a lot of features that are sort of wrapped up in a more controlled way," Magaña said. "[We] are competing against everything else that you go on Twitter and Facebook for."

Magaña graduated from YSU with a degree in computer science. He, along with a few other YSU graduates, has been assisting in the development of Drund over the years.

Magaña said the platform was created through a series of tests before finalizing itself as a product that can be distributed to the community. It currently has 10 employees that continue to develop and progress its system.

"We take a lot of influence from other companies, but at the end of the day, it is how we arrange things. It's really what the customer wants. Our creation is the result of customer feedback and years of trying and failing and sometimes succeeding," Magaña said. "I guess Drund, as it currently stands, has been an idea for the past two and half years. We took our initial product, found the strengths and weaknesses and pivoted our product from that. It's the Drund that we know and love today."

Magaña said that a lot of the customers who use Drund range from non-profit organizations, universities, businesses, big brands, families and clubs or organizations within a community.

"There are a lot of organizations, communities, nonprofits, schools that see a lot of value in social things like Facebook or Facebook groups, or having a Twitter account for their school so people get updates. They see a lot of value in that, but at the end of the day, it is not under their control," Magaña said. "We offer organizations that struggle with internal and external qualms to kind of help solve those problems. It's more of a communications platform and we offer control to whoever we are servicing."

The YSU athletics department is among these organizations that has benefited from Drund's services.

"It was the first team that we did the trial with, and it worked pretty well," Magaña said. "We tested it out with football and then we went whole department wide. We have a full-time

YSU communications intern working in the department to make sure that everyone is comfortable, they are getting the most out of it and [that] it makes their lives easier."

Lia Cunningham, Drund's community liaison for the YSU athletics department, said that her role was to familiarize and support the athletics department's staff and student athletes with Drund.

"I was initially interested in Drund from a communications standpoint. As a communications major, I have been able to learn a lot from my experiences working here. Drund allows the members of the athletics department and the student athletes to communicate in a very private and safe manner," Cunningham said. "It's a convenient way for the athletes to stay connected to their coaches and academic advisors. Additionally, Drund can be used as a fundraising tool, which is great."

Trevor Parks, the athletics director at YSU, said that Drund is a convenience for the athletes as well as their families. The athletes have access to the application on their mobile devices and computers.

"We're trying to also get the parents of our student athletes involved. If you look at our rosters, a lot of our student athletes are not from the area. At least this kind of gives those people a chance to keep in touch with what's going on here at the university," Parks said.

Parks said that Drund helped the athletes to be up to date with the policies, procedures and events ensuing within the athletics department as well as offering a way to keep new athletes in touch with the department.

"We don't have ... an administrative assistant to keep everything in line. Our director of football operations, who is no longer with us, thought it was a

crafty tool. They were able to use it during the season to just to keep everybody up to date on meeting times, policies and things here and there. I think the student athletes liked it because in the past they normally didn't have access to their cellphones and this gave them access to their cellphones," Parks said.

Parks also said that after working with Drund at the end of the football season, the athletics department might continue to use it in the future. He indicated that Cunningham has successfully introduced Drund to employees in the department.

"I think now most of the department staff is comfortable with using it," Parks said. "Now, we just have to get everybody on board and I think it will be a fun thing to implement, and hopefully it helps us out and gets us all on the same page."

Magaña said that Drund would continue to offer its services based on customers' needs.

"We really try to listen and respond to our customers. We get an idea, sort out all the details of the idea — what it can do, what it can't do — and it goes through a process ... laying out flow for how it will function, and from there we build and test," Magaña said. "Sometimes it works positively and sometimes it doesn't, but ultimately the process comes down to ... customer feedback. The ideas come from a customer needing something very custom, or us foreseeing something that customers will need to make the product easier or more friendly to them."

Cunningham said that she is excited to be a part of the Drund community.

"Being involved with Drund has been so rewarding," she said. "I've learned so much here. I think Drund will continue to be very successful in the future."

For Darren Sharper, a Place in Prison. But in Hall of Fame, Too?

The NFL's Hall of Fame rules allow a serial rapist to be considered. Should that change?

RYAN GABRIELSON
ProPublica

Darren Sharper has secured his place in prison over the next nine years for raping women across the U.S. It now remains to be seen whether the former National Football League star defensive back can simultaneously achieve criminal infamy and the highest honor of his profession, a place in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Sharper, who has so far pleaded guilty or no contest to charges of rape, attempted rape and drugging women in California, Arizona and Nevada, is eligible for enshrinement in the hall next year. Based solely on his in-game performance across 14 seasons for the Packers, Vikings and Saints, he is a legitimate candidate. Sharper is tied for seventh on the league's list for career interceptions, and he was twice selected for the Associated Press All-Pro First Team. He was also a key player on the team that earned the New Orleans Saints their only Super Bowl win in 2010.

Those deemed worthy of the Hall of Fame are selected by a committee of 46 members of the media who typically choose between three and eight retired players for entry each year. The hall's bylaws explicitly state that voters, called "selectors," are only supposed to consider a candidate's on-field performance and characteristics when deciding whom to enshrine.

Earlier this year, Peter King, a leading football writer for Sports Illustrated and a Hall of Fame voter, argued on Twitter that Sharper deserves

consideration. "If I said, 'I will not consider Sharper for induction because he has been accused of multiple rapes,' I would resign from the committee," King wrote.

In an interview Friday afternoon, King said his position doesn't signal support for Sharper or his candidacy. "It seems preposterous to consider Sharper for the Hall of Fame," he said.

The Hall of Fame's board of trustees includes six National Football League team owners, and is seen largely as an extension of the league. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell is also on the hall's board.

ProPublica sought to interview Goodell about whether the league could take action to exclude Sharper from consideration. The commissioner's office referred questions to Brian McCarthy, a league spokesman, who did not return multiple calls and emails. The Hall of Fame directed interview requests to Joe Horrigan, its in-house historian on the selection process, who also did not respond to inquiries.

Before Sharper admitted his guilt, TMZ reported that Horrigan's position was that as long as a player has been retired for five years and has made at least one All-Pro team, he is eligible; while voters could take his criminal history into consideration, they are not supposed to.

Some voters, however, say they can't simply disregard what they know.

"Off the field is not supposed to count, but I would feel disgusting if I voted for him," said Jason Cole, an NFL writer for Bleacher Report and Hall of Fame selector. "There's a certain point where you can't separate the two. And he crossed that line."

Others say they will sus-

pend judgment — for now.

Sal Paolantonio, an ESPN national correspondent and a Hall of Fame selector, said: "I am very respectful of the selection process and I will not pass judgment on a player's credentials for the Hall of Fame until I hear the presentation in the annual selection meeting, if Mr. Sharper should ever become a finalist. I think, however, that there are other safeties — John Lynch, Brian Dawkins — that deserve consideration before Mr. Sharper."

The extent to which a player's character should influence his selection to the Hall of Fame has roiled baseball for years. Cheaters and racists and convicted felons are in the hall. But Pete Rose was barred from consideration by then Commissioner Bart Giamatti because he had gambled on baseball. Rob Manfred, the newly named commissioner, has agreed to take up a review of Rose's decades-long effort to have Major League Baseball's ban rescinded.

Lawrence Taylor, considered by many the finest linebacker ever to play, was suspended several times by the NFL for failing drug tests. Tay-

lor nonetheless won entry to the Hall of Fame in 1999, the first year he was eligible. In 2011, Taylor pleaded guilty to sexual misconduct involving a 16-year-old girl.

In Sharper's case, voters will know his criminal history before considering him for entry into a sport's Hall of Fame. Sharper is expected to plead guilty in Louisiana and in federal court to still more charges in the days or weeks ahead.

This week, ProPublica and the New Orleans Advocate published a two-month investigation outlining the police failure to stop Sharper's spree of raping women, many of them rendered unconscious by drugs he gave them.

The issue of violence against women, which has been a perennial problem for the NFL and its players, exploded over the last year. When Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice knocked his then fiancée unconscious in an elevator last year, Goodell initially suspended Rice only for two games. The commissioner received fierce criticism for the light penalty, and reversed course after a video of the assault became public. The

NFL ultimately adopted new policies and hired sex crimes consultants to help it navigate the issue in the future.

Paolantonio said the moment may be ripe for the Hall of Fame process to be revisited as well.

"In light of the long overdue renewed emphasis on player conduct by both the NFL and the NFL Players Association, I think there should be an open and honest discussion and debate about whether the Hall of Fame's by-laws should be reconsidered," he said. "And I think the league and the players would welcome that debate and should be part of it."

However, King said he opposes a rule change that would block felons from enshrinement because it could subject candidates to the sometimes arbitrary variances in criminal law, with offenses that are misdemeanors in one place counting as felonies in another. He added that the hall does not ask voters, "people who cover football for a living," to weigh which crimes are heinous and which tolerable. Nor does he believe he and his colleagues are equipped to make that kind of judgement.



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ADA guidelines, some aspects of its services might not guarantee total student satisfaction.

"We are in compliance with ADA, as in door sizes and all that kind of stuff. But a lot of things are bigger than what's in the code. ... Wheelchairs were thinner [back when the codes were created], [and now] there are scooters that are bigger and they can't fit into bathrooms at all; it's too small ... [but] it's hard to retrofit buildings," McGranahan said. "But when the university does do new construction, we go above and beyond to make sure we meet and exceed the need of these students."

While disability services has no direct power in overseeing renovations or additions to the university, McGranahan said that she receives all complaints before sending them out to Spencer and the grounds and maintenance teams, who are responsible for repairs and add-ons to the university.

"Students think certain things have to be done and then wonder why they're not done ... but they [aren't required]," McGranahan said.

McGranahan said the staff at disability services and their counterparts ensure the best care be given to students, but she said that she feels many students turn their heads when they hear the word disability.

"We have about 700 students registered here and about 8 percent of the population have some sort of disability, so there should be a lot more students registered here ... [but] when [students] see the [word] disability ... the traditional-age student still has the [negative stigma] concerning disabilities," McGranahan said.

Disability services exists to work with the university and the state to provide the most accessible and handicap-friendly campus possible, but Spencer said that due to the age of many of the buildings, progress is achieved one step at a time.

"Considering that [the ADA code] was not developed until 1991 and not enforced until 2002, it becomes apparent as to why buildings constructed prior to this time often do not meet the standards that have come to be expected. It is our standard practice to incorporate improvements to existing conditions whenever possible during renovation projects," Spencer said. "However, there will always remain conditions that are either physically or fiscally infeasible to rectify, in which case we strive to provide alternative solutions to help bridge the gap between accessible and noncompliant conditions."

The disability services website was recently revamped to meet new ADA guidelines. Anyone looking for more information on these guidelines can visit the website.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Thomases Family Endowment Gives to Help Hotline Crisis Center

The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation gave a \$5,000 grant to the Help Hotline Crisis Center Inc. This grant will be used to fund the 24/7 crisis hotline for senior citizens who are a high-risk group for suicide. It will cover services in Mahoning and Trumbull County. For information on Help Hotline, call 211.

Distinguished Professor Awards for 2015 to be Presented

At the 2015 Distinguished Professor Award ceremony on Thursday April 16 at 4 p.m., 24 faculty members will receive recognition for excellent teaching, excellent scholarship and excellent service. This year's Honors Convocation will be split into six separate ceremonies, one for each college, between Monday April 20 and Wednesday April 29.

STEM Showcase Highlights Student Projects and Labs

The Youngstown State University College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics presents its best labs and students at the STEM Showcase on Saturday April 25 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. on campus. At the event, \$1,000 of scholarship money will be given to prospective YSU STEM students at the event who complete a survey.

of what constitutes being in management has been questioned by the National Labor Relations Board in January of this year," Sracic said. "But the National Labor Relations Board does not cover state employees. The state legislature really has great power over Ohio's public employees; they drafted the law that gave the right to public employees to collectively bargain. What they give they can likely take away."

Sracic said the bill still has to be approved by both houses and make it across the governor's desk, so the current language is far from final.

"I wouldn't be surprised if it got out of the legislature. We will see what the governor decides to do but, should he decide to run for president, he is going to be competing with Governor Walker, who took on the public unions in Wisconsin, so he may see it to his political advantage to send the same message," Sracic said.

Joe Schiavoni, a democratic state senator representing the district comprising Youngstown, was not as optimistic about its passage in the Senate.

"I can't speak for the 23 members on the Republican side, but I know there would be 10 members on the Democratic side that would be strongly opposed to any legislation that would take away collective bargaining rights for any public employees, particularly our college professors," Schiavoni said. "I think that is just crazy, I don't even know where this came from."

The OEA also said they do not believe the bill will survive the Senate.

Sracic said the bill is very narrow, affecting only faculty at state higher education institutions, so the backlash might not be as severe as it was with similar bills. He also noted that budgets are not subject to ballot referendums.

Schiavoni said that public opinion was not in favor of Senate Bill 5 when the referendum was voted on by citizens. This could affect Kasich's treatment of the current bill.

"60 or 63 percent of Ohio said they do not want to take away collective bargaining rights for public employees. I don't think there is public support for this, and if he is truly going to run for president the last thing he wants to do is upset public employees again," Schiavoni said. "I don't think that would be something he would want to sign."

He said he would do everything possible to stop the bill's passage.

"I will be fighting every step of the way," Schiavoni said.

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the elections board is kind of tough due to some individuals not meshing ... and from my understanding, it's tough because there's no one there to guide things. They're all new. The advisers don't think they should get too involved, so [the elections board members] don't have anyone pushing them along," Slavens said.

While no official word has come down as to whether or not any punitive measures will be taken in regards to the grievances, both Slavens and SGA's faculty advisers are calling for an end to vote reductions being used as punishments.

"We didn't like the idea of being able to take away votes ... the advisers and those of us that talked about it wanted to try and make sure that [vote docking] was avoided at all costs," Slavens said.

As a full week has passed since ballots were cast, SGA presidential candidates Ashley Orr and Nick Chretien continue to wait for any word on the results of their campaign.

Chretien, whose campaign filed grievances against the Orr/Schriner-Briggs ticket, said he believes waiting is the only action left to take.

"Obviously we'd like to know [election results] sooner rather than later, but we're being patient. It's out of our hands," Chretien said. "We don't want to see votes taken away ... but it's also out of our hands, and it's up to the elections board to decide."

Orr disagrees with vote docking by the elections board, but has said she is more concerned with getting back to her work than arguing with the board.

"The votes are the students voicing who they want to represent them and by taking away votes, sure you are penalizing the ticket that is running, but you are taking away student voices," Orr said. "Everyday we don't know the results is like a day lost that I could be serving the students. If I am the president of SGA, then I want to hit the ground running the minute I know that with planning for things next year or even just creating relationships with community, administration and students."

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- Assist in group visits
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- Aid with campus recruitment events

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Jenny Magazine Celebrates Eighth Issue and Creative Minds Who Made it Happen

GABRIELLE FELLOWS

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Jenny Magazine, run by the Student Literary Arts Association, is celebrating its eighth issue with a release party at the Tyler Mahoning Valley History Center on Thursday April 16 from 6 to 8 p.m.

There will be music, refreshments and raffle baskets, as well as an open mic for attending authors and poets. Featured SLAA members will also be reading pieces of their favorite works that have been published in the issue.

Couri Johnson, SLAA president and Jenny head editor, said that each issue of the Jenny is one to be celebrated

because it represents that Youngstown and the students of Youngstown State University are still defying the odds and thriving in a place that has seen better days.

“Jenny represents the spirit of Youngstown in a big way. Its name was selected by former SLAA president and creator, Chris Lettera, in honor of the Jeanette Blast Furnace ... that was closed down in 1977. It represents the prosperity that was once so prevalent in Youngstown — along with the disappointment of all the promise once the Steel industry once held for this area — and the hope that we can continue afterwards,” Johnson said. “Youngstown State University has come to represent that hope for much of the area, and Jenny does as well. We want to be more than just a magazine, we want to be a signpost to the rest of the world that Youngstown is still here, still creating and still burning.”

As for the future of Jenny Magazine, former member Madison Sudon has hopes that the publication will continue to create with more members and in more unique ways.

“I believe the Jenny would like to expand to include more members. We have been trying to do more printed issues rather than solely being online,” Sudon said. “We are also looking into accepting submissions for graphic novels sometime in the future.”

For those who are passionate about literary arts and identify themselves as “book nerds” and “fiction junkies,” institutions such as Jenny Magazine represent much more than just a place to get their work published.

Dom Fonce, co-editor of poetry for the eighth issue of Jenny, said that the establishment isn’t just an online magazine — it’s a family of inventive minds that find comfort in the insanity that is creative writing.

“I wouldn’t recommend anyone get into creative writing, it’s a roller coaster. Some have to, and those people that have made it this far into the creative writing community understand,” Fonce said. “If I don’t write fiction, I’ll go insane.”

Students who feel the same familiar urge to create and wish to help share stories in the Jenny should send an email to studentliteraryarts@gmail.com asking for meeting information and join SLAA’s mailing list.

Johnson said the magazine is always on the lookout for students wishing to join the imaginative crew and is ready to welcome them with open arms.

“We’re always looking for passionate, fun and dedicated individuals to join our team,” Johnson said. “We don’t have a preference for what major they’re in, or what genre of literature they like. So long as they love the literary arts, we love them.”



President Barack Obama speaks during a meeting with Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Guinean President Alpha Conde, right, and Sierra Leonean President Ernest Bai Koroma, left, in the Cabinet Room of the White House on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, in Washington, D.C. The three presidents discussed the progress made in the international Ebola response to-date. (Olivier Douliery/Abaca Press/TNS)

AARON HERNANDEZ GUILTY OF FIRST-DEGREE MURDER

JENNY WILSON

The Hartford Courant
(TNS)

FALL RIVER, Mass. — Once among the most promising young players in the NFL, former New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez was convicted Wednesday of first-degree murder in the 2013 killing of a man who was dating his fiancée’s sister.

Hernandez, 25, appeared upbeat for most of his trial, but his demeanor changed as the jury announced its verdict. The guilty verdict should quash any hopes the Bristol, Conn., native may have had to return to the football field, where his speed and power earned him millions of dollars.

The Odin Lloyd homicide investigation revealed what authorities are now characterizing as a pattern of violence that went unnoticed prior to his arrest two years ago. Hernandez’s biggest

trouble prior to 2013 was a couple of failed drug tests for marijuana. He now also faces double murder charges in a 2012 drive-by shooting in Boston. Hernandez played an entire season for the Patriots after the double homicide and had signed on to play five more. The 2012 shooting was a cold case until evidence recovered after Lloyd’s death helped authorities identify Hernandez as a suspect.

The jury also convicted Hernandez, 25, of two illegal firearms crimes, one for possession of the .45 caliber Glock pistol used to kill Odin Lloyd in June 2013.

Jurors reached the verdict on the seventh day of deliberations. They received the case after nine weeks of testimony, dragging at times, during which the government called 132 witnesses. Hernandez admitted to being present at the scene of the crime, but tried to convince jurors that one of the two other men charged in Lloyd’s murder were responsible.

The government proved its case without producing a murder weapon, detailing a motive or calling an eye-

witness to testify. Some of their most valuable evidence came from Hernandez’s home surveillance system, which captured the former Patriots tight end returning to his home minutes after the shooting holding a large black object. Prosecutors called a Glock representative to testify that it was a gun of the same make and model as the murder weapon. Defense attorneys spent days attacking that identification.

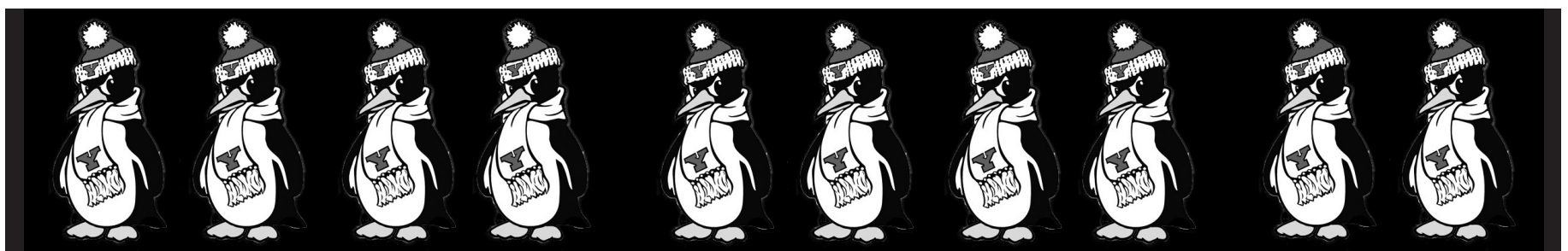
The government also received a boost from the testimony of Hernandez’s fiancée, Bristol, Conn., native Shayanna Jenkins, who was forced to take the witness stand under a grant of immunity from prosecution. She testified that Hernandez ordered her to remove a box from the basement of their home the day after Lloyd was found dead. She said she did not look inside the box and could not remember where she drove to dispose of it, leading prosecutors to attack her credibility.

Jenkins said she is estranged from her sister, Shaneah Jenkins, who was dating the victim. Both women attended the trial frequently, sitting on oppo-

site sides of the courtroom after choosing opposite sides in the case. Shaneah Jenkins was called to the witness stand early in the trial, and told jurors about the day after the slaying, when Jenkins removed the box from the home and concealed it in a black trash bag to carry it out of the house.

New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft testified that when he approached Hernandez the day after Lloyd was found dead, and the former tight end said he was innocent. Kraft said Hernandez denied involvement and said that he hoped the time of the murder came out because he was at a nightclub. At that point, only a few details of the crime had been released to the public.

Defense attorneys had argued that prosecutors targeted Hernandez from the onset of the investigation, and were selective in examining evidence — ignoring that which did not fit a “presumption of guilt.” They portrayed Hernandez as an immature 23-year-old caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. Two other men from Bristol, Conn., face murder charges in Lloyd’s killing.



Rock 'n' Roll and Gritty Grooves



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGELA PERLEY AND THE HOWLIN' MOONS.

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guitar, Billy Zehnal on bass and Angela Perley on guitar, vocals and musical saw, the members create an Americana roots rock sound with a country and blues influence.

The band came together in late 2008 when Vital Production Studios introduced Perley's own music to the future band members. Zehnal heard Perley's own demos recorded from her porch in Athens, Ohio, which was packaged in a simple paper bag with some decorative drawings.

"I like how [Perley] constructs her melodies — I think they're really catchy and I love her lyrics," Zehnal said. "There's something that draws me to them. We [band members] were always curious about how she sings certain vowels and I'm still not sure

how that happens."

Once Zehnal heard her music, he convinced their bass player to collaborate as well.

"Angela [Perley] called it a musical blind date because we all met up at the studio one day and we'd already learned the songs so we just started playing and had a nice jam session," Zehnal said. "Ever since then we've been recording and writing music together."

Angela Perley and the Howlin' Moons have produced four EPs and one album called "Hey Kid." Their music has evolved to become more rock 'n' roll over time. Currently the band is working on a new album to be released late fall of 2015.

"The EPs were a quick growing process of becoming a band together and learning to play with each other," Perley

said. "[The last album] sounded a little more gritty, a little more rock 'n' roll."

Zehnal said he believes that the upcoming album will bring a different sound than what fans of the band are used to.

"The next album will be heavy with more dreamy elements," Zehnal said. "It's still rooted, like Americana."

Although the band has performed before in downtown Youngstown at Cedar's West End Bar roughly a year ago, this will be their first time playing at Suzie's.

"I just love the energy of a live crowd and just the interaction with people at the shows," Perley said. "Every venue of all these cities and town is so different. Each place is a unique experience."

The performance at Su-

zie's will also be supported by the Poverty Awareness in Youngstown Organization. PAYO is a student organization that will be speaking before the performance about the issue and passing out white ribbons symbolizing poverty.

Carolyn Jesko, coordinator for Student Activities, explained why the organization has been partnering with local causes since the beginning of spring 2015.

"We figured we're Student Activities, why not attach a cause to it and help raise awareness in Youngstown and around our community," Jesko said. "[Student Activities] choose venues that have had music in the past, and make sure that people under 21 are able to come in. It's all free and open to the public as well."

Record Store Day: At a Record Store Near You

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rate-owned record stores were going out of business around 2007 causing popular culture and the press to assume that, as Colliton put it, records were a dying medium.

"So, we just decided, let's throw our own party and let's invite the public, let's invite the press, let's invite stores and throw this party and let everybody know these stores are here for you — they exist and isn't it a wonderful thing?" Colliton said.

In September of 2007, Colliton — along with other founding members, Eric Levin, Michael Kurtz, Amy Dorfman, Don Van Cleave and Brian Poehner — conceived the idea for Record Store Day. In April of the following year, the first Record Store Day took place.

Record Store Day is now in its eighth year and is being celebrated on every continent except Antarctica.

"We can talk about how this is a celebration, but it's also that we want these stores to be kept alive because we want to celebrate with them, year after year," Colliton said. "What a great feeling that must be for those people who work in the stores — to have customers come in and then know that they're giving these customers this really great, fun day."

Every store participating in Record Store Day is independently owned and brick-and-mortar.

This year's Record Store Day ambassador is Dave Grohl, front man for the mega rock group Foo Fighters.

"We talk with different labels and managers and the Foo

Fighters have been involved with Record Store day before," Colliton said. "Dave was perfect. We always want our ambassador to be someone who is genuine and can talk about record stores because they've been to record stores and it's a part of their lives. And it makes perfect sense to have a pretty big rock star talking about how great record stores are."

It was announced yesterday that the Foo Fighters will be playing Saturday at noon at the Record Connection in Niles in part with Record Store Day.

Jeff Burke has been the owner and proprietor of Record

Connection for over 30 years.

"Record Store Day wants to bring about the awareness that these stores exist," Burke said. "People have got to come check it out. This is as real as it gets. We've been a lifeline for developing artists in the area."

When asked about how he managed to book the Foo Fighters, Burke said pure luck.

Wednesday, Burke could barely stay off the phone, having to confirm the Foo Fighters' announcement and receive shipment upon shipment of records.

"It's kind of reminiscent of the good old days," Burke said.

"It's kind of a 'hang out' idea. It's going to be spectacular."

David Kiss owns and runs both Pork Records and the Stone Tavern, the venue it operates within. Pork Records is an independent label and record store located in Kent and will be participating in Record Store Day.

"[Record Store Day] gets people to go out to the record store," Kiss said. "Every day should be Record Store Day."

More information regarding specific album releases and the stores involved in Record Store Day can be found at recordstoreday.com.



PHOTO BY BILLY LUDT/THE JAMBAR.

EDITORIAL

Your Vote Matters: Unless Someone Hangs an Unauthorized Poster

If you read the front page, which if you got all the way to opinion of course you did, you know we are eagerly awaiting the results of last week's Student Government Association presidential election — a process that has once again been delayed by grievances.

Similar to years past, grievances — which can be filed by students, faculty or staff against either campaign that has potentially violated SGA election laws — have the opportunity to play a pivotal role in this election.

We implore the powers that be to not allow this to happen.

Realize that we're not simply writing an editorial expressing our impatience with an extensive and lengthy elections process — annoying as it may be. We're also making a serious plea to the current Elections Board: when dealing with grievances, don't impose sanctions that take away votes and damage our democratic process.

This year, 14 grievances have been filed regarding the presidential election. That's a lot. And, as you can imagine, this considerably stalls the ballot counting procedure.

The Jambar has not yet obtained documents detailing the specifics of these grievances, as the Elections Board has voted to keep us from acquiring these documents.

Unfortunately, this year's 14 grievances are not particularly shocking. They're simply the natural result of what happened last spring. For those of you who need a refresher, several grievances were filed against both tickets, resulting in the deduction of 68 total votes. When just over 1000 people vote, that deduction is significant. And though grievances did not change the result of last year's election, they could have.

The decision made last year to take away votes may have established a problematic precedent. We fear that the process of filing grievances has become a campaign strategy for some of our candidates — a last ditch effort to alter the vote count in their favor.

And as long as the Elections Board remains willing to dock votes, candidates — and their supporters — will continue to exploit this policy. Sadly, this kind of political strategizing doesn't just hurt the ticket that gets the most votes docked; it also hurts the voters, those who reasonably believed they had the ultimate power in what's supposed to be a democratic election.

SGA's professed goal is to give a voice to what would otherwise be a poorly represented group on YSU's campus — the student body. But the association must already overcome the consistent hurdle of low voter turnout and the student apathy that is common to commuter campuses; it is preposterous to make disenfranchising voters an actual function of an already ailing democracy.

While we acknowledge that there must be a procedure in place to enforce SGA's campaign rules, we encourage the Elections Board to do better than previous year's boards; we encourage the board to eliminate grievance filing as a viable campaign strategy, to stop taking away candidates' votes, and to start exploring more appropriate options to penalize candidates for their violation of campaign rules.

And if these grievances actually manage to determine the results of the election, we would hope everyone would take a moment to seriously reflect on what the hell democracy even means.

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, 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.

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.

Change: The Scary Necessity

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I just got adjusted to my new job — new office, new people, new microwaves ... it's intense. I'm not someone that usually enjoys the whole process of change. But now that I'm adjusted, I'm going to spend the next five years here, getting used to people and developing an emotional attachment to my rickety desk, right?

Nope. We are moving to a new building. I'll be going with the same people, but for someone who dislikes change, these two changes so close together really takes a toll on me. I'm exhausted, upset and a little anxious. I should be excited though, right? I'm moving to a newer, more updated building and I'm getting a new desk. So why am I so down about it?

In "Business: Why Change is So Hard, and How to Make it Easier," published in October 2009 in Psychology Today, Jim Taylor talked about the thing that holds us back when we are about to experience something new: a change.

"As anyone who has ever tried to change knows, it is far from simple or easy. Change can be slow, frustrating and painful; it can also be engrossing and inspiring," Taylor said. "Change is the most difficult-yet-rewarding-thing you will ever do."

If it's so rewarding, why can't I get a handle on my anxiety about it?

Taylor addressed certain feelings that hold us back from getting into a positive mood about change.

"The most frequent types of baggage include low self-

esteem, perfectionism, fear of failure, need for control, anger and need to please," Taylor said. "This baggage causes you to think, feel and behave based on who you were as a child rather than the very different person you are now as an adult."

If we are all so worried about this it's no wonder we can't adjust better.

"Deeply ingrained habits in the way you think, experience emotions and behave arise out of this baggage," Taylor said. "In other words, you react to the world in a certain way because that's the way you always have; these habits produce knee-jerk reactions that are no longer healthy or adaptive."

Not adjusting to change well is more or less a function of the average human being. It's more of a fear than an old-habits-die-hard type of thing. We are afraid it won't be what we want it to be, so we would rather stick with the familiar.

This is true when it comes to work places as well. So what's the solution?

In "Why Change Is So Hard," published in January by The Huffington Post, Karen Frankola talked about how change can be successful in a business setting.

Frankola told a story about working for a company resisting change and how a big change implemented failed. Frankola said because it wasn't led correctly, it failed.

"Change doesn't take hold because of people — strong leadership or executive sponsorship is frequently cited as the most important factor for a successful initiative," Frankola

said. "The truth is most employees don't readily take on new behaviors without some help."

Personally, I know I'm kind of gullible, and if people around me are excited for something new, I generally am too. Just like misery loving company, happiness does too.

Frankola continued to say that even in working innovative companies she found resistance unless encouragement by leaders was present. If there was no encouragement, most of the team didn't have much motivation toward starting or doing something new.

With all of this potentially holding us back — the emotional baggage and maybe not the right kind of encouragement from our higher ups — it is still important to embrace changes.

"In attempting to change, you are swimming against the tide of many years of baggage, habits, emotions and environment," Taylor said. "But if you can overcome those obstacles and commit yourself to a new direction in your life, amazing things can happen."

Maybe we really are our own worst enemies, rejecting new opportunities as they come our way out of feelings of distrust or fear for the future. Do we really need constant encouragement to try something? Maybe we should be our own encouragement.

Besides, without ever trying anything new how can we expect to grow up? To grow old like our parents. To succeed. Without change, we would never adapt or be able to survive our ever-changing world.

Delightful 'American in Paris' is Innovative Yet Familiar

BY SHARON EBERSON

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
(TNS)

NEW YORK — Every so often a gem the likes of "An American in Paris" is brought from screen to stage, and for a moment you can stop asking why so many movies are made into musicals. With exquisite performances and aesthetics, this ballet-musical theater hybrid makes good on a title with Oscar-winning clout and fond memories of Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron dancing gloriously to Gershwin tunes.

The similarities don't end there — the theater work is still a love story set in post-World War II Paris — but this adaptation goes its own way and then some, with an innovative approach to staging and a breathtaking melding of art forms.

The script by Craig Lucas puts into focus the harsh conditions that existed in France after its liberation from the Nazis. Brandon Uranowitz as Adam Hochberg, a Jewish composer with a limp courtesy of combat, has found an artist's haven and sets the scene of a Paris ready to rise from the ashes of war and become the City of Light while the company dances through the citizens' lingering anger and pain.

Adam befriends another American GI, Jerry Mulligan, who is inspired to stay behind when others are shipping out. Next on the scene is Henri, a sugar heir who wants to sing but has to keep it hush-hush from his stiff upper-class parents. The men anoint themselves Musketeers — a com-

poser, an artist and a singer, trying to forget the horrors they have seen. All three, unbeknownst to each, fall for the same girl.

Robert Fairchild, a principal dancer with the New York City Ballet, makes a stunning Broadway debut in the Gene Kelly role of the artist Jerry. The accomplished dancer also sings and acts with confidence, and you believe every word when he declares his love for budding ballerina Lise, played by Caron look-alike Leanne Cope of the Royal Ballet, also making her musical theater debut.

When Jerry courts the demure Lise at her department store job, Fairchild lets loose across the floor and atop counters to "I've Got Beginner's Luck," and he's every step a leading man. Lise has "obligations" and tries to keep her distance, but they meet again at the ballet company, where she shows why she is about to become a star.

Stage veteran Max von Essen as Henri is in his element as the singer in the group. He employs a French accent and is the go-to vocalist on "I've Got Rhythm" and "I'll Build a Stairway to Paradise," the latter a big Broadway-style production number. That routine is sparked from Henri's imagination, just as Lise later gives in to her passion for Jerry through dance.

That romantic second-act ballet, to the Gershwin composition "An American in Paris," fits seamlessly into the whole, with a vibrantly colored abstract design and the two leads capturing desire in every rapturous movement and gaze.

Director-choreographer

Christopher Wheeldon, a name revered in the ballet world, and award-winning set designer Bob Crowley have co-created a musical that marries movement to every purpose — even set pieces are danced onto and off the stage, while projections and animations give playful hints of the art movements of the times.

The reimagining of any beloved work is risky, of course, and "inspired by" truly applies here. If there's a discordant note, it's the inference that Henri, shy about showing his feelings and exhibiting a high-pitched laugh, "is not interested in the fairer sex." While the otherwise poignant Henri is pushed to insist that he loves Lise, Uranowitz's Adam is heartbreaking in his privately unrequited love. He also injects humor into many scenes and makes the most direct connection to the movie when he says he's no Oscar Levant, who played fellow Pittsburgher Gene Kelly's best friend in the film.

Pittsburgh's connection to "An American in Paris" continues with this original stage musical. Pittsburgh CLO executive producer Van Kaplan is making his Broadway debut as a lead producer, and the company has an above-the-title credit. The cast and crew are sprinkled with other ties, including lighting designer Natasha Katz, who got her start with the CLO and does beautiful work here.

What this creative team has brought to a Broadway season awash in musical revivals is something innovative yet familiar, a gorgeous and moving tribute that emerges as a triumph for a new day.

YSU Recruiting Class has Big Shoes to Fill



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The Youngstown State University men's basketball team is trying to rebuild after a disappointing 2014-2015 season that resulted in a last-place finish in the conference.

After finishing 11-21, 2-14 in Horizon League play, YSU has seen a mass exodus from the program. The program will have to deal with the loss of starting point guard DJ Cole and small forward Shawn Amiker who are leaving due to graduation.

Several players from last season's roster have decided to transfer to other universities following the Horizon League tournament. The members of the roster that will be transferring include junior shooting guard Shaun Stewart, junior small forward Larry Johnson, Jr., sophomore small forward Jalon Plummer, sophomore small forward Osandai Vaughn and sophomore point guard Marcus Keene.

The team is losing impactful players that would have been key to the program's future success. Keene was vital to YSU's offense and defense — he led the team with 15.6 points per game and steals, 1.09 steals per game. Vaughn led the team with a 42 percent 3-point percentage.

Johnson, Stewart and Plummer played significant minutes, but didn't make much of a significant impact statistically. The program was looking to the previously mentioned players to make a significant contribution to the team next season.

Head coach Jerry Slocum and the rest of the coaching staff have made an attempt to improve the program's

recruiting class. At the end of the season, the recruiting class consisted of three players: Jordan Andrews, Latin Davis and Devin Haygood.

Andrews averaged 15.3 points and 8.3 rebounds per game. The 6-foot-5 forward led his team to its third straight Louisiana State Championship in 2014-2015.

Davis, a 5-foot-11 guard, averaged 18.8 points per game in the regular season at Milan High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Davis improved his performance during the 2014-2015 playoffs — averaging 22.4 points per game. Davis finished second in school history in career points and was named the Ann Harbor News Player of the Year.

Unlike the other members of the 2015 recruiting class, Haygood doesn't have many accolades but has performed consistently at the high school level. Haygood is a 6-foot-7 small forward and received a two-star rating while in high school. He averaged 13.3 points, 6.4 rebounds and 2.0 blocks per game.

YSU recently acquired junior college transfer Matt Donlan, a 6-foot-7 forward from Iowa Western Community College. Last season Donlan averaged 11.7 points per game and shot 44 percent from behind the 3-point line.

Donlan began his career at South Dakota State University. While at SDSU, Donlan came off the bench to appear in seven games. He only made one shot his freshman season, but he only attempted four shots that year.

All three recruits were two-star athletes. The addition of Donlan gives the Penguins a recruit with collegiate experience. Donlan brings more clout to a recruiting class that has big shoes to fill next season.

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team has lost seven of the 15 players on the team's roster. Seniors DJ Cole and Shawn Amiker are graduating and five other players are transferring before the start of next season.

Ashley's War: Women's Golf Honors Fallen Local Soldier

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The Youngstown State University women's golf team has worked with the Folds of Honor Foundation this year to honor a fallen local hero, Ashley White-Strumpf.

White-Strumpf, a former Kent State University student and first lieutenant in the United States Army, was killed in October of 2011 when the assault force she was supporting triggered an improvised explosive device.

Major Dan Rooney founded the Folds of Honor Foundation in 2007 in efforts to give back to the loved ones of soldiers killed or disabled while serving in the military.

Nate Miklos, YSU's women's golf coach, said the Women's Golf Association came out with a program over the summer through the Folds of Honor Foundation to honor wounded or fallen soldiers by carrying a golf bag with their information on it throughout the year.

One member of the team has carried a golf bag with White-Strumpf's name and information on it in every meet this season. In addition, each member of the team has a story card with White-Strumpf's information on it, as well as golf towels with her name.

"I talked to my team about it when I first saw the program and they were really excited about it," Miklos said. "They've

been very excited about being able to honor Ashley throughout the year. Especially when players ask about who is she and everything else. They've had the opportunity to share her story and her information with even more people."

Emily Dixon, who finished with medalist honors at last weekend's Black Falcon Invitational, said she feels it is a huge honor every time she gets to carry the bag.

"For me it's just a huge honor," Dixon said. "To honor somebody like Ashley that did so much for our country — there's no words to describe the honor I felt to carry that bag. It was kind of cool when people would be like 'Oh what is that, what's that on your bag' or 'What's on this card?' I would get excited to tell them about it."

Dixon said that she even feels extra motivation carrying the bag.

"I got to carry it for a lot of the fall season and some of the spring season, but to me it's just a huge honor," Dixon said. "It's really cool, I love it."

White-Strumpf's story has gained national attention as well. Former New York Times best selling author Gayle Tzemach Lemmon wrote the book "Ashley's War" that was released in 2015. It focuses on the training and service of White-Strumpf and the rest of her Civil Support Team.

Recently, Fox 2000 and Pacific Standard acquired the movie rights to "Ashley's War," and it is rumored that highly acclaimed actress Reese Witherspoon could play the part of White-Strumpf.

For anyone interested in donating to the Folds of Honor Foundation, visit their website at www.foldsofahonor.org.



The Youngstown State University women's golf team will honor Army First Lieutenant Ashley White-Strumpf. White-Strumpf was killed during combat operations in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan on Oct. 22, 2011.