



Safety While Living in the Shadow Campus

PHOTO BY GRAIG GRAZIOSI/THE JAMBAR.

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Youngstown State University's residence halls are filled to capacity, and the trend toward on-campus living isn't likely to slow down.

As students look for housing, those hoping to save money will likely be drawn to the pockets of off-campus housing — the

shadow campus — by the low rental cost of North Side homes and apartments.

The closest North Side residential neighborhoods to campus are those surrounding Wick Park, a city park situated between Fifth Avenue and Elm Street just north of YSU. While there are a variety of single homes, apartment buildings and renovated park side manors in the neighborhood, there are a num-

ber of buildings boarded up or outright abandoned in the area as well.

Since the collapse of the steel industry in Youngstown, the property values of North Side dwellings have dropped significantly. What once was the neighborhood of the rich and influential of Youngstown, Wick Park and the surrounding neighborhoods later became associated with poverty and

crime.

Amber Beall, Wick Park Neighborhood Association president, recalls her brush with North Side crime before she became involved with the neighborhood.

"When I lived in that neighborhood, I witnessed more than one drive-by shooting. That was the summer of 2010," Beall said. "I know it's gotten better, but it did get worse before it got better."

While Beall has witnessed harrowing violence on the North Side, she also urges caution when making generalizations about the area.

"It's truly dependent on the culture of your micro-environment ... My personal advice is to not listen to what people tell you, but get a gist yourself. Each street

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Creating a Culture of Accessibility



PHOTO BY JUSTIN WIER/THE JAMBAR.

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In response to a compliance review initiated by the United States Department of Education received in December 2014, Youngstown State University is making documents, lectures and websites more accessible for students

with disabilities.

The Americans with Disabilities Act states that any student with a disability has the opportunity to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions and enjoy the same services as a person without a disability.

By Dec. 30, 2015, the university will make its Electronic Information Technology completely accessible to

individuals with disabilities — particularly students with visual, hearing or manual impairments or who otherwise require the use of assistive technology to access the EIT.

This includes attachments to emails, files posted on Blackboard, files posted on

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Correction: Quotes by Brittany Housel, client development coordinator at Youngstown Business Incubator, were mistakenly attributed to Colleen Kelly in Tuesday's issue.

YSU Gets New Plasma Etching System



PHOTO BY SAM PHILLIPS/THE JAMBAR.

Tom Oder demonstrates the use of his new plasma etching system.

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Tom Oder, professor of physics at Youngstown State University, recently purchased a new state-of-the-art plasma etching system with a \$307,422 grant awarded by the National Science Foundation last August.

Oder is the lead investigator on the grant. Professors Pedro Cortes, Ruigang Wang and Virgil Solomon

are co-investigators alongside Klaus-Markus Peters, director of engineering at Fireline, Inc. — a local manufacturing firm.

The system will be used for interdisciplinary research, including Oder's research on building semiconductors and other tools, and to teach students — graduate or undergraduate — through hands-on studies in the classroom.

Gregg Sturuss, interim

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on each street with different situations varying.”

William Mays, a police sergeant with the YSU Police Department, believes the tales of North Side danger are somewhat exaggerated.

“I wouldn’t advise anyone not to live there,” Mays said. “I think a lot of what people hear tends to come from people trying to drum up hype about the area.”

Mays notes that while criminal statistics do support the claim that there is more crime in Youngstown than surrounding suburbs, he notes that many of the closest crimes to campus — the shooting near Dorian Books earlier this year and two robberies where students were victims just off campus — were isolated incidents.

Jack Peterson, co-owner and business manager of Dorian Books, witnessed the shooting incident earlier this summer.

“That had nothing to do

with us, nothing to do with the North Side ... those people came from the East Side, and the woman knew exactly who she was looking for,” Peterson said.

Peterson and his business partner Rodd Coonce own four apartments above the bookstore and rent primarily to students looking for off campus housing.

“I think it’s good — especially for these kids from the suburbs — to get out and mix with a culture different from what they’ve grown up in. It’s a good education,” Peterson said.

For students interested in living off campus, a practical education in personal safety and tenant rights will help prepare them for life as a renter on the North Side. Beall aims to make the home hunting process easier.

“One thing I’d like to see is our neighborhood association keeping a listing of available housing in the neighborhood

and reputable landlords we can recommend,” Beall said. “I’m thinking about trying to start a formal listing page on our association website and throwing it out to YSU and seeing if they’ll put it on their student housing website for the students who do want to move off campus.”

Beall would also like to see YSU take a more active role in preparing students for living in and around the North Side.

“I think there should be a better relationship between the university and the housing in general in the area. I mean if you look in The Jambar or the Metro Monthly there’s never student housing listed for rent,” she said. “I think the university just doesn’t kind of care how it affects them because they make more money with students staying on campus.”

Jacob Stanley, the assistant director for student experience and residence education, sees that incoming students receiving briefings from their

resident assistants concerning safety in the areas surrounding campus.

“We have RA meetings during the first few days where we go over safety ... every student living on campus has a number they can call to get immediate police assistance, and we train RA’s specifically to work with students who have negative experiences anywhere on or around campus,” Stanley said.

While statistics suggest that the frequency of criminal activity increases north of Wick Park, students are most at risk any time they neglect personal safety practices, regardless of their location.

One piece of advice that was repeated by all the individuals interviewed was that students need to be aware of their surroundings and to strive not to make themselves targets of opportunity.

Mays acted out the walk of someone distracted by a cell phone as his example of lacking awareness.

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“You’re not looking up, you don’t know if someone’s behind you or coming up next to you and your screen is lighting you up like an actual target,” Mays said.

According to Beall, students often make themselves targets by engaging in activities that would be considered unsafe anywhere, not just the North Side.

“People are making themselves targets; don’t stand on street corners at 3 a.m., don’t carry your entire rent in your pocket, don’t look like a naive child,” Beall said.

Mays agrees.

“Safety is a 24/7 job. You have to be aware anywhere. The North Side is no different,” he said. “There’s some great neighborhoods on that side of town, and I think the fact that business owners haven’t abandoned the area speaks to that.”

September is Hunger Action Month

LAURA MCDONOUGH
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Feeding America declared September Hunger Action Month to raise awareness of hunger in the United States.

This year they have launched their 30 Ways in 30 Days campaign, creating a calendar that outlines one task the public can do each day to get involved in the fight against hunger.

Feeding America is also asking the public to take selfies balancing a spoon on their nose to share on social media with a hunger statistic and the hashtag #SpoonSeptember in hopes of educating the public on the issue and encouraging them to take action.

Hunger Action Month will be observed by 200 food banks

nationwide, including the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley.

Second Harvest Food Bank fills more than 15,000 requests for emergency food assistance each week through 153 hunger-relief organizations in Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull counties.

In the Mahoning Valley, one in four children and one in six adults suffer from hunger. These numbers are slightly worse than the national averages of one in five children and one in nine adults. Approximately 92,000 people in the Mahoning Valley may not know where their next meal comes from.

Ashley Orr, president of the Student Government Association, partnered with Youngstown State University’s honors program to spread awareness of poverty through a student organization called Poverty Action in Youngstown.

SGA recognizes poverty is an ongoing problem in the Youngstown area and hunger is not the only symptom.

“To extend the project this year and expand awareness, we have events planned each month,” Orr said.

During September, SGA will collect food and volunteer at the food bank.

“Last year we did a week of awareness and a week of volunteering ... This year we’re doing a year of awareness and we’re still doing our week of volunteering,” Orr said. “We need to constantly be creating awareness.”

Last October and November, YSU’s branch of Sigma Alpha Lambda, a national honor society, hosted a successful canned food drive by placing drop off boxes around campus.

Allison Guerrieri, secretary of Sigma Alpha Lambda, said she would like to get involved in Hunger Action Month by

hosting a longer food drive and possibly combining forces with other honors organizations to expand their reach.

Guerrieri said her organization uses the food drive as a fundraiser while benefitting the food bank.

“We can use the food drive as a fundraiser for our organization by selling t-shirts, but [all of the] food goes to the Second Harvest Food Bank, and [Sigma Alpha Lambda] does not profit for having the actual food drive,” Guerrieri said.

Guerrieri said Sigma Alpha Lambda enjoys volunteering its time and serving as an example for others in the community.

“It shows other students and organizations that there are programs out there to help those in need, and it does not take a lot of work or effort to make a big difference in someone else’s life,” Guerrieri said.

Melissa Dolan, president of

Students in Dietetics at YSU, said their group shares values with the food bank.

“We both want to serve the community and understand the importance of helping those around us and making sure everyone is fed properly,” Dolan said.

She said taking care of basic needs is the first step to helping the community grow.

Students in Dietetics plans to work with Second Harvest Food Bank on Hunger Action Day.

“We always enjoy working with the Second Harvest Food Bank and hope to again soon,” Dolan said.

To participate in Hunger Action Month or receive additional information, contact Becky Miller at bmiller2@feedingamerica.org or the Second Harvest Food Bank at 330-792-5522 ext. 105.



PHOTO BY GRAIG GRAZIOSI/THE JAMBAR.

The Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation, The Youngstown State University Center for Urban and Regional Studies and YSUscape partnered on Saturday, Aug. 29 in a neighborhood cleanup of Wick Park. Over the course of the event nearly 70 volunteers worked to beautify and repair the most neglected properties across the North Side neighborhood. YSUscape and the YNDC have been involved in several similar neighborhood cleanups in recent years.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Retired Surgeon Appointed to YSU Board of Trustees

Charles R. Bush, alumnus of Youngstown State University and retired cardiac thoracic surgeon, has been appointed to the YSU Board of Trustees by Gov. John Kasich. He will serve a nine-year term through May 1, 2024 and will be replacing Sudershan K. Garg.

Music at Noon Concert Schedule

The Butler Institute of American Art and Youngstown State University's Dana School of Music will be presenting free Music at Noon concerts for the fall semester. All performances are Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. in the main hall of The Butler. Parking is free at The Butler and the concert is open to the public. The September concerts include the Dana Brass Quintet (Sept. 9), the Flute Studio Recital (Sept. 16) and the Musical Theater concert (Sept. 30).

college, departmental or personal websites and any other website a student needs for their course work.

Ken Schindler, the associate vice president and chief technology officer at YSU, said the university is not quite there yet.

"More work still needs to be done in terms of education content on Blackboard, PDFs, Word documents and other resources that are part of a course," Schindler said.

Assistive technology, such as JAWS or Apple Accessibility, has to be able to read content for it to be considered accessible. So all the articles, documents, PDFs, videos, images and PowerPoints have to be readable by these programs.

Screen reader technology is available for students who are blind or have dyslexia. The screen reader reads out to the student what is on the screen. If the document has images that have no context to them or no obvious headers to follow, the screen reader cannot follow it.

Rosalyn Donaldson, the technology training coordinator for YSU's Office of Human Resources, said YSU's websites were not compatible with assistive technology.

"For a website to be compatible, it has to have alternative text with images. The descriptions have to be there," Donaldson said. "Images require alternative text. Headings help the screen reader navigate through the website."

Faculty and staff are being trained to make all technological and academic content accessible for students with disabilities. Workshops are being offered throughout the next few months to train and educate the YSU community.

Human Resources had a series of courses and workshops

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available since summer 2015, and there is a self-paced training course on Blackboard.

Employees are learning about the new requirements set by the Board of Education through accessibility overview workshops. Educators or students can find more information on the training and development website.

Gaduate teaching assistants were given the option to either attend the workshops offered on campus or access an online version to learn the ADA guidelines.

Alex Harless, a second year graduate student, said the options are helpful.

"Online training was good," Harless said. "We want to be better educators. The university is giving us the resources that we need to do that. However, I think I also want to attend an actual workshop, to answer questions the online version could not give me."

Salome Heyward and Associates will be auditing the university in October. They will determine whether or not YSU followed the requirements set out in the resolution agreement.

Schindler said they will look at YSU's websites and Blackboard to establish a baseline. In one year, they will look at how much improvement has been made.

"This is the first big, third party audit that we have ever had for disability," Schindler said.

Donaldson said this is a product of a culture of change.

"We need to learn to make communication accessible to everyone," Donaldson said. "This is just the first step in making accessible information the status quo."

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dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, explained how the system works.

"It uses plasma — a highly ionized gas, like a flame in fire — inside a vacuum chamber to deposit materials on pure silicon wafers," Sturuss said.

Hard materials like metals and rocks can be placed into the vacuum chamber and the plasma falls on top of it, chemically etching into layers of the material.

Oder said he intends to build photonic devices, transistors and diodes using the system.

"Particularly, we want devices that can function at high temperatures," Oder said. "We are going to use this machine to help get to more complicated devices, because previously we didn't have it, so we were limited."

He also emphasized that students will be involved.

"In this case, this is not only research, we are training students. Science and engineering students will get to use the system in class," Oder said.

Oder said this is the third time in a row that the National Science Founda-

tion has awarded YSU a grant for scientific equipment. The success rate nationwide is between 10 and 15 percent.

"[Given] that we've been awarded successfully three times in a row, it makes us unique. We've built a winning team," Oder said.

Jim Andrews, interim chair of the department of physics and astronomy, said Oder has achieved a lot for the department and the university.

"Dr. Oder's past success in developing and patenting his inventions is the best indicator of the likely far-reaching impact that the new etcher could have in his capable hands," Andrews said.

Sturuss said the system could allow Oder to build on earlier research.

"Dr. Oder has developed a semiconductor that operates at much higher temperatures and does not need the cooling used in [traditional] systems," Sturuss said. "Similar processes could be developed to make full PCs that could withstand more extreme conditions."

YSU DANCE ENSEMBLE 2015 -2016 AUDITIONS for the SPRING 2016 CONCERT



Sunday, September 13, 2015

10:00a.m. - noon Beeghly PE Center
5:00 p.m.- 6:30p.m Rm.119

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YSU Snaps to It

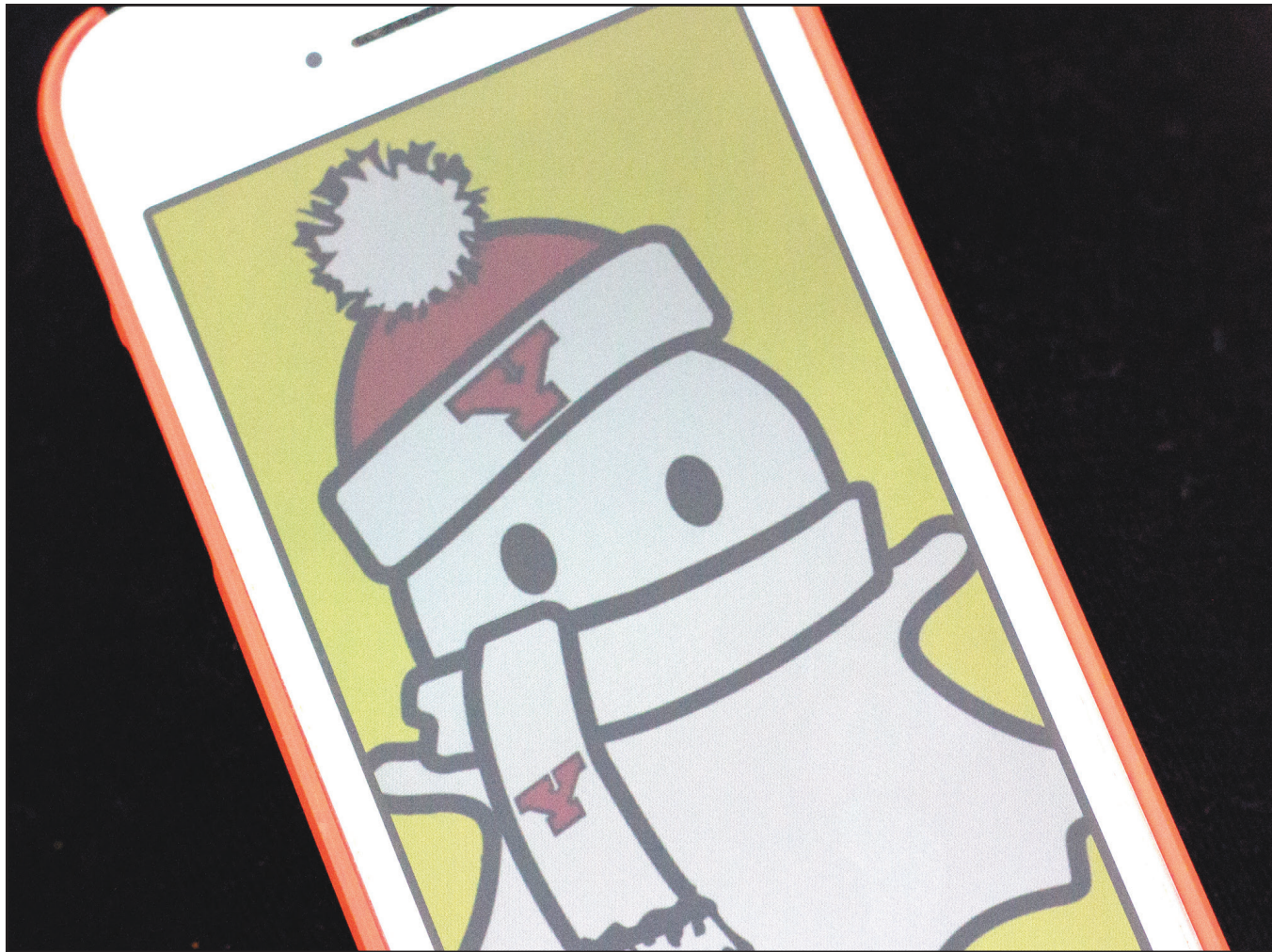


PHOTO BY GABBY FELLOWS/THE JAMBAR.

BILLY LUDT

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Youngstown State University has found a different method to reaching out to its students: Snapchat.

YSU has had its very own Snapchat account since the beginning of the school year.

Andrea Tharp is the assistant editor of new and social media in the Office of Marketing & Communications at YSU.

"Originally, Snapchat had sort of a bad rep, but I think it's really evolved as a platform," Tharp said.

Snapchat is a mobile, image-based messaging application. Users communicate via text messages or images that last up to 10 seconds.

After the timer runs out, the picture is gone.

Tharp said she noticed more universities announcing that they joined Snapchat in spring of this year.

A study done by Sumpto, an organization that calculates the social influence of college students, determined that 77 percent of college students use Snapchat on a daily basis.

"That number really spoke to us," Tharp said. "We just thought that was pretty impressive and that is one of our major audiences in communicating and connecting with. We really wanted to be there."

After spending the summer researching articles on Snapchat, Tharp concluded that a Snapchat account is easy marketing for the university. Tharp said it did not

take much to convince her director to start a Snapchat account.

"It's how [the students] want to hear from us," Tharp said. "So let's do that."

The Snapchat account will be another way to keep students updated on events, deadlines and time specific announcements, like registration.

Jenna DeLaurentis, a double major in telecommunications and political science, is a social media intern at YSU. She is assisting in running the Snapchat account.

"It is the perfect way to connect with current and prospective YSU students," DeLaurentis said. "It will give a raw perspective to what it is like to be a penquin at YSU. It is more in-

formal and fun compared to platforms such as Facebook or Instagram."

DeLaurentis said that the YSU Snapchat account is illustrating campus events and student life. DeLaurentis and Tharp also mentioned that there are plans to use Snapchat to host contests.

"We are looking into ways to get students engaged with our Snapchat," DeLaurentis said.

YSU's Snapchat account launched last week and each of its stories receive around 400 views.

"I'd like to film short clips of unique, diverse classes around campus to showcase everything YSU offers," DeLaurentis said. "I also plan on snapping a lot more of Pete, as everyone I've talked to loves

when Pete is running the Snapchat. So basically, if you see a girl taking a picture of a Pete the Penguin stuffed animal around campus, it's not weird. It's just for Snapchat."

YSU can be added on Snapchat under the username "YoungstownState," or open Snapchat and hold the camera over the Snapcode code printed here and tapping the screen.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT.

'Drunk History' Creator Says He Aims to Inform, but Thanks for the Laughs

By Robert Lloyd

Los Angeles Times

(TNS)

LOS ANGELES — A third season of the highly unlikely, oddly lovable "Drunk History," in which drunks tell stories from American history, begins this week on Comedy Central. Like a man slipping on a banana peel, its humorous mechanism is easily grasped once seen, but the effects are surprisingly complex and sophisticated.

The idea is simple, though words tend to fail it: A person, typically a comedian or comic writer, versed in a historical event, drinks to a point of serious inebriation and then tells the story; an edited recording of that performance becomes the soundtrack — both the narration and dialogue — for a full-on, costumed, lip-synced re-enactment. Three of these are packaged thematically into a half-hour to make an episode.

Derek Waters is the series' creator and host — its alcoholic-spirit guide, if you will — and also a director and a member of its stock company, which is supplemented regularly by well-known names from comedy and beyond. The upcoming season includes appearances by Greg Kinnear, Parker Posey, Giancarlo Esposito, Michael McKean, and Henry Winkler. Sam Rockwell will play Bugsy Siegel opposite Dennis Quaid's Lucky Luciano. Will Ferrell will play writer Roald Dahl, when he worked as a spy. Academy

Award winner Octavia Spencer will play Harriet Tubman, when she did.

"People are always like, 'Who's the hardest person to work with?'" Waters told me recently in his unprepossessing office downtown, in an hour stolen from post-production on a neighboring floor; a sign on his door read "I Have Seen Better Days."

"No one," he said, "because a hard person to work with would never say yes to this; it's a whole day and no money."

The idea was born one night in 2007, when after a few drinks, the actor Jake Johnson told Waters an unlikely story about the singer Otis Redding, "and I was just picturing Otis Redding having to come back to life, moving his lips to Jake's words but looking at me and shaking his head; I don't do drugs, so it wasn't anything but having a weird imagination."

That moment of inspiration eventually produced the first "Drunk History" short, made to show at the Upright Citizens Brigade, with Johnson as Aaron Burr and Michael Cera as Alexander Hamilton. Mark Gagliardi, who had been at Second City with Waters, provided the narration; Jeremy Konner, who still directs most episodes, ran the camera; and Waters "held the laptop to hit the audio over and over again" while the actors perfected their miming. (Konner will himself be a drunken narrator this season, for a segment on the California Aqueduct, with Tenacious D partners Jack Black and Kyle Gass as William Mulholland, who built it, and Frederick Eaton, who had the idea.)

The short was posted on-

line, and in due course, under the flag of Funny or Die, became a Web series, which became a TV series. And here we are, at the dawn of Season 3, which will be the longest season yet, with 13 episodes — that means 39 stories to tell, and 39 nights on the tiles.

At first glance and maybe a few subsequent glances as well, there is something about the whole enterprise that feels less than benign, as when a pledge is forced to drink to excess to join a fraternity, where he may then drink to excess of his own free will.

The aim of the show, Waters said, is neither to make fun of drunks nor to mock history; if anything, it is tender to the drunks and respectful of the history, which it wants to make new, and, in its potted way, real. Likewise, the point of the drinking is not so much that it adds mayhem — it does add a little mayhem — as that it strips artifice from the telling and lets emotion and enthusiasm in.

Waters uses comedians and comedy writers as his narrators, "not for the obvious reason of their being funny but because they understand a beginning, middle and end to a story." And because it's all filtered through a 2015 (altered) consciousness, it feels especially direct and contemporary — bringing history alive! — in a way that high-priced, highly detailed Hollywood period blockbusters often fail to do.

Waters is also the person the narrator narrates to, and, though he is usually a few drinks behind the speaker, he follows them dutifully into inebriation, one or two sheets to

the wind, to their three.

"It sounds like a bad idea, says my doctor. But it allows them to be free and comfortable, like, 'Hey, we're doing this together.' And especially when it's someone who hasn't done it before, if they're struggling with the story, or they're not drunk and they're just telling a story and it's boring, then I have to be like, 'Let's do a shot together.' It's a lot easier for that to go well than 'You should get more drunk.' 'Wait, I'm not doing it right?' I'm just going, 'Let's have another drink.' But that's why I won't be able to do the show forever; because as cool as history is, I want to live."

Certainly there are viewers who will find this a questionable, even an irresponsible, even an immoral sort of comedy. Even as a fan, I wonder sometimes. But it plays as curiously innocent.

Said Waters: "I think the secret is that I'm not trying to make a comedy show; I'm trying to make a history show, but because of how I'm doing it, people will laugh, and not from, 'Oh, it was so funny, they were so drunk.' I would hate it if someone were like, 'That show's great, they get so messed up.' I hope that's not what you take away from it."

In fact, you take history away from it.

"That is the secret goal," Waters said. "I want them to make the audience feel a little dumb. You don't see it coming, this person's in an altered state, I'm laughing at them, ooooooh — they just told me something."

Indeed, the stories are told with such confidence, even

apart from the Dutch courage and over the hurdles of encroaching incoherence, that I had once thought each narrator must be independently expert in his or her subject. But they learn on the job, receiving a "research packet," with a rough beginning, middle, end of the story, which they learn and retell sober to a "Drunk History" producer.

Waters stays out of the way at this point, he said, because "I want it to be real, when they talk to me it's the first time I'm hearing it from them. And nothing makes a drunk person happier than when you say 'no' when they ask you, 'Have you heard this story?'"

A session can last six hours to produce a six-minute soundtrack. There are breaks for food and sometimes for oxygen.

"The first hour and a half, two hours I just let them get all the jokes out, knowing none of it will be used; but it helps them, now they're comfortable. Now let's tell the story again, and let's tell the story again, just keep going to get to the point where you're not trying to be funny, you're now trying to tell history in the condition that you're in."

What about the morning after?

"The next day is all apology emails," Waters said. "Like, 'I'm sorry I got drunk for your show.' 'That's what you're supposed to do.' 'I didn't tell the story.' 'No, you did tell the story or we would still be filming, I promise.' But there's never been anyone telling me, 'Never do that to me again.' So I'm proud of that."

EDITORIAL

Manufacturing is Not Jesus

When manufacturing left Youngstown in the '70s, it brought the city to its knees. This has led a lot of people to conclude that bringing manufacturing back is the only way to restore the city to greatness.

The latest incarnation of this belief has Youngstown State University collaborating with Eastern Gateway Community College and the Mahoning Valley Manufacturing Coalition to build a manufacturing training facility downtown.

We need to wake up. Manufacturing is dead. Manufacturing is not Jesus. It's not coming back. It's not going to save you.

Bernie Sanders can't create blue-collar jobs by strengthening unions and

blocking free trade agreements, and Donald Trump can't make America great again by bringing jobs back from China.

In fact, blocking free trade agreements will just make our clothes and iPads significantly more expensive while providing comparatively fewer jobs. But that's beside the point.

The fact is, those manufacturing jobs don't exist anymore. Improved technology and productivity increases have made manufacturing significantly less labor-intensive than it was 40 years ago.

If we were to bring all Chinese manufacturing operations to the United States, we wouldn't see a one-for-one transfer of

jobs. Labor is significantly cheaper in Asian countries, so they employ more workers and less capital (or machinery) in their plants. More expensive American labor would lead US companies to employ fewer workers and more capital in their production processes.

The rise of additive manufacturing is indicative of this. Additive manufacturing has a place in Youngstown's economic future, but it requires engineers that know how to design parts and computer scientists who can manipulate the machines that make them.

The manufacturing training center will likely prepare people for those jobs, but it's not going to

spark a return to our industrial past. It's going to train a small number of workers for high-skilled positions in capital-intensive facilities. It's not going to spawn factories that will provide high school graduates with high-paying jobs they can count on having until retirement.

In 1979, 19.6 million Americans possessed manufacturing jobs. Today, the number is 12.3 million. This leads to a lot of people longing for the good old days. "We used to make things in this country," is a common refrain. And yet, industrial production is higher than it's ever been — twice what it was in 1979. We're just doing more with less.

Take a look at Vallorec Star. When the billion-dol-

lar facility opened in 2013, it employed around 350 people. That's not nothing, but it's just a fraction of the 5,000 workers that were issued pink slips when Youngstown Sheet & Tube closed its doors on Black Monday.

To employ the same number of workers through manufacturing as we did in our heyday, we would need to produce roughly four times what we were producing then. That is a pipe dream. And if we keep spending time and money trying to follow it, we're diverting resources that could be put to more productive uses.

Creating a Brand: A Necessary Self-Journey

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Well, here we are. Collectively as an audience you chose to pick up this paper, flip through and somehow stumbled upon this very article. Little did you know, this almost didn't happen whatsoever.

This is my first official column for The Jambar, and at first I thought I would be a breeze. Boy, was I wrong. The moment I sat down to write, my mind turned to mush. Ever seen those Popsicle slushies that are in a triangular packaging that you have to squeeze out? Compare that to my brain and you should have a pretty

good idea.

The thought of publishing something every single week, keeping content fresh, exciting and fun is very daunting. It made me second-guess myself and realize that I myself needed a brand. Something to help myself stay focused, I set loose guidelines and structure. I hold myself accountable to deliver exciting and creative content on a platform that sometimes goes by the wayside.

So, I started thinking about how I wanted to brand myself. Pretty easy, right? How do I want to be represented in the grand scheme of things, not only here for The Jambar, but also as a creative mind out in the real world someday? I froze. Drew a blank. Turned myself back into the ice cold Popsicle slushy once more.

Naturally, I did what all college students do when they've been working their tail off — or not working at all. I took a well-deserved break. What did I do you ask? Took a trip to my favorite place on Earth: a place where I feel safe, connected, creative and relaxed. The Internet.

Now I am positively sure that a large percent of this soon to be audience knows exactly how easy it is to be sucked into the world of YouTube. I like to describe it as a never ending black hole, filled with entertainment and content just waiting to be subconsciously viewed. Sounds like a pretty nice place, right?

I browsed through my subscription box and happened upon one of my favorite YouTubers (I swear it's a

real thing), Grace Helbig, also known as "It's Grace." The next thing I know, it has been an hour and a half and all I have done is re-watched videos that I have seen countless times. But somehow, I still was addicted to her channel. Why? Her branding.

For those of you who don't know, Grace Helbig, or "It's Grace" brands herself by being a content creator that is prideful in the fact that her videos may not always be groundbreaking content, or super exciting storylines, but that she creates a space for discussion, silliness and down right stupidity. A space to relax and pull yourself a way from the world.

And because of her, I realized that I appreciate that and feel that there needs to be

someone like that in the written news platform.

For those that do not know me, I am a very sarcastic, funny and definitely not serious at all. I love having fun, cracking jokes about everything and allowing the people around me to have a good time. Now, I am choosing to brand myself as being a creative thinker, outspoken writer on almost any topic and random discussion starter.

I hope that these columns help you take a step back from the world, think outside the box, have a laugh, relax and make your day more enjoyable while at YSU. Even just for a little while. And with that, I'd like to welcome you into my corner of the world.

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.

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YOUNGSTOWN BOYS SQUARE-OFF AT HEINZ FIELD:

BO PELINI AND PAT NARDUZZI MAKE SATURDAY DEBUT



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

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It's been three years since Youngstown State University defeated the University of Pittsburgh 31-17 at Heinz Field — recording its first win against a Bowl Championship Series team.

The Penguins finished last season 7-5 [4-4] and missed out on the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs for the third-straight season.

Bo Pelini, YSU's head coach, will finally make his debut as a Penguin.

Historically, YSU head coaches have struggled in their first game as the Penguins' head coach. YSU coaches are 2-4 in their first game at YSU. The last Penguin coach to win his debut was Jon Heacock in 2001.

Steve Zaborsky, YSU's nose tackle, commented on coach

Pelini's winning strategies. "From the first day, he told us that he has a blueprint on how to win — we're going to follow it," Zaborsky said. "If you're not on board, it's been set in stone — it hasn't changed one bit. It's definitely something I haven't been used to. Coach Pelini is very determined and very set in his ways, and I think him being so focused allowed us to know exactly what we have to do. It just adds to our confidence."

Pelini will not be the only Youngstown native making his coaching debut in the game. Pitt head coach Pat Narduzzi will make his head-coaching debut; the former YSU and University of Rhode Island linebacker was hired in December. Narduzzi played one season at YSU while his father was the head coach at YSU. Narduzzi transferred to Rhode Island after Jim Tressel was

hired. "I know Pat, I've known him for a fairly long time," Pelini said. "I have a lot of respect for him; I think he's a good football coach. I think he's going to do a heck of a job there at Pitt. Obviously, he's a Youngstown guy, and obviously outside of this game, I wish him well. I hope they win them all."

Pelini and Narduzzi's connections don't stop at YSU. Pelini, a Cardinal Mooney High School graduate, played Narduzzi in high school while Narduzzi played at rival Ursuline High School in 1984.

"I was a year younger than Pat," Pelini said. "When I was a junior, we played Ursuline and sophomore year too, but I didn't play in that game. He was a good football player when he was at Ursuline."

The Penguins will return to Pittsburgh for the first time since the upset victory over

the Panthers in 2012 in the season opener on Sept. 5. YSU defensive end Terrell Williams played his first collegiate game against Pitt.

"When we played them before, our backs were against the wall," Williams said. "It's always going to be like that, but it's not really a challenge. I feel like the only challenge is ourselves and how we prepare. If we prepare right then we'll be fine."

The Panthers will be without their most explosive weapon, junior wide receiver Tyler Boyd, due to a suspension. In his first two seasons, Boyd had back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons. He finished last season with 85 receptions for 1,261 receiving yards and seven touchdowns.

Pitt will rely on American Football Coaches Association All-American running back James Conner. The junior

carried the ball 298 times last season for 1,765 yards. Conner broke the single-season touchdown record [26] previously held by College Football and Pro Football Hall of Famer Tony Dorsett.

Pelini said the first week of the season always brings a sense of nervousness. He said the coaching staff is trying to prepare the players as best as possible before kickoff on Saturday.

"There's always that sense of the unknown. You get used to it, I've coached in a lot of football games," Pelini said. "You want your kids to do well; you want them to have success. It's more of a sense of teaching and making sure they're prepared ... you kind of look at them as your own kids. You want to make sure you do everything you can, everything in your power, to allow them to succeed."

Stambaugh Stadium Gets Much Deserved Makeover



PHOTO BY DAN HINER/THE JAMBAR.

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Sitting on the peak of downtown Youngstown, overlooking the Youngstown State University campus, Stambaugh Stadium can be seen from virtually any point at YSU.

Stambaugh Stadium, home of the YSU football team, opened in September 1982. Unfortunately, the equipment used throughout the stadium is just as dated.

YSU began renovating the "Ice Castle," giving the stadium a new look heading into the 2015 season. John Hyden, executive director of University Facilities, said the only restoration that used state funding was the construction on the grand stands, but the funds were associated with a "dedicated fund." Construction began in late June.

"There was work that went on to the west grand stands, caulking and patching work to the concrete superstructure," Hyden said. "Then there was the scoreboard work and then there was lighting work. So basically, you had three projects going on ... The lights were paid for by the Penguin Club, the stadium was covered

through state funds and the scoreboard was all part of the Pepsi contract."

In past seasons, YSU has been unable to televise many of its night games — with the exception of local TV stations — because the poor lighting didn't meet NCAA requirements.

The previous lights were approximately 40 to 45 foot-candles, a unit of measure used to determine the amount of light given off. YSU met the minimum requirement for lighting for an NCAA football game.

The new lighting system was installed after a \$632,000 donation from the Penguin Club. YSU athletic director Ron Strollo said the new lights would register around 100 foot-candles, allowing for nationally-televised games.

According to the NCAA's Best Lighting Practices, a regionally televised game must have a minimum of 75 foot-candles, nationally televised games must have 100 foot-candles and championship games must have 125 foot-candles.

The biggest impact will come if the Penguins find their way to the playoffs. In previous seasons, if YSU made the playoffs, they would have been forced to play an afternoon

game. With the new lights, the team would be eligible to play a prime-time playoff game if they have success this season.

The main section of the seating located on the west side of the stadium was under construction throughout the summer as well. The concrete that supported the seats was repaired. Stambaugh Stadium was part of several other buildings on-campus that received concrete renovations due to \$393,000 in state capital funds.

"It was to provide weather tightening because we were getting significant deterioration to the concrete superstructure from water getting into it and freezing and busting the concrete up," Hyden said.

"Plus we had a myriad of leaks throughout the facility ... So, that was more of a long-term integrity and the structural integrity of the building than it was for fixing the seating. As for the seating, it was fine — it worked just the way that it was. For the maintainability and structural integrity of the facility, we had to take care of it. That's why state funds were allowed to be applied to that."

Installation was recently completed on the new scoreboard on the north end of the

stadium. The new scoreboard is 35 feet long and 20 feet high, nearly twice the size of its predecessor, and will allow more visibility for the fans.

Strollo said the new scoreboard cost approximately \$400,000. Pepsi, who signed a 10-year contract with YSU,

covered costs of installation. No public funding or money from the athletic budget was used for the construction of the scoreboard.

Strollo said no additional renovations are planned for the future.

MISSOURI VALLEY FOOTBALL ACTION WEEK ONE

- Montana def. (1) North Dakota State 38-35
- Eastern Illinois at Western Illinois
- (2) Illinois State at Iowa
- (16) South Dakota State at Kansas
- Butler at (21) Indiana State
- Southern Illinois at Indiana
- Missouri State at Memphis
- South Dakota at Kansas State
- (10) UNI at Iowa State

GRAPHIC BY RJ MIKOLA/THE JAMBAR.