

THE JAMBAR

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TEDX:

POSTPONED “UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE”



STORY: GRAIG GRAZIOSI | GRGRAZIOSI@STUDENT.YSU.EDU | PHOTO: GRAIG GRAZIOSI

A significant drop in ticket sales for the 2016 TEDxYoungstown lectures have prompted the group’s organizing committee to delay the event. According to a press release on the TEDxYoungstown official website, the event will be delayed “until further notice”. The event was originally planned for Jan. 22, 2016.

Lori Shandor, TEDxYoungstown’s curator, was unable to explain the drop in ticket sales.

“At this time it is not clear why ticket sales were so much lower this year than in years past. Location, ticket price and promotion tactics were all the same as years past. We have discussed everything; maybe economic factors, we’ve even considered the mild weather as a possible factor,” Shandor said.

Those who have already bought tickets to the event will receive a full refund.

The TEDxYoungstown organizing committee met Tuesday to discuss their plans for the event.

“It is our hope to reschedule the 2016 event, however we have had to come to the very hard realize that if the

community does not respond we will have to cancel the event all together,” Shandor said.

Bob McGovern, TEDxYoungstown’s co-organizer, and other participating members of the organizing committee have been working alongside Shandor since early 2015 to prepare for the 2016 event.

“We definitely want to continue with the same speakers, and several speakers have indicated their willingness to do so as well,” McGovern said.

The lecturers at the 2016 event were comprised of musicians, a former assistant attorney general of Ohio, a bodybuilder, a CEO and a brewmaster, among others.

Greg Mook, a paramedic who spent time working with NGOs and religious aid organizations in Lebanon, was to speak at this year’s event, and still intends to should it be rescheduled.

“When we found out it was delayed, it was an indefinite thing. The organizers had said the possibility of it coming back at a later date is open but we didn’t have many details beyond that. It was all discussed in a group email

and a lot of people replied by expressing their thanks to the organizers for all their work setting up the event,” Mook said. “A lot of the people responding in the email said things like ‘well let me know when it’s coming back’ so I think a lot of the speakers are interested in coming back for the event whenever it happens.”

The TEDxYoungstown organizing committee will not only need to retain their speakers, but also retain the interest of those who originally bought tickets for the event. Mook is confident those who bought tickets once will buy tickets again.

“People that I knew who had tickets were dismayed it got put off, but they also told me to let them know if the event was going back on because they wanted to come,” Mook said.

Former ticketholders and those interested in seeing TEDxYoungstown come to fruition can help by promoting the event and giving feedback to the organizing committee.

“There are two ways people can help at this time. One is by telling us why they didn’t buy a ticket this year,”

Shandor said. “Get on our Facebook or Twitter and talk to us. We are listening but if you don’t tell us we won’t know. Do you want a different day of the week, different time of year, you don’t like the venue, whatever the reason let us know.”

“The second is by telling your friends about us. There are still a lot of people in the Valley who don’t know what TEDxYoungstown is or that it exists. TEDxYoungstown is nonprofit, 100% percent. The committee doesn’t make money, the speakers don’t get paid, heck half our vendors don’t get paid! We don’t have a huge marketing budget. Word of mouth goes a long way to moving this event forward and may make the difference between if it happens or not in 2016.”

January’s show would have been the third consecutive year for the TEDxYoungstown lectures.

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KENT STATE SHOW OFF PLANS FOR YOUNGSTOWN

STORY: JUSTIN WIER | JCWIER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU | PHOTO: JUSTIN WIER

In December, 75 Kent State University architecture students presented the results of their senior design studio at the Lewis School in Youngstown and they will be displayed again at the McDonough Museum of Art this summer.

As part of a year-long collaboration between Kent State’s College of Architecture and En-

vironmental Design and Youngstown State University’s Regional Economic Development Initiative, the students designed buildings for Youngstown’s downtown.

Dominic Marchionda, city-university planner for the Regional Economic Development Initiative, helped coordinate the students’

efforts. He said he was impressed by how the students turned their research into physical designs.

“You saw 75 students take that work and really hone in on the built environment,” Marchionda said.

He said he was also impressed by the environmental focus of many of the designs.

“Youngstown’s always got that perception of a steel town ... with smoke clouding our skyline and settling over all the buildings,” Marchionda said. “So it was really cool to see them be cognizant of the environment and how it affects the river.”

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BaccMed Provides Pathway from YSU to NEOMED

STORY: SAMANTHA PHILLIPS | SPHILLIPS@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

Youngstown State University and the Northeast Ohio Medical University, also known as NEOMED, have partnered up to create the BaccMed program, which will allow students to earn a bachelor and medical degree in a compressed seven-year period.

The goal is to graduate more primary care physicians who are committed to serving financially

disadvantaged families in rural and urban areas in Ohio.

Erik Porfeli, associate dean of community engagement and admissions for NEOMED, said he is optimistic about the partnership.

“We are really committed to identifying, recruiting and training doctors for and from Ohio,” Porfeli said.

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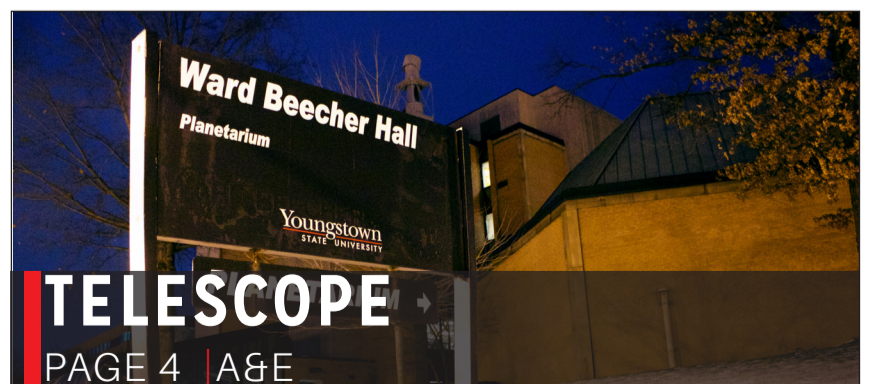
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TEDX SPEAKER SERIES



THOMAS NOWACKI: THE WONDERS OF MEDICAL ILLUSTRATION

STORY: LAUREN FOOTE | LAURENLEONA.1@GMAIL.COM | PHOTO COURTESY OF: THOMAS NOWACKI

People might think of medical school and art school as two ends of a spectrum, but Thomas Nowacki, a Cleveland native, found a way to combine the two.

Nowacki went to Rochester Institute of Technology for graduate school and pursued a Master of Fine Arts in medical illustration, which he described as part medical school and part fine arts program. RIT is one of five schools in the U.S. and Canada that offer the program.

Nowacki struggled to find footing in the profession.

"From graduate school, I lived in Charleston, South Carolina with my future wife while she attended a Ph.D.

program," Nowacki said. "I began teaching at the local art colleges due to the lack of any in-studio medical illustration jobs."

He started attracting clients, and now runs Novie Studio near Cleveland.

"I slowly built up a client base over the years through advertising, networking and luck," Nowacki said.

Through the years he has worked on projects and consulted with clients needing anything from exhibits or animation for litigation proceedings to illustrations for publications in medical journals concerning new surgical procedures to conceptualizing new medical devices.

He focuses on gastroenterology and

surgery.

"Most of the work I create is considered 2-D illustration — animation or interactive," Nowacki said.

Nowacki said he enjoys learning about new developments in science and medicine.

"It sounds cliché, but it's true," Nowacki said. "Researching a new procedure or a process for a client is one of the things that keeps me interested."

Nowacki would like to provide prospective students with further information on his field, directing them towards the Association for Medical Illustrators.

"Students interested in medical illustration should learn as much as they

can about science and either take classes in or be a naturally talented artist," Nowacki said. "The scientific knowledge is the most important to ensure the accuracy of the pieces a medical illustrator might create."

Nowacki chairs an undergraduate program at the Cleveland Institute of Art.

At TEDxYoungstown, Nowacki hopes to provide an overview of the field and the way his artwork educates and tells stories.

"I hope students will gain an understanding of the importance of a medical illustrator's job in the pursuit of science and medicine," Nowacki said.

Body-enhancing Exoskeletons Could be Stepping Into Industrial Trials Next Year

STORY: JON CARTWRIGHT | [ROBOHUB](#)

Wearable technology uses electric motors and springs to augment the strength and balance of the human body. It has long been the subject of military research, but now engineers believe the technology is advanced enough to find much broader appeal.

'We're getting sufficient power for sufficiently low weight,' said Jan Veneman, a roboticist at Tecnalia Research and Innovation in Donostia, Spain.

Exoskeletons typically consist of a framework that covers a person's limbs. The framework has joints alongside the person's own skeletal joints, and these are powered by motors or springs to assist in strength or endurance.

Exoskeletons with motors are more flexible and more powerful, whereas those with springs can be made much lighter, accord-

ing Konrad Stadler, an engineer at the Zurich University of Applied Sciences in Switzerland. Stadler is the technical project manager of the Robo-Mate project, and is working on an exoskeleton that could help manual workers. As part of the EU-funded project, he and his colleagues are designing different exoskeleton 'modules' to suit the different tasks carried out by manual workers. In order to help stimulate innovation in manufacturing, the EU has teamed up with industry and academia in public, private partnerships such as the Partnership for Robotics in Europe and Factories of the Future.

Compression forces 'Musculoskeletal injuries and disorders are caused by lower back compression forces, which result from the load carried and

the worker's own body weight, as well as the posture of the worker,' says Stadler.

'Lifting loads with outstretched arms will produce much larger compression forces in the lower back than lifting the same object close to the body.'

By slipping on a Robo-Mate exoskeleton, a worker trying to carry a heavy object with outstretched arms ought to feel more like he or she is carrying it close to the body. Stadler and colleagues are currently testing a prototype in the lab, and hope to be doing industrial tests next year.

Robo-Mate has made a prototype of an exoskeleton. Image courtesy of Robo-Mate.

But exoskeletons are not all about strength. Veneman is investigating whether exoskeletons can also be used to keep people stable as part of the EU-funded BAL-

ANCE project.

The human body normally keeps itself balanced with two mechanisms: altering the stiffness of joints, or moving hands and feet to more stable positions. 'It is very subtle where you place your foot,' he explained. 'If you place it too far, or too close, you can easily lose balance.'

The aim of the BALANCE exoskeleton is to learn how the body does this naturally, and see whether the exoskeleton can assist the body to do the same thing. It is currently in the design stage, but Veneman says the prototype should offer minimal resistance to movement, so that it can follow accurately the movements of healthy and infirm people.

Give a push

Once the system understands the human body's balancing mechanisms sufficiently well, it should be able to rep-

licate it. In theory, you should be able to give someone wearing the BALANCE prototype a push, and the system will move the person's feet to stop them falling over.

That will require a rather complex exoskeleton with multiple joints, and sensors that can detect instability.

A simpler exoskeleton, and one with a good chance of commercialisation in the near future, is the one being developed within the EU-funded AXO-SUIT project, which is part of the EU's Active and Assistive Living programme to enhance quality of life for the elderly. The idea behind AXO-SUIT is to help elderly or infirm people perform basic everyday tasks, such as standing up, walking, reaching and grasping.

The technology behind AXO-SUIT is not dissimilar to that in an

electric bike, says project lead coordinator Shaoping Bai of Aalborg University in Denmark. Rather than completely taking over, the motors assist action that the user is already trying to perform, such as bending down to water the plants and standing back up again.

AXO-SUIT is currently at the prototype stage. In about five years, however, Bai hopes that his group will have a commercial version costing between EUR 8 000 and EUR 10 000.

That may sound expensive, but Bai believes the exoskeleton could replace a lot of costly personal care for the elderly. 'It would be helpful for them to maintain their quality of life while staying at home, rather than move to a care centre,' he said.

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PHOTO: SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

BACCMED FRONT

Porfeli identified four specific objectives of BaccMed: recruiting and supporting students, finding a majority of students that are committed to primary care, finding students who are committed to working in medically underserved communities and finding diverse students.

“There are communities in Ohio that have a great supply of physicians. There are other communities that have virtually none. Those communities are in desperate need, and NEOMED is here to help address that need. So we are looking for students who will work with those communities and us,” Porfeli said.

“[Also,] when we look at medical schools from across the nation, there are meaningful groups of people who are not well represented in medical schools. We hope in this partnership with Youngstown State to address that challenge.”

YSU Provost Martin Abraham said he thinks the program is a good opportunity for students.

“Because the NEOMED students are going to be more geared towards primary care and our hospital and physician services are designed more for pri-

mary care, we’ll be able to connect those two back up, so that when they complete their work at NEOMED they’ll be able to come back in and do residencies as part of our programs here in the Mahoning Valley,” Abraham said.

Typically, students in this program will spend three baccalaureate pre-med years at YSU and four medical years at NEOMED.

Stephen Rodabaugh, YSU-NEOMED liaison officer, said the nominal timeline for this program is “three plus four,” but that’s assuming that a student is calculus-ready. If a student needs more time to prepare for calculus, then they can add another year to the program.

According to Rodabaugh, primary care orientation is included in the curriculum. BaccMed students will take classes in community health that focus on underserved populations, shadow physicians who work in urban and rural clinics, and receive Medical Competency Admissions Test — or MCAT — preparation so they have a better chance of getting into medical school. BaccMed will admit students directly out of high school, but they won’t be accepted by NEOMED until their sophomore year at YSU.

Porfeli said that even if students get admitted into BaccMed after their second year at YSU, they will get a version of the BaccMed curriculum where they may have an option of earning different bachelor’s degrees. He said that regardless of major, all students will have to complete the pre-med requirements.

“There’s a heavy concentration of basic science courses, but there’s also experiences in the community around health care; there’s also courses in there that address diversity issues in health care. So the curriculum has been designed to ready students for the NEOMED medical school admission,” Abraham said.

Enrollment for the program starts in fall 2017. NEOMED will guarantee at least 35 seats for YSU BaccMed students each year.

BaccMed intends on getting potential students involved in the healthcare community at a young age. NEOMED offers a program called Health Professions Affinity Community Program — or HPAC — in local high schools.

Porfeli said the program empowers students to identify local health concern and decide what health concerns are the most important to them. Then,

they develop their own program to address the concern in their community. A student’s involvement in HPAC will be considered when they apply for NEOMED.

“...So many health profession degree programs are looking for students who have this kind of passion, drive and determination, who actually want to do things in their community, because the health care system more and more is going to need people to serve in local communities and particularly those who have very limited health care resources,” Porfeli said.

Porfeli and the other developers of the program are very excited about the partnership.

“So that at the end of the day, a student who is from Mahoning County Valley region can develop real connections with real healthcare professionals from kindergarten through 12 grade to pre medical phase and all the way through the end of medical school. We don’t want students to have to leave their communities to go to college and hope they come back; we want to create an experience where students never have to ultimately leave their community,” Porfeli said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Korby Lenker to Perform Friday

Korby Lenker, a singer-songwriter and author, is coming to YSU on Friday thanks to Penguin Productions. He will perform music on his ukulele and read from his short story collection “Medium Hero” from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Larocia International Student Lounge, located behind Jamba Juice in Kilcawley Center. The event is free to YSU students. For more information, call YSU Student Activities at 330-941-3575.

Jenny Magazine Holds Playwriting Contest

Jenny Magazine, the online literary magazine produced by the YSU Student Literary Arts Association, is holding a 10-minute playwriting contest for their upcoming issue, in addition to their usual collecting of submissions of fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry and art. YSU SLAA is partnering with YSU APO to hold the contest; the winning play will be given a staged reading at the issue premiere. For entry details, visit jennymag.submittable.com.

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KENT STATE FRONT

John McNally, mayor of Youngstown, checked in with students during the process and spoke at the event.

“I’m amazed by the transformation of a lot of these projects,” McNally said.

In accordance with the city’s development goals, students focused on around 30 sites along the Hazel and Phelps Street corridors between the University and the riverfront.

“Everything they did was, ‘How are we connecting campus to the downtown to the riverfront?’” Marchionda said.

Each student designed a new construction project and a renovation of an existing building ranging from grocery stores to skate parks. One project proposed an aquarium research center along the riverfront that could serve as an educational tool and lab for local students.

Mike Hripko, YSU’s associate vice president of research, is focused on implemen-

tion. “We’ve got the ideas. We’ve got the plan. And now we’ve got to put it into action,” Hripko said.

In the last year, the Regional Economic Development Initiative has unveiled a Downtown Vision and Action Plan through Marchionda’s Economic Action Group, presented the results of a design charrette carried out by the Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative and released a citywide economic development strategic plan.

Marchionda said he has been matching grant opportunities with initiatives in the plan, and linking those to design work that was done by the Kent students and the Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative.

“We can show them here’s how you go get this done,” Marchionda said. “We’re going to break that down for you, so you can actually go take a chunk out of it and work the plan until it’s something tangible that you can touch.”

Marchionda is working with Leslie Broth-

ers at the McDonough to develop a way of displaying the initiatives and designs for the public.

The exhibit could feature virtual reality, posters and presentations, voice recordings and videos.

“We want it to serve as an exhibit of all this great work that’s happened over this last year as a result of the Kent collaboration and in the past with local partners,” Marchionda said. “But we also want to use it [to tell a story] and a month-long community feedback session.”

He said it’s important to get feedback from the community because if the citizens don’t care about implementing these ideas and designs, they aren’t going to go anywhere.

“[All across history] you see these revered men and women in rooms discussing grandiose ideas, this is that venue you see in paintings. This is reality. This is Youngstown. This is right here on Wick Avenue in one of our art galleries,” Marchionda said.

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The Refractor

YOUNGSTOWN'S SUPERHERO

STORY: **DOM FONCE** | DOMFONCE@GMAIL.COM | PHOTO COURTESY OF: **KWAI DANIELS**

"The Refractor," an independent action-superhero movie, is currently in production and will be shot entirely in the city of Youngstown using only local actors.

Kwai Daniels, the producer, writer, director and leading actor in "The Refractor," said that the movie grew from a skit that was never meant to be a full movie, but from support during casting, the idea was expanded upon.

Daniels said that the story's script is expanded when a new actor joins the cast.

"We have a little bit of liberty when it comes to scripting because we're relying on friends and family to play all of the roles. We script people in as themselves, doing their daily routine or at work, but it ties into the overall plot," Daniels said. "It makes it so people don't have the jitters and aren't nervous about acting."

Daniels creates commercials for local businesses and produced a television show called "Let's Go Youngstown." He said that assisted him in filming the movie in Youngstown.

"Networking played a huge role with us choosing Youngstown. Most independent movies have a few locations, but we have 50, 60." Daniels said, "I've worked with connecting local bands with these local businesses. A lot of 'The Refractor's' scenes are within these local businesses and are overall greatly supported by them."

Daniels said that the underlying story is about Youngstown. The history of the steel mills, how Youngstown has operated throughout the past few decades and how it is on the rise now will be major themes and scene in "The Refractor."

"It'll give you a lot of things that you can relate to. When you see Eddie Loves Debbie in the movie, you'll say, 'hey, I've seen that at one of these gas stations before,'" he said.

He said that the team is now work-



ing on the last quarter of the movie and seeking local celebrity cameos.

"Right now I'm working on the who's who list: Jim Tressel, Mayor McNally, Jay Williams, Lucky Penny and

places like Suzie's Dogs and Drafts," Daniels said.

Daniels said he is also working on having local celebrities like lightweight boxing champion Ray "Boom Boom"

Mancini and "Married With Children's" Ed O'Neill appear in the film, if possible.

The film will feature local locations such as Mill Creek Park, Strikers Pizza Pub and Subs, Ironman Warehouse and The Federal.

"The movie's trailer shows that we'll be using aerial shots of Youngstown, and a there's a montage involving a window cleaner, so you'll pretty much be seeing every building in downtown Youngstown," Daniels said.

Daniels, for the majority of the film, wants to show Youngstown as if it were in total collapse as a civilization that builds itself up during the third act with the help of the Refractor.

"There is a hero that rose to the top and fell and now he's on the bottom, but no matter where he goes, he can't stop being a hero. He's not the type of character to send villains to jail, he's more the type to break both of your legs, and if you keep on the wrong path, he'll break both of your arms," he said.

Daniels said this brutishness is what makes the people of Youngstown love him but also grow to hate him.

After "The Refractor's" release, Daniels plans to have showings at the local businesses around Youngstown.

"I'd rather show it on a projector at Suzie's than get it into a local theater," he said.

Holly Shew, a consumer medication coordinator in Ravenna, Ohio, met Daniels on Facebook and approached him to act in the film. She had done a role in an Alzheimer's disease documentary by UC Davis and brought her credentials to Daniels asking for a casting session.

"Kwai [Daniels] is bringing history and truth to the film through a comic book character, and I think that's outstanding," Shew said. "There's a lot of crime in Youngstown, which makes having a superhero type figure to be proud of just that more important."



Telescope Workshop At University Planetarium

STORY: **ASHLEY CUSTER** | AKCUSTER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU | PHOTO COURTESY OF: **ABDALLAH/FLICKER**

On Jan. 16 from 1-3 p.m. the Ward Beecher Planetarium will host "So You Bought A Telescope..." a one-on-one workshop with Mahoning Valley Astronomical Society members on how to properly use telescopes.

Patrick Durrell, associate professor and director of Ward Beecher Planetarium, said they have hosted the event for a few years now.

"If anyone received a telescope for Christmas, and would like some advice on how to use it, the event really helps them," he said. "We certainly encourage people to bring in their own telescopes and we can show them how to use it."

Don Cherry, MVAS vice president, and several members of the MVAS will be present to demonstrate how to set up and use the telescopes that the participants bring.

"We will show them how to properly align their telescope so they can track objects in the sky such as planets, the moon, stars, etc. They will learn which eyepiece to use based on the type of object that they are viewing and how to calculate what the magnification is for each eyepiece being used," Cherry said.

Cherry hopes those attending the event will learn

as much as possible about their telescopes or may become interested in purchasing a telescope.

"Learning to use a new telescope can be a fairly daunting task and it is our hope that after attending this program the people who attend will be more comfortable with their telescope and have a better understanding of how it performs and what they can expect to see with it," Cherry said.

Jack Draper, a local astronomy enthusiast, founded the MVAS in 1939 with the intention to further the hobby of amateur astronomy for people from various areas in northeastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania.

The MVAS has utilized the YSU planetarium facilities as the home for its monthly meetings during the winter. They have an observatory they meet at from April through October, but according to Cherry, it gets too cold and often inaccessible after October.

"We meet one Saturday per month to conduct club business. During the months that we meet at YSU, we begin our meeting with astronomy related talks by members from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. At 8 p.m. we attend the planetarium show as a group. After the show we conduct our monthly meeting from 9 p.m. until

around 10 p.m.," Cherry said.

The MVAS has maintained an average of 54 members over the past 15 years. Regular membership is \$30 per year. Junior membership (14 years and under) is \$10 per year. For any regular member, there is a family rate of \$10 each for any member of the same household.

Besides meeting monthly, MVAS members conduct astronomical observations of variable stars, lunar occultation and solar system objects. Their efforts assist scientists in further understanding the universe.

Cherry hopes the public and YSU students will gain interest in the club through participating in events like "So You Bought A Telescope..."

"A lot of people with an interest in astronomy aren't aware that there is an active astronomy club right in their own community, even though we have been around for over 75 years. Our hope is that programs like this event will generate interest in our club which will result in new members who want to be a part of all the great things we do within the community," Cherry said.

EDITORIAL • Aiming at the Wrong Target

Too often the political process ignores effective policies because they don't fit partisan agendas.

The current gun control debate is being driven by mass shootings. There are differing opinions on what constitutes a mass shooting, but using even the broadest definition they accounted for only 1.5 percent of gun deaths in 2013. Excluding suicides, mass shootings represented 4.5 percent of gun deaths.

About half of gun homicides involve the murder of black men — even though they comprise only 6 percent of the population. Black Americans are over 7 times more likely than white Americans to be victimized by gun violence.

A recent article published in the New Republic profiled Michael McBride, a 37-year-old pastor from Berkeley, California who has been raising awareness for a program called Operation Ceasefire.

Ceasefire is an initiative that was implemented in Boston in the late 1990s. Community leaders partnered with police to target young black men at risk of dying as a result of gun violence.

They found that less than 0.5 percent of people in a city are responsible for more than half of that city's gun violence.

Police and community leaders confronted that 0.5 per-

cent and made them aware of the risks they faced while offering counseling, employment or even relocation. They also informed them that there would be no tolerance for future infractions.

It decreased the number of homicides involving youths in Boston by 63 percent over two years. Other cities implemented the program with decreases ranging from 34 to 44 percent.

Boston's program fell apart for political reasons and

“**Black Americans are over 7 times more likely than white Americans to be victimized by gun violence.**”

other cities have failed to obtain funding.

Unlike the current policies du jour — an assault rifle ban that's likely to prove ineffective and a common-sense-but-politically-impractical overhauling of our background check and registration system — this could be imposed without changing gun laws and angering the

National Rifle Association (an aggravating but unavoidable political reality).

Gun control opponents claim the problem we need to address is mental health, but that needs to extend beyond the schizophrenia of many mass shooters. Ceasefire addresses the post traumatic stress disorder experienced by children growing up in Baltimore and East St. Louis.

Yet when McBride was trying to obtain \$500 million to fund the program across the country, a White House staffer reportedly told him the political will to confront inner-city violence didn't exist.

To put that number in perspective, the University of Chicago crime lab estimated that shootings cost the city \$2.5 billion annually.

Maybe people focus on mass shootings because they could potentially happen in their own communities, while urban violence is contained to areas the majority of Americans don't frequent. Maybe it's because people don't think black lives matter. These are two ways of saying the same thing.

But if reducing the level of gun violence in America is your aim, this is a means of achieving that. Funding ceasefire would have a greater effect on the problem than even accomplishing the impossible task of eliminating mass shootings.

JAMBAR COLUMN

Terrified of Change: A Self Journey

STORY: GINO DIGUILIO
GRDIGUILIO@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

I am a planner. I live my life with my color-coded weekly planner with me at all times and organization is my best friend. So with that, you can probably assume that I am a control freak as well. Great qualities, I know.

So you can imagine when something doesn't go exactly according to my preconceived plan or if I lose control of a situation, I go a little crazy; crazy being a polite understatement. For some God forsaken reason, those things really get to me deep down, making my mind race about what exactly that means for my life at that moment.

Normally, my mind automatically gravitates toward the absolute worst and catastrophic scenario. Unfortunately, that's just the person I am. Which brings me to my point. Change.

As a human being, you can think that you have complete control over your life and everything that is happening to you. Newsflash: you don't.

Things will not always go according to your plans. Shit happens. So why do I stress over the littlest adjustments to my plans? Am I a psychotic control freak? Yes. Am I worried that this change will affect my life drastically, no matter how small the change? Yes. Is that my fault? No. So why stress?

The reality of it all is that nobody knows the future. You can plan all you want and attempt to create a fool-proof life plan, but you know what? When you do that, life is going to smack you. Hard.

And at that moment, you should take into consideration, are the small changes that your plans come across in this grand journey of life really that significant? No, not really. Having to put off an activity, or a task until the next day due to an unforeseen circumstance is no big deal.

Life shouldn't be stressful. So with it being the cliché time of New Year's resolutions, I am taking it upon myself, and I hope you do as well, to look at life with a new perspective.

We should be welcoming the fact that life is a mystery and that your future could change in the blink of an eye. The fact that I am deathly afraid of change will no longer be a hindrance on my life and happiness. Yes, I will continue to plan my days and weeks out of pure habit, however welcoming change will be my new norm.

So look out, 2016! Change is welcomed and no longer will I be afraid of it! Did that sound convincing? I sure hope so, because between you and me, I am still terrified...



JAMBAR-POLICY

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

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

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THE CONVERSATION David Bowie Innovator Extraordinaire

STORY: MIKE JONES | UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Musician, actor, icon and entrepreneur. David Bowie was an innovator in every way. He stepped into the vacuum left by the Beatles' break-up in 1970 and developed an array of strategies that have gone on to become the common sense of popular culture and of business itself.

Before Bowie, The Beatles were the driving force behind the rise of ubiquitous popular culture. They made a virtue of innovation and established music as an index of lifestyle. What business learned from the late-70s onwards was that commodities needed to be sold in ways that chimed with individual decisions about self-expression and identity. Bowie was the pop star who embodied this logic.

Through his Ziggy Stardust persona, Bowie united the visual and narrative conceits of science fiction with those of pop in a way that allowed him to at once be and yet not be that invented character. Having gained an audience, it was then a business masterstroke to kill off this successful creation and to trust that his audience was now primed to accept and delight in successive incarnations and their associated musical genres.

This allowed Bowie to always be "himself" (whoever and whatever that was), while enjoying the licence to pioneer different genres of music — whether electronica, funk or emergent dance music. He combined print, stage and video design to create symbolically rich and dramatic settings for his different alter egos, using them to carry and complete his latest incarnation.

Brand Bowie

Bowie presaged branding and showed how a successful brand should conduct itself — with verve, panache and cultural insight. He developed a rapid astuteness in managing himself as a brand: he limited access to his personal life, while his challenges to gender convention were both brave and headline-grabbing. His musical collaborations were also guaranteed to fuel his myth — Bowie is probably the only popular cultural figure who connects Bing Crosby with Freddie Mercury.

So strong and savvy was this brand management that he survived a decision to leave Victoria station in an open-topped Mercedes while waving to a waiting crowd in a way that recalled (deliberately or not) the style of fascist

leaders. For anyone else this would have been a fatal career move, but Bowie survived it to supplant the Beatles as a cultural giant.

Visually as well as musically, Bowie's influence shaped popular music for two decades from the mid-70s. There would have been no Human League, Culture Club, Spandau Ballet, Joy Division or Placebo without him. And there would also not have been the type of indie rock that traced its origins to The Velvet Underground. The key difference between Bowie and the Beatles was that, while the Beatles were a key ingredient of the "Summer of Love" of 1967 and took their cue from US West Coast bands, Bowie embraced the New York sound of The Velvet Underground and the artistic sensibility of Andy Warhol.

Commodity culture

Warhol's representation of consumer packaging as art pioneered a culture in which pop stars embraced rather than repudiated commodification. Bowie was a conduit for this. His foray into financial markets (with the Bowie Bond in 1997) and e-commerce (with the service provider BowieNet in 1998) demonstrate what a fine, and easily-crossed line there is between the desire to be a self-defining individual and the process of destroying collective structures so that the only defence the individual has when reduced to the pawn of market forces is to become more marketable.

Bowie declined as someone who could sell pop records from the late-80s onwards. In the UK, the club culture that Bowie's music helped to inspire gave rise to the DJ and the producer as the new force for innovation, while rock music, in the form of Oasis, reached back before Bowie for its inspiration. Subsequently, even as his cachet remained high, Bowie's health faltered, notably following heart surgery in 2004. His comparative inactivity over the past decade can be attributed to this and the release of Blackstar just two days before his death now appears valedictory.

None of this diminishes him as an inspirational force. He has left an indelible legacy and as business, more widely, learned from and now informs popular cultural production, it should revere David Bowie as one of its muses.



YSU Looks for Consistency Against the Norse

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team celebrates during the Penguins, 103-93 win over the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

STORY: DAN HINER | DHINERJR@GMAIL.COM | PHOTO: DAN HINER

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team has experienced a number of highs and lows this season. For the Penguins, every exciting win is followed by a disappointing loss.

The Penguins know that the team has been up and down early in the season. YSU point guard Francisco Santiago said the win against the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay was a "confidence builder" after the Penguins' 81-65 loss to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

"It was huge for us — a huge confidence builder because we came out and we just really didn't play with a lot of energy and a lot of effort," Santiago said. "I think not hitting shots early really caused us to not play as hard as we usually should on Thursday. We knew Green Bay was 3-0 in the league, and this was another big test for us, just like the Oakland game.

"We knew we had to come out and match their intensity because coach [Slocum] harped all week that these guys are going to get up in you and play hard — probably the hardest in the league and we had to

match their intensity from the jump."

After the Penguins' 103-93 win over Green Bay, YSU head coach Jerry Slocum is concerned the team might have another deflating performance against Northern Kentucky University on Thursday.

"These [upcoming games] are huge. We got to take it one game at a time and worry about Northern Kentucky, but these are two big games to put us about .500 in the league and gives us some confidence going into the Valparaiso game on Monday," Santiago said. "But we got to make sure we take care of business and don't look anyone — make sure we take care of Northern Kentucky and worry about Wright State after."

YSU beat Northern Kentucky 78-74 in the only matchup between the two programs on Dec. 31, 2014. Last season's game was a nonconference matchup, but this is Northern Kentucky's first season in the Horizon League.

Slocum said the team will need to work on its defense. The Penguins have been playing better since entering Horizon League play, but their defense has

allowed 98 points or more in three of the team's first four conference games.

"We had to get 100 to beat Oakland, obviously we had to get 94 to beat Green Bay — we scored 103," Slocum said. "We're not going to go on the road and post 100 points every night. We got to tighten things up. Now I will say this: our zone was really, really good against Green Bay. I'm not sure what they shot from the 3-[point] line, but I think we did a really good job guarding the 3-[point] line. I thought we did a really good job with steals that led out to baskets."

Slocum said the team's youth is part of the defense's problem. He said young players tend to focus on their offense before they get to college and their defensive skills usually need to develop.

"When you have a young group, they've been playing offense their whole lives and they've been working on offense their whole lives," Slocum said. "They haven't been sitting around in the gym learning how to slide and play defense, and that process is an ongoing process for this young team."

The Press Box Perspective

Please Think of the Fans

UPCOMING YSU SPORTS EVENTS

Men's BBall @ Northern Kentucky Jan. 14

Swimming & Diving @ Akron Jan. 16

Women's BBall @ Cleveland State Jan. 16

STORY: DAN HINER | DHINERJR@GMAIL.COM | GRAPHIC: DAN HINER

After years of false alarms and NFL owners threatening to uproot their teams in an attempt to gain an edge at the bargaining table, the move has finally been announced.

On Tuesday night, the NFL announced the St. Louis Rams will move to Los Angeles for the 2016 season. Out of 32 NFL owners, 30 voted in favor of the move.

Most of us don't remember the last time LA had a professional football team. The NFL hasn't had a team in Los Angeles since the 1994 season with the Rams and the Raiders. The

Rams played at Anaheim Stadium and the Raiders played at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

But should LA get another chance at NFL? LA had the Raiders, Chargers and Rams in the past, but in the end every team has eventually left the city. The Chargers moved to San Diego in 1961 and the Raiders moved to Oakland in 1994.

The biggest reason for the moves usually involved money, and they would defend their actions by saying it was a business decision. But in the end, the fans were usually the ones who suf-

fered. However, the loss of the LA teams didn't affect the LA fans the way it impacted Cleveland Browns and Indianapolis Colts fans.

Most residents of Youngstown remember the loss of the Browns in 1996. So maybe we're more aware of the impact it has on the team's supporters. After the announcement was made, videos and pictures were taken of LA fans celebrating in the streets, but national news organizations didn't show the St. Louis fans after the realization that they would no longer have the team they've supported for the

past 21 years.

When the Browns and Colts left their original cities, the fans voiced public outcry and wanted to fight for the teams to stay in their cities, but the LA fans were, for the most part, accepting of the moves.

LA fans seemed to successfully move on from the loss of the Raiders in 1994 and adopted the University of Southern California as the de facto "professional" football team for the city.

Don't get me wrong; the LA fans usually fill the seats for their teams. The attendance at the games was never an is-

sue, but the financing from the city has caused problems in the past.

But should the NFL push to move a team to LA just because the population is bigger and the profit margin for the league could increase? Don't the fans' emotions play a part in the franchise's decision?

Some NFL owners view their teams as an extension of business, and the only reason they own the team is for the recognition of owning a professional sports franchise and the additional revenue from the season.

Maybe before the NFL owners start using

St. Louis as another bargaining chip, they should take into consideration the effect moving their franchise would have on the people who have supported their franchise for decades.

The Rams aren't the only team trying to move to LA in the near future. The Chargers and the Raiders are also considering moving from their current homes, but hopefully their ownership groups will take into consideration the betrayal that could be felt by the people that supported their "business" over the years.