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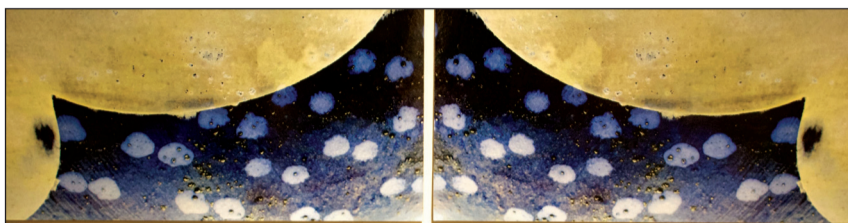
Volume 100 | Issue 04 | 1.26.16 | The Student Voice of Youngstown State University since 1931



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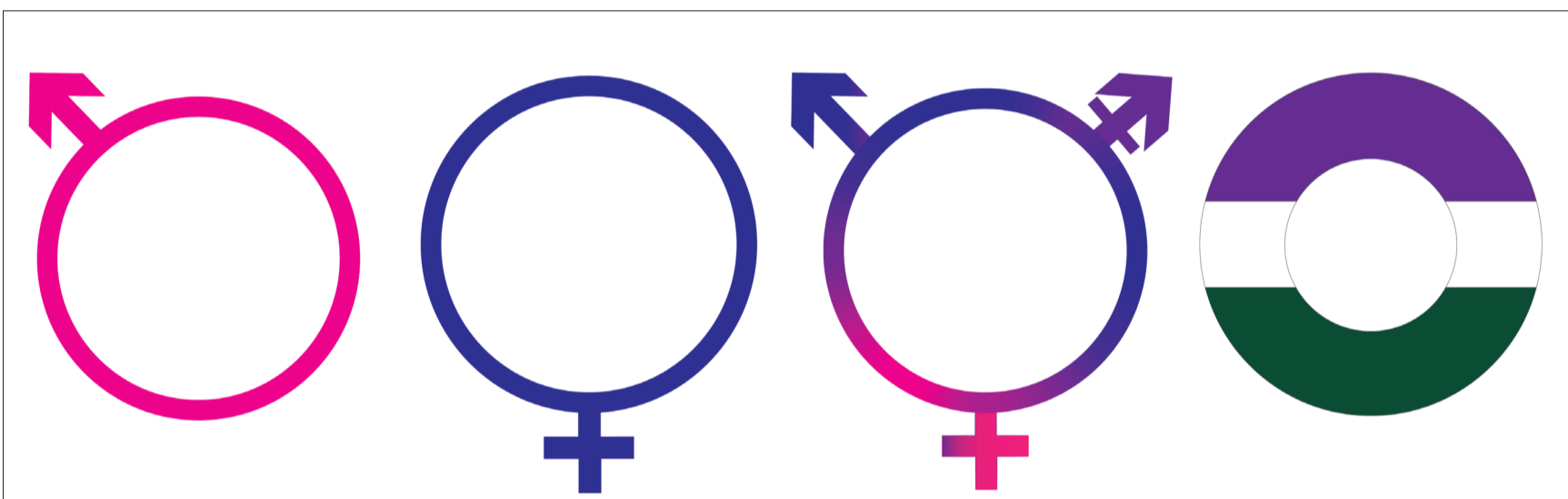


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TRANSCENDING GENDERED HOUSING



STORY: **GABRIELLE FELLOWS** | GFELLOWS@STUDENT.YSU.EDU | GRAPHIC: **GWENASIA GADSDEN**

Youngstown State University does not currently have a policy in place to accommodate student housing needs for those who identify as transgender or non-binary.

YSU housing is gendered, meaning that when a person applies to live on campus or at one of the university housing complexes, they must identify as male or female in order to be assigned a room. The campus currently does not have any co-ed dorms or apartments.

For students who identify as transgender or non-binary — an umbrella term covering any gender identity that doesn't fit into the category of

male or female — finding housing can be difficult.

Danielle Meyer, director of Housing and Residence Life, said the housing and residence program is welcoming to all students regardless of race, religion, color, age, gender, sexual orientation or national origin, but the program only works with transgender and non-binary students on a person-to-person basis.

“Currently a student's identified gender is pulled from the Banner system and imported into the housing application,” Meyer said. “The students fill out a personal profile with general preferences, and there is a

space to include any optional information they wish to share.”

Carol Seawood, property manager at the YSU-sponsored University Courtyards, said they also lack a policy, but the housing staff is willing to work with students who address their needs.

“It's a situation where we would have to address it case by case to make it comfortable for all the students, not just one particular group of people,” Seawood said. “We try to make sure that everyone is comfortable in their living environment.”

Although Buechner Hall is independently owned, Executive Director

Gail Keaty said Buechner accepts all women.

Tim Bortner, president of YSUnity, said the housing and residence program has always been supportive of LGBTQ students — if they self-identify.

“I think that the housing ... is very supportive if you're trans or bi or gay,” Bortner said. “If you tell housing, they'll do their best to find an LGBTQ supportive roommate.”

GENDERED HOUSING
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STORY: **JUSTIN WIER** | JCWIER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU | PHOTO: **SCOTT WILLIAMS**

Youngstown State University recently completed a survey of low-enrolled classes, which found that around five percent of classes offered each semester are under en-

rolled. As part of the Ohio Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency, the state required public universities to report all low-enrolled classes along with a

justification for the low-enrollment or a plan of action to correct it.

Jeff Robinson, director of communications for the Ohio Department of Higher Edu-

cation, said the state is just collecting data at this point.

“It will let us see if there is any way that a class could be may-be combined with another campus in the

region that's doing a similar class or ... is there a way to be more efficient with it or find a way to combine it with another [class],” Robinson said. YSU Provost Martin

Abraham said both the state and the university are concerned with the cost of a college education.

“The more we can do to keep those costs low, the easier it is for us to pass on those savings to our students, and the state's trying to encourage everybody to do that,” Abraham said.

YSU defined a low-enrolled undergraduate class as one with 15 or fewer students. They reached this definition by looking at what the labor agreement between YSU and the Ohio Education Association regards as a fully-enrolled class. For graduate students, the definition was nine or fewer students.

They had to report all classes that fell below 120 percent of that definition. For YSU,

LOW-ENROLLED
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Celebrating Diversity and Overcoming Adversity

Sylvia Imler, executive director of the Department of Inclusion and Multicultural Affairs, speaks to attendees in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Diversity Breakfast last Thursday.

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

People gathered in Kilcawley Center to attend the 14th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Breakfast last Thursday. Students, faculty and members of the community came to listen to speakers reflect on Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy and how it applies to modern times.

President Tressel said the breakfast is held in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. and the "tremendous influence on the culture of our country." He said YSU takes time each year to reflect on the lessons King taught and the sacrifices he made for

the country.

William Blake, director of student diversity programs, said it's important to recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day and acknowledge the achievements of people who fight for justice, peace and democracy. He said celebrating King's contributions to civil rights equality brings students, faculty and community members together.

The keynote speaker at this year's breakfast was Emma Fraser Pendleton, a life coach and motivational speaker. Blake said her speech was inspiring.

"She has a tremen-

dous background in terms of helping people to understand how to get along, survive and thrive," Blake said. "That was one of the major messages of Dr. Luther King, so she came to us and she talked to us about some of the techniques that are necessary for people to make change in society as well as survive in difficult situations and turn those ... trials ... into triumphs."

During his speech, President Tressel said he was fortunate to work with people that share different experiences and expertise.

"Martin Luther King

reminded us that every single person is important. Each and every one of us is insignificant without each and every one of the rest of us," Tressel said.

Sylvia Imler, executive director of multicultural affairs, spoke about the importance of reflecting on the past and learning from the mistakes of others.

"When we reflect on the past and the things we've learned, hopefully it helps us to have a different perspective on things ... we identify the stereotypes, bias and assumptions that we have — yes, we all have them," Imler said.

Tressel said he and his staff are trying to carry on the ideals that King spoke about.

"Our passion and our goal is to create that culture of community, and to not be afraid to talk about the fact that every single person, every single ideal, every single thought that any of us have is to be appreciated, respected, for us to become more aware of one another and what we are all about. And so, it truly is a blessing to have this on our campus, this moment of reflection," Tressel said.

Student organizations and faculty from various departments in the

university were all present at the breakfast.

Chris Gunther was one of the student presenters. He said he was honored to be part of the celebration for the third year in a row.

"I would definitely like to see it ... continue. It was a tremendous time and great to be a part of. I hope we can continue to honor Dr. King," Gunther said.

Tressel said they are working on bringing more students to the breakfast. They are discussing changing the time and allowing students to attend for free.



Thompson's Apps Innovate Class

STORY: WILL KEFFLER | WKEFFLER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU
PHOTO: WILL KEFFLER

RJ Thompson, a graphic and interactive design assistant professor at Youngstown State University, has created a new education platform designed to compete with Blackboard Learn, YSU's current platform.

After countless head-

aches, Thompson decided he could save himself from the trouble of Blackboard by creating his own platform.

"I adamantly loath Blackboard," Thompson said, "So in spite of that, I created my own version called

"STUDY."

Thompson hopes that one day, STUDY can be a substitute for Blackboard Learn. The program has an additional service — it works in tandem with apps that Thompson created to go along with the courses he teaches at YSU.

In January 2014, Thompson launched an app on the Apple store to be used specifically with his intro to typography class.

"[I wanted to] create a more accessible, instant way of connecting students to the class," Thompson said.

Between 2014 and 2016, Thompson launched four more apps based on his classes to work concurrently with STUDY.

Kent Kerr, an adjunct professor of the department of art and one of Thompson's beta testers for STUDY, found that even before the introduction of the apps, STUDY was effective.

"It beat the pants off of Blackboard," Kerr said, "but it still had its kinks."

With the integration of the apps, Thompson solved the drawbacks of STUDY, while simultaneously extending his reach to his students.

"The apps and STUDY are entirely dissimilar, but they're connected technologically," Thompson said, "So it allows me to update something, and it proliferates out to multiple sources."

By placing assignment criteria, project schedules and various resources all within the palms of students' hands, Thompson was able to create a con-

venient point of reference for accessing any course information.

Nathan Unger, a graphic and interactive design student, said that the app provides things for the students that they normally don't get to experience in other classes.

"[The apps have] removed the need for a textbook and provides its creator the ability to design how the user experiences the information."

Along with the resources, Thompson made it a point for the apps to feature the work of his students to add recognition for the work they produce. Thompson said this feature adds legitimacy to students' work and increases their appetite for success.

"The more I learn, the more I can teach. For instance, I now have students that already have their own apps in stores," said Thompson.

Most recently, Youngstown Design Works, a student-run graphic and interactive designing agency led by Thompson, launched an app of their own in December.

The new app is intended to be a user-friendly program that connects potential clients with Youngstown Design Works by spotlighting

the agency's past projects and giving possible buyers a direct way to contact the company.

The design group primarily serves nonprofits, startups, small businesses and community groups, so the app allows them to reach out to a greater audience at virtually no cost, which in turn, gives Thompson's design students more real-world job experience.

Even with all his successes, Thompson said his ambitions have not decreased in the slightest.

"I'm personally not happy with any of this. As soon as I build a program, something new and greater comes out. I'm never really satisfied," Thompson said. "I haven't found any faculty members, at any university, that are specifically building mobile apps for their classrooms, and I want to change that."

Thompson said he hopes that eventually he will be able to flood campuses with apps of the same nature.

"I'm hoping that I can use what I've learned here to build into other classroom apps," Thompson said. "I would love to build apps for other faculty members, not just in the art department, but across campus."

NEWS BRIEFS

Biology Student Wins Prestigious Scholarship to Study in Japan

Craig Higham, a senior biology student at Youngstown State University, received the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship valued at \$4,500 to study at Kawasei Gakuin University in Osaka/Kobe, Japan. He will be studying there from March 30 through July 30. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is sponsoring this and approximately 800 other scholarships from 355 colleges and universities across the country.

Doctoral Candidates Vote on Caps and Gowns for Commencement

Doctoral Candidates are deciding between three options for future caps and gowns to be worn at graduation starting this spring. All candidates will be emailed illustrations of the choices, which candidates are to vote on. A committee created these designs, plus others, which were narrowed down to the choices given by the Academic Events Committee of the YSU Academic Senate. The deadline to vote by is Feb. 7.

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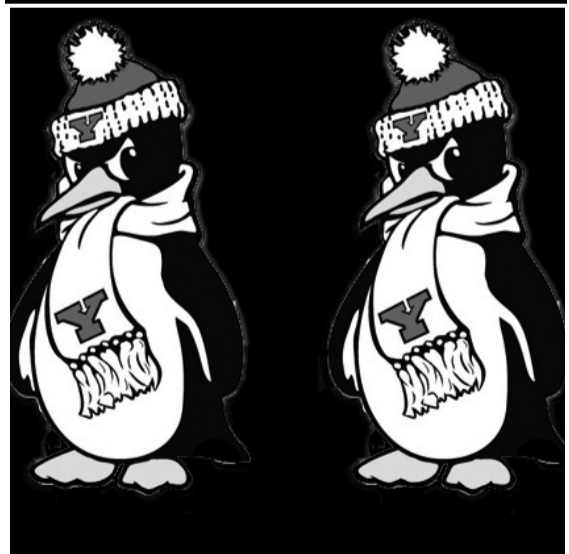
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GENDERED HOUSING FRONT

Despite this, Campus Pride Index — a website listing LGBTQ friendly colleges and universities — rated YSU's LGBTQ housing and residence life a 2 stars out of a possible 5.

Many public universities have adopted a program where students have the choice to self-identify as transgender or non-binary on their housing application. If a student does not identify as transgender or non-binary, they have the option of saying that they'd be either comfortable or uncomfortable living with someone who was. Other universities have designated floors or dorms for students who are transgender or non-binary.

YSU currently does not have either.

Meyer said YSU is looking into some of these solutions for the future. She said many of the campuses that have employed these policies require students to live on campus for at least one year, so they need to have accommodations in place for all students.

"In our case, such a small percentage of our

students live on campus that many of what some would consider special populations self-select to live elsewhere to meet their own preferences," Meyer said.

Ashley Salyers, a non-binary student at YSU majoring in education, said they live in the dorms and are comfortable, but they know many students who identify as non-binary who don't share that feeling.

"It's very uncomfortable ... especially in the shower situation," Salyers said.

Salyers drew attention to how removing non-binary or transgendered students from gendered housing does not solve the issue.

"In education, if there are kids with different needs, you keep them as included as possible in any situation," Salyers said. "You don't remove them from the other students and put them on their own unless its absolutely necessary. You keep people with the group, you don't say lets just split you up because we don't want to handle you. You fix things."

Jarrod MacCartney, a

transgender YSU graduate, said YSU's person-to-person transgender policy is odd.

"It sounds very strange to me," McCartney said. "Like I have to meet some sort of qualifications [to be male] or something."

MacCartney said YSU needs to clearly state how they handle individuals who are transgender or non-binary.

"When I first decided to come to YSU, my parents considered putting me in the dorms, and [housing and residence didn't] make it clear how that would work at all, or who I would contact," McCartney said. "How would I even know if the people I would be living with would understand it or be OK with [me being transgender], and how would YSU handle any of it?"

MacCartney said he opted to stay at home instead of living in the dorms because of that. He wasn't comfortable with the possibility of living in a female dorm.

"A large part of me wanted the dorm experience," McCartney said. "But they didn't make it seem too inviting."

Despite YSU's status

as a commuter campus without residency requirements, Meyer said the university is collecting information to institute transgender/non-binary policy, so housing and residence can be prepared when the need arises.

"We do not openly advertise that this is available because we do not have an official policy on it, so there may be prospective students out there who take the lack of official policy to mean that we would not be open to it," Meyer said. "And Mr. Howard, our assistant vice president [division of student experience], has gotten in the conversation with Carol [Seawood] and I, and he wants to sit down and discuss that [this] is all moving in the right direction."

There is a possibility that Wick and Weller houses could serve as gender neutral housing.

Meyer said the university is willing to do what they can to accommodate their residents in the meantime.

"We would work with any individual student to accommodate needs as they come up," Meyer said.

LOW-ENROLLED FRONT

Abraham said about half of the classes YSU offers fall below that mark, but there are often reasons for that. Laboratory classes often have 12 to 15 students. Capstone classes are generally smaller.

"By design they're that size. We don't want them any bigger," Abraham said. "So we're not going to worry about those. We're not going to do anything about those."

Abraham said there is a greater concern for classes that didn't have a reason for being low enrolled.

"We offer about 1500 classes each semester," Abraham said. "Less than 100 courses that we recognized as being small, low-enrolled, and we couldn't come up for a good reason why they should be like that."

Abraham said there some op-

portunities to increase efficiency in this realm, but he stressed that they are not making any decisions yet.

"Our requirement to the state is simply to report to the state what we can do," Abraham said.

One possible avenue is to reduce sections.

"If I've got 50 students or 75 students enrolled in five sections, I can get away with fewer sections, and I can do it without any loss of effectiveness," Abraham said. "There's no harm to the students because we're eliminating sections; we're not eliminating courses."

Another is to offer classes with less frequency.

"If we offer a class every semester, and there are ten students that take it every semester," Abraham said. "I could offer it once a year instead of once a semester, and everybody who wanted to take it could take it."

Abraham said the state really

wanted them to investigate collaborating with local universities as well.

"We found very few examples where that really seemed to be particularly effective as a strategy for us going forward," Abraham said.

He said another group of classes they excluded from consideration were those required for certain degree programs.

"There's not a lot we can do about that as long as we're offering that program," Abraham said. "Of course that begs the question, 'Do we need to stop offering those programs?'"

He said part of the program review process involves looking at those and assessing the impact of discontinuing programs, but they still have a lot of analysis to do before they reach that point.

The state requested that universities submit reports by the end of the month.

THE JAMBAR

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Robert Raack - "Portrait of Carrie"

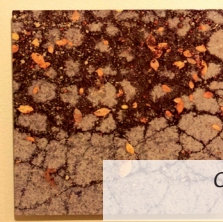
Intersections Exhibition Opens at McDonough

STORY: **BILLY LUDT** | WRLUDT@STUDENT.YSU.EDU | PHOTOS: **BILLY LUDT**

Intersections Biennial Faculty Exhibition held an opening reception at the John J. McDonough Museum of Art on Jan. 21 and runs until Feb. 26. Intersections will present a series of faculty talks at McDonough by Adam Sullivan, Lauren Baker, Lillian Lewis, RJ Thompson and Dana Sperry. On Feb. 19, McDonough will host their annual event, MAD About the Arts — an event with wine tasting, food, contemporary art and music.



Christopher Leeper - "Sidney Grain Mill"



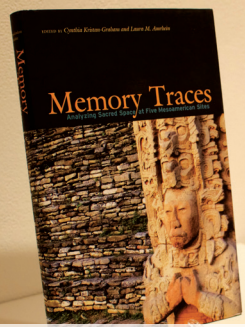
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EDITORIAL

Wanted: All-Inclusive Housing

Finding solutions in the ongoing discussion about trans and non-binary gendered housing on university campuses is a sensitive process.

Many state universities require students to spend at least one year living on campus. This ensures those universities have to make housing inclusive enough to accommodate different genders, religions, sexual orientations or disabilities.

Youngstown State University — a commuter school — isn't necessarily beholden to the same requirements that schools with mandatory residence policies are, but that doesn't mean efforts to make campus housing more inclusive should be viewed as less critical.

As reported in today's piece, "Transcending Gendered Housing," Eddie Howard, associate vice president in the division of student affairs, Danielle Meyers and Carol Seawood — the director of Housing and Residence Life and the property manager of the University Courtyards, respectively — will be meeting to address housing issues, including inclusivity.

The meeting — and any forward thinking action borne from it — comes at a pivotal time in YSU's

history as a commuter campus. Since the beginning of President Jim Tressel's administration, there has been a push to not only increase enrollment numbers, but increase the number of students living on campus. The new Honors College encourages participating students to live on campus to enhance their involvement with school events. International and out-of-state students — another demographic marked for increase by the new administration — also tend to live on campus.

To prepare for this increase in campus living, two new housing structures — University Edge on 5th Avenue and The Enclave on Wick Avenue — have been cleared for construction.

As YSU physically builds and prepares for an influx of on-campus residents, policies emphasizing liberty and inclusivity must also be built and prepared.

There's a few quick fixes YSU can begin working on to help improve conditions for transgendered or non-binary students hoping to live on campus.

Providing students with housing applications that include a space to self-identify and a specific service for matching LGBT students with LGBT

friendly roommates are some options.

Better still, change the policy to assume that students in 2016 will be accepting of their LGBT classmates, and instead provide an "opt-out" selection for those who — for whatever reason — cannot tolerate an LGBT roommate.

Gender-inclusive shower and bathroom options should also be included in the construction of the new housing units. It's understandable why the dorms and Courtyard apartments would be hesitant to tear up their existing buildings to add in a third set of bathrooms. That defense runs dry, though, when talking about brand new construction.

Hopefully the contracting companies responsible for building the new apartments have been instructed to build transgender and non-binary students into their plans.

We hope that YSU's plans to increase enrollment through out-of-state and international student recruitment is successful, but we also hope that those students will find YSU a university ready to accept them as they come and willing to work to find them appropriate housing.

Less Ethanol is Better for Consumers and the Planet

STORY: BLOOMBERG VIEW EDITORS | BLOOMBERG VIEW (TNS)

Is the Environmental Protection Agency in the pocket of Big Oil? Is it siding with "climate deniers"? The claims are as ridiculous as they sound, but they may become more common now that the agency has released its newest "ethanol mandate," which requires less use of the biofuel than Congress and the agricultural lobby called for.

Ignore the critics: Lowering the ethanol requirement is good for consumers, cars and the planet.

Under the renewable fuel standard released this week, the EPA is calling for 18.1 billion gallons of ethanol to be blended into the nation's gasoline supply next year. This is 4.1 billion less than Congress required in its 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act, which was a well-intentioned effort to reduce the Middle Eastern chokehold on American energy after 9/11. Supporters of the law also claimed it would help keep prices low at the pump and be better for the environment.

But the oil market and the world have changed in eight years. Increased U.S. production of oil from fracking and other technologies has the country far less dependent on foreign oil than anyone could have foreseen. And cars are more efficient.

In addition, the claims of ethanol's earth-friendliness appear dubious: Reports from the National Academy of Sciences, the United Nations and the Environmental Working Group found that corn ethanol may actually have higher emissions than petroleum-based gasoline. And that doesn't even account for the fossil fuels that go into raising, harvesting and shipping ethanol to market.

Finally, there is the American taxpayer and consumer to consider: The industry has received tens of billions of dollars in subsidies and tax breaks since the 1980s. Meanwhile, since 40 percent of U.S. corn goes into biofuels, Americans pay an estimated \$40 billion a year more at the grocery store.

This is not to say that moving toward biofuels is a mistake. Other technologies, such as the use of switchgrass and other "cellulosic" materials that humans don't eat, show promise. But for now they cost far more, which is exacerbated by Washington propping up the ethanol industry.

Ethanol backers are right that the large oil companies, which also get more than their fair share of taxpayer largesse, will benefit from having less biofuel blended into their gasoline. So what? That doesn't change the argument against ethanol.

The agricultural lobby and its congressional allies — not to mention presidential candidates stumping for Iowa votes — are unlikely to take this defeat quietly. The EPA, consumer groups, environmentalists and free-market conservatives need to stand strong, even if that means making common cause with Big Oil.



JAMBAR POLICY

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.....THE..... JAMBAR COLUMN

Overwhelmed

STORY: JORDAN MCNEIL
JEMCNEIL@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

College can be overwhelming. I mean, life in general can be overwhelming, but right now I'm focusing on college because that's where I'm at in my life at the moment.

My semester started off running from the get-go, but I got caught with my shoes untied at the starting line. I had some prep work I had planned on doing over break to try and make sure I was actually prepared ahead of time, for once, but unsurprisingly very little of it got done. It was break, after all.

I know we've covered this already, but I'm a bit of a procrastinator. I knew I should've been even just a little bit productive over break; I actually wanted to be for a moment. However, I also wanted to relax some, enjoy not having anything to do or anywhere to be for a month. It's good to take

a break when you can.

I only regretted this decision of mine a tiny bit when the semester started. It takes me awhile to get back into the swing of a schedule. I have to create a rhythm with my time — manage when I'm asleep, get up, do work before class, head to class, work, study at home, et cetera, et cetera. I'm always at a loss at the beginning of a change because I don't tend to keep any rhythm on breaks. I don't need to.

But now I started in a deficit — and my classes started much faster and more intensively than my sleepy brain fresh off of vacation was prepared for. So I'm feeling a little overwhelmed, and the fact that this is happening so early in the semester is not making it any easier to handle. If I'm feeling overwhelmed three weeks in, what is it going to be like during

midterms?

It's reaching the point where it's almost panic inducing, which makes me want to do nothing more than curl up with some cute goat videos and wait until it just goes away or fixes itself. I know it doesn't work that way, but sometimes I really wish it did. It would be a whole lot easier.

But since that's not how it works, I'm trying to institute another strategy, forcing myself into a schedule, a rhythm. I'm making a list of everything I have left to do, in order of when they're due and in order of the amount of time they take — shortest assignments to most time consuming. I find that the best way, for me anyway, to overcome the overwhelming feeling is to be able to prove to myself that I'm actually chipping away at the mountain looming in front of me. It's

easier to knockout a lot of smaller assignments in one sitting than doing a few large ones. And then you get to cross them off your to-do list, which is concrete proof that the mountain is fading away, one assignment at a time. Then you have enough weight lifted from your shoulders that you feel ready to tackle the more in-depth ones, and before you know it, you're all caught up and no longer overwhelmed.

I'm about halfway there with my current overwhelming mountain of work. Hopefully, I'll be back to a reasonable rhythm by the end of the week. And then maybe I'll start getting in the habit of being productive over breaks. Maybe just a tiny bit, because relaxing can be a good thing to combat feeling overwhelmed too.



Penguins Top Cleveland State At The Q

STORY: **JEFF BROWN** | JRBROWN02@STUDENT.YSU.EDU | PHOTO: **ALAN RODGES**

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team played solid defense and smart offense against Cleveland State University en route to a 70-55 victory at Quicken Loans Arena Sunday afternoon.

Cleveland State [7-14, 2-6 in the Horizon League] couldn't find an answer for the Penguins' zone defense. The Vikings shot 35.3 percent from the field, Cleveland State's lowest shooting percentage in the Horizon League play this season.

YSU [8-13, 3-5 in the Horizon League]

trailed 15-9 with just under nine minutes left in the first half, but the Penguins fought back going on a 26-16 run over the rest of the half to take a 35-31 lead into halftime.

The Penguins played fundamentally sound basketball from there, forcing seven turnovers in the course of the second half, while not turning the ball over once themselves.

YSU forward Matt Donlan led the charge for the Penguins with 16 points all in the first half, but sat out most of the second due to foul trouble. Donlan went 6-11 from the

floor, including 4-8 from deep.

"I thought that Matt Donlan kind of got off to a good start for us and really helped us have some confidence," YSU head coach Jerry Slocum said.

Freshmen point guard Francisco Santiago had one of his more impressive games of the season finishing with 12 points, five assists and five steals.

Santiago, a Cleveland native, said after the game he had been waiting for the opportunity to play Cleveland State because

they passed on recruiting him.

"It was super emotional. I grew up down the street. This [Cleveland State] is where I wanted to go more than anything," Santiago said. "From fifth grade on, I wanted to go to Cleveland State, and they never came to watch me play."

YSU forward Devin Haygood also had his most impressive performance of his freshman season. Coming into the game, Haygood totaled only eight points on the year, but Haygood found his groove scoring six points in only nine

minutes.

"That's nine minutes with a star by it," Slocum said. "Some huge rebounds, he guards like crazy, and went 4-4 from the foul line, and he had an offensive put back. He was really plus for us."

Cameron Morse, YSU's leading scorer, dealt with constant double teams throughout the game and was held to only 14 points, but drained clutch free throws down stretch to ensure victory.

"They had a game plan to stop him. It's good for him as young guy to see it. I think that they affected him

a little bit early," Slocum said. "I think it's a learning curve for him, and I think that was a good process of learning tonight."

YSU snapped a three-game losing streak on Sunday. Next up for the Penguins is a matchup on Thursday with the University of Illinois at Chicago.

UIC [2-17, 0-8 in the Horizon League] is in the midst of a nine-game losing streak. The Flames only wins this season have come at home against Roosevelt University and Purdue University Calumet.



Penguins, Arbanas Look For Quick Start Against Wright State

The Youngstown State University women's basketball team has hit a bit of a skid since the start of Horizon League play. The Penguins have lost three out of their last four games and the team is looking to rebound heading into the longest home stand of the season.

The first game of the four-game home stand will be against Wright State University on Thursday. Wright State [15-5, 5-2 in the Horizon League] split the series against YSU last season, with the home team winning both games.

"Wright State's a real-

ly good team — I think they were second in the league last year. They're always really athletic and they have really good players, so we definitely need to come off right from the start and have a good game," YSU shooting guard Nikki Arbanas said.

All three of the Wright State's nonconference losses have come against larger schools — the University of Miami, the University of Iowa and the University of Georgia. But the Raiders have lost back-to-back games to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Wis-

consin-Green Bay.

"They're an excellent team. They've been playing well, they lost a couple recently, but I think in the Milwaukee game, their second-best player was out with an injury and didn't play," YSU head coach John Barnes said. "Milwaukee's really hot as of late and Green Bay's a tough team. But they lead the league in scoring and they're in the top three in the league in, I think, 13 statistical categories. It's going to be a big challenge."

Barnes said the team will need to get off to a good start offensively in order for the Penguins

to get the win on Thursday. The Penguins' offense hasn't started fast all season and has experienced some consistency issues in the first several games of Horizon League schedule.

"You definitely need to have a good start against the best teams," Barnes said. "They've proven themselves night in night out for the past few years. The past few years they've been in the top of the league. You got to have a good start and you have to continue that throughout the rest of the game."

Arbanas is three 3-pointers away from

becoming the first YSU player to reach 100 career 3-point shots by her sophomore season and she would move into 15th in YSU history for career 3-point field goals.

"I think that's important for us because we definitely have a lot of 3-point shooters," Arbanas said. "And it's unfortunate when they don't fall down, but I think it is going to be something important to have at least a few of us knocking down our shots because Sarah [Cash]'s been getting double teamed lately. So if we can open things up inside for her then

we will be good to go."

Barnes and Arbanas said the team's next four games at home will be important for the Penguins' season and could impact the Penguins in the Horizon League standings heading into the final weeks of the season.

"I think having the next four games at home is definitely going to be good for us," Arbanas said. "It's never fun traveling from hotel to hotel and sleeping on the road. Regardless of where we're at, we need to have the same game plan and get it done."

Horizon League Conference Standings Women's Basketball

	School	Conference		Overall	
		W	L	W	L
1	Green Bay	7	0	17	2
2	Wright State	5	2	15	5
3	Milwaukee	5	2	11	7
4	Youngstown State	4	3	13	5
5	Detroit	4	3	8	10
6	Valparasio	4	4	8	11
7	Oakland	3	4	11	7
8	Northern Kentucky	2	5	10	8
9	Cleveland State	1	6	4	13
10	UIC	1	7	10	9

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