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STORY: **Gabrielle fellows |** *gfellows@student.ysu.edu* | PHOTOS: **Gabrielle fellows** 

Penguin Productions hosted the second annual Federal Frenzy in downtown Youngstown on Saturday. Local and international bands performed in different bars and on the outdoor stage erected on West Federal Street.

Youngstown Flea, a flea market that features local handmade art, also had a part in the Frenzy. A night market was set up next to the Covelli Centre with a performance by Roger Juntunen.

The West Federal Street was filled with Youngstown citizens, alcohol, food trucks, hula hoopers and music from 2 to 11 p.m. The event attempts to unite the city with different visual and musical arts. Twenty-five different bands and artists performed at the event.

The Jambar interviewed a multitude of the bands featured at Federal Frenzy to learn more about their music, their performances and their experience in Youngstown, among other things.

### Lili K

Lili K is a jazz/funk/r&b artist that hails from Wisconsin. She has performed at festivals like South By Southwest and Lollapalooza and has worked with artists such as Chance the Rapper, Vic Mensa and Sulaiman.

Lili and the Lili K band performed songs from her older EP's and her new album, "RUBY," at Circle Hookah & Bar as one of the first acts of Federal Frenzy.

"RUBY" is Lili K's first full-length solo album. She said she feels like making music by yourself is a lot different than collaborating with other artists, but both are enlightening in their own way.

"It's a totally different thing when

it's your baby," she said. "When you're working with other artists, evervone's feelings and influences melt together, but when it's yours, it's just a different beast."

Lili said she enjoys being able to use her talents to lift other people's moods and looks forward to performing because she knows that music can heal.

"There will be times when I'm opening for an act, and I'll see people grooving to my music even though they didn't come for me," she said. "I just want to make people feel good with my music, 'cause music can do that.'

### FreshProduce.

Brittany Benton (DJ Red-I) and Samantha Flowers (Playne Jayne) are two individuals that are passionate about music, creativity and individuality.

The two form hip-hop duo Fresh-Produce., a hip-hop group from Cleveland. The duo records, mixes and produces all of their music themselves with the help from a small group. They also make all of their own T-shirts, and run businesses on the side to keep FreshProduce. a completely self-sufficient music group.

For Federal Frenzy, FreshProduce. performed with the help of an additional DJ, DJ Candi Fresca.

The group said that they are drawn to making hip-hop music because it allows them to express themselves through a different medium.

"The appeal for us is just being ourselves and making sure people can feel what we're putting out using our music ... You know, there are certain tracks being laid out for rappers, but we lay our own tracks. We don't ask what's expected of us; we ask what we



have to express," the duo said.

As far as style, FreshProduce. said they prefer to stick with whatever they feel satisfies who they are at the moment when they create the song.

"You can save a million kids from a burning building and someone will say you didn't do it fast enough," they said. "You can never please everyone, so we're doing our stuff to satisfy our musical needs.

### JD Eicher

JD Eicher and his band have been in the Youngstown area music scene for multiple years, and with the upcoming release of their fourth album, the group plans to return to the roots that made them a household name in

"We're more moody and vibe-y, singer songwrite-y. We started to head off into the rock and pop side, but we're going back to where it started," Eicher said. "We're also dropping '& the Goodnights.' We'll still have the full band; the name was just too

long. We're simplifying [everything]. Eicher said that he and his band think that Youngstown is making a name for itself in the arts again, especially by incorporating music-based events such as Federal Frenzy into it's agenda of events.

We've seen some ebb and flow in Youngstown's music scene [since we've been a band]," Eicher said. "It's definitely on the rise, and [events] like this are getting people downtown and putting the emphasis on local music again."

### **Thaddeus Anna Greene**

This Cleveland-based rock group made their first appearance in Youngstown when they played at Suzie's Dogs and Drafts as an act in Federal Frenzy.

> FEDERAL FRENZY PAGE 6



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THE



## **Students** Research Revitalization

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

A class of economics stufrom Youngstown State University presented research to community members at last Tuesday's Economic Action Group meeting at the Youngstown Business Incubator.

AJ Sumell, assistant professor of economics at YSU, had students in his Urban and Regional Economics class work in collaboration with the Regional Economic Development Initiative. The students used surveys to gauge people's attitudes on the city's downtown.

"They just really dove into the project, and so I'm really happy with what they did and what they came up with," Sumell said.

The students surveyed a total of 455 people comprising 210 student consumers, 212 downtown patrons and 33 business owners.

The four main takeaways were that the city needs to focus on improving livability, walkability, parking and cohesive marketing.

Two major findings are that 60 percent of student respondents said they avoid

downtown because it is unsafe, and 70 percent said they would come downtown more often if parking was easier, even though their studies have shown the city's parking lots never reach capacity.

Jillian Smith, a student that participated in the project, said there is a disconnect between perception and reality on these issues.

"Crime isn't necessarily a problem," Smith said. "But the perception pervades and causes that lack of participation and engagement with the downtown area."

On the parking front, a student who presented said better signage could improve the problem.

"Maybe we can create some new signage to help direct people to that parking," the student said. "60 percent of business owners say their customers complain about parking."

Surveys also indicated that 43 percent of respondents said there weren't enough bars and restaurants downtown.

Sumell said a lot of what students think about downtown reflects past perceptions of the area.

"I think one of the most important parts is trying to change the perception and improving the marketing of downtown," Sumell said. "[Students] don't necessarily know about the progress that's been made over the past ten years - the fact that it is relatively safe and you can walk after 5 p.m. in downtown and not worry about a crime being committed or that there are all these bars and restaurants along Federal."

Drawing on the fact that 83.5 percent of people that responded said they get their information from social media, the students suggested the city hire a social media manager to get information to patrons and create a cohesive marketing approach. This would help businesses promote one another, and could theoretically draw more students downtown.

Sumell said this has the potential to be a mutually beneficial relationship, and the city's progress will be based on the ability to get YSU students more invested in the downtown community.

"It's not just the city of Youngstown that benefits but also YSU, because it makes it look like a more attractive destination," Sumell said. "Because it's not just a place you go to school and leave. It's a place where you can walk to a bar or go to a good restaurant with your friends."

Smith said she was surprised that 60 percent of businesses said they would be interested in doing collaborative marketing.

"When you think about businesses, you think 'oh there's competition between them," Smith said. "But this is one very special aspect of this community ... it's a unique thing where they are seeing the value of businesses helping each other."

She also said livability is a primary concern. She said the city is doing lots of really cool stuff that has generated some wealth, but to continue to be successful, the city needs to reinvest that wealth back into basic things, like making sure potholes are filled and street lights are working.

"I think once you lay that foundation, everything is limitless from there," Smith said. "Because that's what [residents] are confronted with day to day."

oungstown State University, introduces a research

ted by students in his Urban and Regional Economics class to community t Tuesday's Economic Action Group meeting at the Youngstown Business

Smith, who interns at the Regional Economic Development Initiative, said she and her teammates brought the idea of collaborating with the Urban and Regional Economics class to Sumell. He liked the idea of a service-learning project.

"We really wanted to use the students as the primary actors here but in doing so having their academic research actually contribute to real world issues and problems," Sumell said.

He said it's important to get students more involved in the community through their learning by doing projects that are applied and not just theoretical.

"To actually have the students look at the specific situation and look at ways to solve those problems, I think is a great thing," Sumell said.



STORY: LAUREN FOOTE | LAURENLEONALL@GMAIL.COM | PHOTO COURTESY OF: SUZANNE BHEINL

Youngstown State University played host to the second Make Youngstown event last week, a collaboration between America Makes, the Youngstown Business Incubator and YSU.

The event provides a platform for local businesses using advanced technologies to create things following the maker movement trend — including 3-D printing, 3-D scanning, interactive software, virtual reality and hydroponics.

American Makes hosted the first Make Youngstown event in 2014 with 100 people participating.

Mike Hripko, associate vice president of research at YSU, attended the event. He said it went really well.

"It was well attended by entrepreneurs and local companies," Hripko said. "The students really engaged them with good questions about starting a business and being part of he said. a company."

Hripko said they brought a corporate guest from Siemens, an engineering firm.

"He seemed really intrigued by the event," Hripko said. "He appreciated the fact that the event combines entrepreneurship, and it combines technology."

He noted that many of the companies had former YSU students working for them.

'I hope the students realized the entrepreneurial opportunities that were there and took a chance to learn from the positive role models that were there," Hripko said.

Jeff Keel, co-founder of Alios 3-D, said the event helped his business

network. 'Students like learning from us, and they are receptive to our work,

A panel discussion was held on Wednesday where local entrepreneurs and makers spoke to students from YSU and the Lewis School. The panel included Tony DeAscentis from Via680, Dan Fernback of JuggerBot 3-D and Brian Alls and Jessie Tuscano of Bravura 3D.

Rich Wetzel, additive manufacturing business coordinator for YBI, said about 30 students attended the panel and they asked good questions.

"[It] was good because they gave lessons on how to hit the ground running on business and starting a com-

pany, especially when it comes to 3-D manufacturing," Wetzel said.

He said he thought the students

enjoyed listening to actual entrepreneurs who graduated from YSU. "It was good for the students, because it teaches them that it's OK to

ask for help, especially when it comes to business," Wetzel said.

Fernback and his two partners at JuggerBot 3-D are YSU graduates, which he said helped them greatly.

'YSU is the main reason we were able to conceptualize this venture," Fernback said. "We were introduced to 3-D printers here ... They let us

play and learn." He said the panel was a lot of fun because they got to pass knowledge onto students.

"It was interesting to see how other people thought," Fernback said. "Students were receptive to it."

Fernback said he didn't know what to expect going into the event, but he really enjoyed it.

"I am looking forward to seeing this event grow, and to see what work comes out of it," Fernback said.



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## **SHORT ON CASH?**

How would you like to earn extra money before your day starts at YSU?

The Jambar is seeking a dependable student with their own transportation to deliver the paper Thursday mornings - no later than 8:15 a.m. - to various locations starting fall semester. Delivery will consist of no more than 12 stops within two hours.

Great opportunity to earn extra money.

Contact Mary Dota 330-941-3094 mfdota@ysu.edu

# YO!

YO Magazine, The Jambar's semesterly features publication, is looking for YSU students to contribute. If you're interested in writing, send an email to: yomagazine2@gmail.com.



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## **NEWS BRIEFS**

## End of the Semester Cookies and Refreshments

Take a break from your studies and to stop by and enjoy a treat! From May 1 to May 3, the Student Government Association will once again present Cookies and Refreshments during Finals Week at Maag Library. From 10 p.m. to midnight, SGA will provide cookies and refreshments on Maag's main floor.

### Financial Aid Leads Student Loan Workshop

Students who want to learn about how to best manage their loan debt are encouraged to attend a workshop at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 28 on the campus of Youngstown State University. Topics covered will include student loan repayment plans, loan forgiveness programs and borrower rights and responsibilities. For more information, please contact Cindy Maldonado at 330-941-3398 or Susan Sahli at 330-941-2374.

## 'Stand Against Racism' Event Friday on Campus

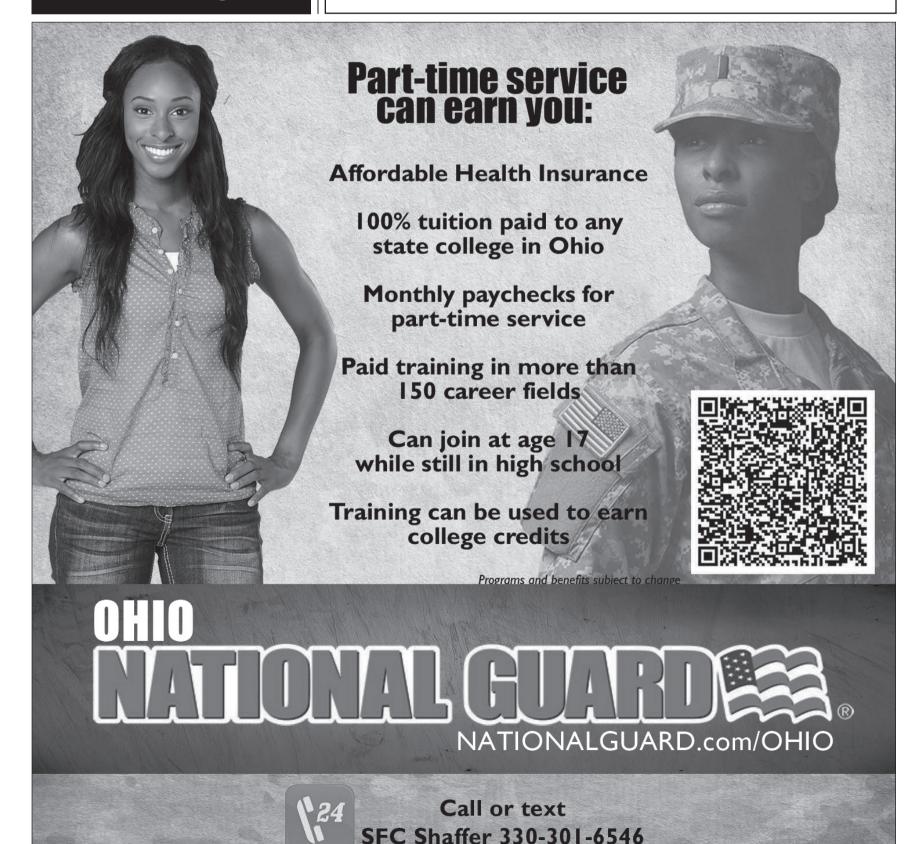
Stand Against Racism, sponsored by the YWCA of Youngstown, will be from 9 to 11 a.m. Friday, April 29, at the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center on the campus of Youngstown State University. The event, "United We Stand, Divided We Have Been: Building Community," is free and open to the public. For more information please call 330-746-6361, Ext. 112.



THE YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY CHAPTER
OF THE HONOR SOCIETY OF PHI KAPPA PHI
(CHAPTER 143) EXTENDS OUR CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR SPRING AND SUMMER GRADUATES!

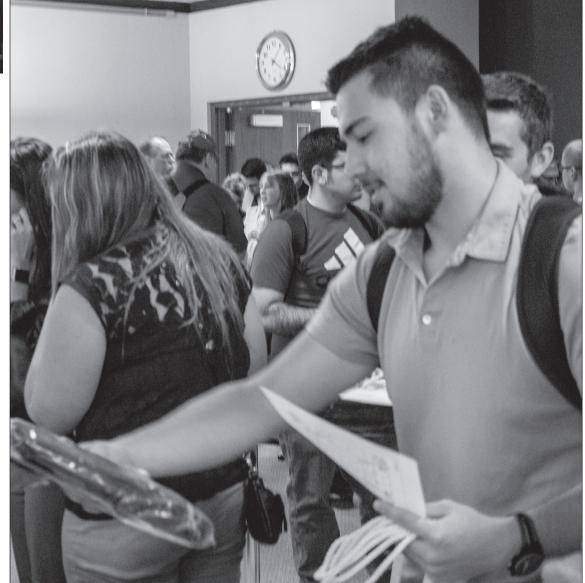
WE CONGRATULATE ALL OF YSU'S SPRING AND SUMMER GRADUATES!

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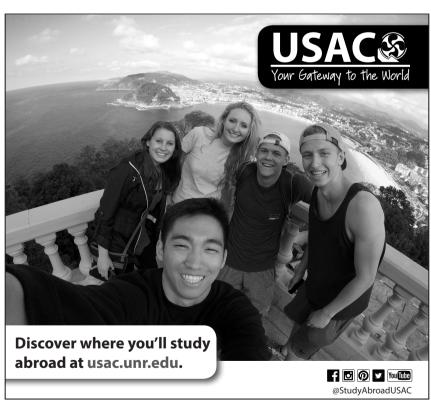




Graduating seniors will make their final preparations before finishing their undergraduate education at Youngstown State University. A line of seniors snakes through and around the Schwebel Lounge in Kilcawley Center as soon-to-be-graduates — like STEM major Joshua Coleman(right) — collect their chords and gowns. Down the hall in the Ohio Room, the Student Government Association adjourns their final meeting of the semester. SGA President Ashley Orr and other graduating seniors say their good by es. Sean Meditz, (above) SGA vice president of student affairs, picks up his student government graduation cords from SGA chief of staff Jordan Edgell shortly after the meeting.







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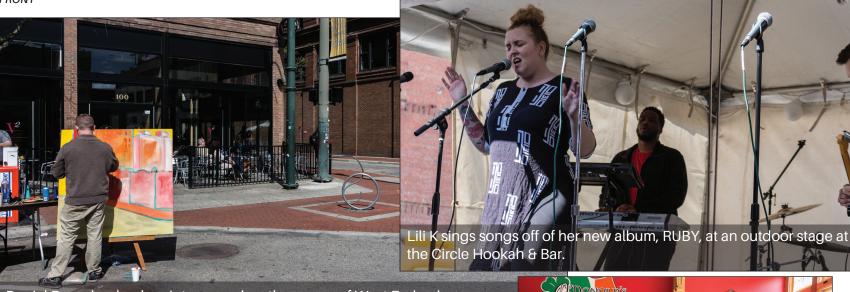
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....330.941.2322 PHONE ..... ...330.941.1991 FEDERAL FRENZY **FRONT** 



Daniel Rauschenbach paints a mural on the corner of West Federal and Phelps streets during the afternoon of Federal Frenzy.



Cleveland-based hip-hop duo FreshProduce. perform original songs at O'Donalds in downtown Youngstown.

The band has two albums out currently, "Don't Look" and "Directory of Thieves." Their third album, "Bleed" is anticipated to come out in either summer or fall of this year.

"We have high aspirations for releasing this shit for free. You notice how rappers get these huge fan bases because their music is free and their fans go ham at shows," TJ Maclin, the band's lead vocalist and guitarist, said. "We want that. If we release this for free and it's more than beats and words, we're thinking it'll be something good."

Maclin, Ryan Augusta (guitar, vocals), Matt DeRubertis (bass) and Anthony Foti (drums, vocals) like to spend their down time expressing their unique talents and socializing with show-goers.

Maclin spends his spare time watching Netflix and putting his hands in various music projects in the Cleveland area. Foti is an award-winning barista and according to the

group, he can make a stellar latte.

Thaddeus Anna Greene said they enjoyed playing in Youngstown and are looking to return to the area for more shows soon.

#### Sam Goodwill

Sam Goodwill is a Youngstown group that has influences of rock and the singer/songwriter genre. After the Federal Frenzy show, Sam Buonavolonta (the lead vocals) and Bob Young (percussion) are heading to open for Viking Moses in Europe.

"[I met] Viking Moses through a friend of a friend. It was awhile ago, around 2009," Buonavolonta said. "I'm leaving Wednesday morning. We're driving to New York — JFK all that day, and then we're flying out at 6:30."

The band played on West Federal Street and opened up for Vinyl Theatre and Reel Big Fish.

#### **Reel Big Fish**

The headliner of this year's Federal Frenzy was international ska band, Reel Big Fish.

The band recently finished up their 25th anniversary tour and made a stop in Youngstown before flying back to their homes.

Even though the band has been playing music for 25 years, the group said that they don't ever get tired of performing.

"Everyone in the band likes to make other people dance and have a good time. How can you get so sick of playing songs that people love?" Aaron Barrett, the lead singer, said. "You can't look at people going nuts and not love it.'

Matt Appleton, saxophonist of the group, said that in his years of performing in the band, he and the group have seen fans do some really crazy things during concerts.

"Someone jumped from a balcony

[when we played a show] in London. It was a really nice theater with a third row balcony. The first dude did it successfully - they were actively communicating so it worked," Appleton said. "The second person went immediately after and just — plop. It stopped the show for a long time."

Reel Big Fish played at 9:30 in the middle of West Federal Street on the main stage. People crowded next to each other, danced and drank until the act ended at 11 p.m.

Appleton said he thought the variety of acts brought in was diverse and the groups were interesting.

"There's a lot of trippy-ass bands out there [performing] — it's really cool," Appleton said.

Penguin Productions is planning on hosting the third Federal Frenzy event in 2017.

## Spring BFA Exhibition Opens at McDonough

STORY: AMANDA LEHNERD | Arlehnerd@gmail.com PHOTO: AMANDA LEHNERD

A crowd gathered Friday night at the John J. McDonough Museum of Art to view the work of 14 students achieving completion of the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

The Youngstown State University spring Graduation BFA Exhibition opened at the McDonough Museum of Art Friday.

Students in the department of art worked closely with nationally and internationally known faculty engaged in art and design practices during their time at YSU. Students were able to take advantage of the professional studio and design programs.

Nicolette Soltis, a student featured in the BFA Exhibition, has been choosing pieces for her series since she started as a graphic design major.

"My work I have displayed is from multiple different design courses from over the years," Soltis said. "My senior project adviser and I hand selected my best work from all of the projects I had."

The works presented in the exhibition are a variety of artistic mediums. The gallery displays work from the students in the areas of graphic and interactive design, painting, printmaking, photography and interdisciplinary studies.

Students have been working on the art for the exhibition since as early as their first design or art class.

Dani Beaumier, a graduating senior photography major featured in the exhibition, made a series of envi-

ronmental portraits of gamers. "I have been working on this series intensely for the past seven months," Beaumier said. "Each image takes around 30 minutes to shoot and around two hours to process. Mounting and printing is a 30 minute process, which is three hours an image. I have 50 displayed, which is around 150 hours spent on this project creat-

Austin Richter, a graphic and interactive design major, whose series features primarily print and graphic design pieces, feels the exhibition is

the highlight of his career at YSU. "To me this is the pinnacle of my career here at YSU. It demonstrates me in a very physical and visual way. All that I have accomplished and learned over the last four years," Richter said. "I also love that we are given the opportunity to show our peers and our loved ones, who have supported and encouraged me through my entire education at YSU."

Leslie Brothers, the director of the McDonough Museum of Art, feels the exhibition is a great place for students to share their work with others in the community.

"The senior show is a great opportunity to check out the exciting experimental innovative work students are producing in the department of art, Brothers said.

The Graduation BFA Exhibition



will remain on view in the Museum's gallery until May 6. The hours for the McDonough Museum of Art are Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Museum is open to the public and admission is free.

Student featured in the Graduation BFA Exhibition are Dani Beaumier, Nicole Emery, Gwenasia Gadsden, Amanda Gerber, Chauncey Hay, Jackie Lalama, Ashley Perri, Kaitlyn Pfahl, Austin Richter, Heather Seno, Nicolette Soltis, Jennifer Sullivan, David Tamulonis and Chelsea Woods.

YO Magazine, The Jambar's semesterly features publication, is looking for YSU students to contribute. If you're interested in writing, send an email to: yomagazine2@gmail.com.

## **EDITORIAL**

## All for One

People swarmed downtown this weekend for Penguin Production's second annual Federal Frenzy— a celebration of the visual and musical arts in Youngstown and the surrounding areas.

Attendance compared to last year seems to have grown by leaps and bounds. Friends Roastery and Circle Hookah Bar played host to bands in addition to The Federal, Suzie's Dogs and Drafts and O'Donold's Irish Pub, all of which participated

last year.

Last year, the acts started early in the day, around 2 p.m. and played to empty streets. This year, people were there early and by 7 p.m. Federal Street was filled with people of all ages.

It was a great example of what Youngstown and its citizens are capable of when people come out to celebrate together.

Youngstown State University and the city in general are beginning to work together planning events and are seeing more success with them.

The Student Literary Art Association, the YSU chapter of Alpha Psi Omega and the Student Government Association joined forces to collaborate for content and to launch the new edition of "Jenny Magazine" at the SOAP gallery.

We're a small city — our population is only around 65,000 according to the 2013 Census. For something to work, we have to come togeth-

er to create events.

In a big city like Cleveland or Pitts-burgh, both with populations between 300,000-400,000 people, a fraction of the city can show up at an event, and the event will still be successful because they're pulling from a larger pool of people. In Youngstown, we don't have that luxury.

Last month, two art galleries decided that instead of competing, they would work together. M Gallery and the SOAP gallery held openings on the same night. They billed the event as an art hop. Lots of people braved the rain and visited both galleries. Youngstown Cinema held a screening following the openings and nearly every seat was filled.

These events prove that when people work together within the city or within the university, great stuff can come to fruition.

If people want Youngstown to become a better place to live and have fun in, working together on events like Federal Frenzy and the art hop will help. When we can bring several audiences to the city at the same time, it creates a critical mass and the city comes to life.

More concerts, art shows and bars will start to see Youngstown as a place where people get excited about coming out to events. We just need to take an active role and work together to make things happen. Spread the word.

## **Movie Review:**

## 'Sky' Follows Woman's Chance at a New Beginning

STORY: MOIRA MACDONALD / THE SEATTLE TIMES

French filmmaker Fabienne Berthaud ("Frankie," "Lily Sometimes") plays with our expectations in her third feature, "Sky" — early on, you realize with a jolt that you're watching what seems to be a remake of "Psycho."

A lovely blond French woman, Romy (Diane Kruger, who's starred in all of Berthaud's films), goes on the run after committing a terrible act while on holiday with her husband (Gilles Lellouche) in the American Southwest. Buying a cheap used car, she drives at night, uneasily eyeing the darkness outside. As she checks into a highway motel, its mildly creepy proprietor offers her a quiet room away from the road; you want to warn her to stay away from the shower.

But "Sky," despite its Hitchcockian beginning, is no thriller; instead, it's a character study of a woman seeking a second act, and of a landscape that gradually transforms from foreign to welcoming. Though the situation that caused Romy to flee is soon resolved, she's struggling with a larger issue — how to leave her husband of eight years and start again in a strange land. With little money and

only enough belongings to fit in one shoulder bag, Romy begins a life of drifting, and "Sky" becomes a series of temporary places to stay and, maybe, temporary people to love.

She's trying on a new life for size, like the cowboy hat she playfully dons

Beautifully shot by cinematographer Nathalie Durand, "Sky" blooms with, well, skies, in every possible variant: blood-orange sunsets, pale-indigo mornings, vivid blue afternoons dappled with clouds that look like pebbles on a beach. The setting transforms Romy, as does an

unexpectedly passionate relationship with a fellow troubled soul (Norman Reedus); she looks, by the end, as if she's breathing different air.

All roads, it turns out, lead to home.

3 out of 4 stars

Cast: Diane Kruger, Norman Reedus, Gilles Lellouche, Lena Dunham, O'orianka Kilcher.

Directed by Fabienne Berthaud, from a screenplay by Berthaud and Pascal Arnold.

103 minutes. In French and English, with En-

glish subtitles where necessary.

## **GUEST COLUMN**

## YSU's Brain Drain:

## The Dangers in Reducing Quantity

CONTRIBUTOR: PROFESSOR MICHAEL JERRYSON

Youngstown State University is facing a subtle but deadly attack on its academic integrity: Top-tier professors are leaving the university for greener pastures.

It is an age-old academic practice to court strong professors and to woo them to other universities. Harvard University is notorious for inviting professors to give guest talks, but surreptitiously treating the talks as a way to vet potential candidates. During the recent recession, academics took a turn for the worse. Endowments declined and higher educational institutions had to let go of faculty, at times, entire departments.

This recent economic recession created a unique period in which colleges and universities could select from applicant stronger pools. While this golden period has ended, the benefits have not gone away. Professors provide name-recognition to their universities through their talks, publications and international service. Many colleges and universities netted excellent professors at lower salaries and higher workloads. The challenge is

to hold on to them.

One recent university that has lost faculty recently is the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Wisconsin's flagship university lost credibility due to an attack on their tenure system in 2015. A sizeable amount of their faculty left for other universities, and this led to the university investing over \$9 million dollars to "plug the leak."

#### Bringing it Home: YSU, Budgets and Faculty

An issue that has plagued some colleges and universities is the loss of revenue. States have placed less tax money into higher education, which has led to a rise in tuition costs. The rise in tuition, coupled with changes in student demographics, deeply impacts a university's revenue source.

Northeast Ohio's population is shrinking. Only last year, Cleveland's Cuyahoga County was second in the nation for population loss. For public universities like YSU that draw largely from the region, this makes financial solvency all the more challenging.

It is unavoidable that YSU will have to adjust its faculty size to fit its student enrollment in the years to come. The administration has addressed this over the last several years. For example, the denial of

replacements for many

faculty positions in which professors have retired or left. The challenge is to reduce lines, but not lose the strongest professors in the process. So far, YSU has failed to do so.

At the close of the spring 2016 semester, the university is losing several strong faculty. Deborah Mower is leaving YSU for an endowed position at the University of Mississippi. In addition to her many publications, Mower is the president of the Society of Ethics across Curriculum (SEAC) and the recent recipient of a prestigious NEH grant. Helene Sinnreich is leaving YSU for the University of Tennessee. Along with her publications. many Sinnreich is the editor of the "Journal of Jewish Identities" and the executive director of the Ohio Council for Holocaust education. The loss of these faculty members is substantial, not only for their departments, YSU students or the campus at large, but for the community.

#### Faculty and Higher Education

In the world of industries, professors "produce" knowledge. They do this through teaching, research and scholarship. The more knowledge a profes-

sor accrues, the more effective he or she becomes as an instructor and scholar. A professor who is president of an academic organization and recipient of an NEH grant brings a wealth of knowledge into the classroom. Students benefit from learning from an expert in the field. Likewise, if a professor is an editor of a journal, he or she is privy to cutting-edge research and publications in her or his field. They are able to assign new publications in their classes, discussing the

latest theories and data. conversations with YSU administrators, I have heard the argument that YSU can "replace" any professor. This may be true, but the buyers' market is not the same as it once was. Moreover, the overall package YSU offers candidates is not what it used to be (particularly, a loss in benefits and increase in teaching loads).

If YSU wishes to preserve the quality of education it currently offers, the administration needs to "plug the leak." It is one thing to pare down a faculty size to address the changes in student enrollment. It is another to weaken the overall academic value that YSU can provide to

its students.



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Youngstown State University second baseman Billy Salem (18) runs out of the batter's box after a bunt attempt. His teammate Gerrad Rohan (31) begins his swing during YSU's home opener against Milwaukee.

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

For the past couple years, Gerrad Rohan and Billy Salem have been roommates. Both were members of the University of Akron baseball team.

After the Zips dissolved their baseball program, the pair needed new universities to continue their baseball careers. Luckily, both were able to find a new home with the Youngstown State University baseball team.

Before the 2016 season started, Salem had a choice to make. He had offers from other higher profile universities, but Salem toured YSU with head coach Steve Gillispie and decided to commit over the summer.

"I talked to UCONN [University of Connecticut], Northwestern a little bit and some smaller schools," Salem said. "Ultimately, this was the right fit for me, and I'm happy I made the de-

cision I made to come here. "It was a good fit. From the time I talked to coach Gillispie and coach Smallcomb, I just fell in love with the way they handled their business, the way they talked to me and they came at me in the right way. Once I got on campus I fell in love with the school, and I haven't regretted it since the guvs here are awesome and the

coaches are good." Salem took his visit with Rohan and Gillispie. They both decided that if their academics successfully transferred from Akron, they would both attend YSU for their final season of baseball.

"I was in Connecticut. I flew home, and he came on a visit with me," Rohan said. "Him [Salem], coach G [Gillispie] and I toured campus, toured the field, and we sat down and talked about it. We decided if our schooling and everything transfers over, this would be a good fit for us."

Rohan said the two have developed a connection after playing with each other for the past three seasons. Rohan said the two have spent time training at the Watson and Tressel Training Site, putting in extra time in the batting cages.

Both Akron transfers have played off for the Penguins so far this season and have been some of the more consistent bats in the middle of the YSU

Salem is fifth on the team with a .250 batting average this season and third on the team in stolen bases. Rohan is first with a .278 batting average, third with 14 RBIs and fourth with .336 on-base percentage.

Salem said it's easier to transfer and play baseball at another university as opposed to other sports.

"I've been playing the game since I was 4-years-old. It doesn't change based on your uniform," Salem said. "You still got to play the game the right way. You got to love the game, respect the game. The coaching staff



falls right in line with what I was looking for. That made it easier.

"I thought 'G' [Rohan] and the guys are real cool. They kinda became my family again. That happened in the fall, so it was easier coming out here in the spring and play for the guys next to you and the coaching staff."

After rooming together at Akron, Salem is still living with Rohan. Both agreed that transferring to another university is an easier transition when you have a teammate attending the same school.

Salem said the YSU players are "a

lot like the Akron guys," and he's built a connection with them before the season began.

"The transition's easier when that happens. This has probably been our third year rooming together," Salem said. "There was no buffer there really. We kinda came together, and it worked out that we both liked the school. Obviously we get to live together, and it made the transition much easier when you have someone you're comfortable with there with you."

# **PERSPECTIVE**

## PRESS BOX Just Shut Up Schilling

STORY: DAN HINER | DHINERJR@GMAIL.COM

Well I didn't think I'd say this again, but former pitcher and baseball analyst Curt Schilling put his foot in his mouth.

The former World Series champion has been fired from ESPN after he shared a post on Facebook with a overweight man in a blonde wig with a T-shirt that read, "LET HIM IN! to the restroom with your daughter or else you're a narrow-minded, judgmental, unloving racist bigot who needs to

As if that wasn't bad enough, Schilling added, "A man is a man no matter what they call themselves. I don't care what they are, who they sleep with. Men's rooms were designed for the penis, women's not so much. Now you need laws telling us differ-

ently? Pathetic.' As you would expect, people were outraged at the blatant narrow-mindedness of the former MLB star, and then Schilling finally got what was coming

"ESPN is an inclusive company," ESPN said when they released a statement. "Curt Schilling has been advised that his conduct was unacceptable, and his employment with ESPN has been terminated.

So in response to his firing, Schilling took to Twitter to fight for his right to free speech in a discussion with Los Angeles Dodgers' pitcher Bran-

don McCarthy. Even in a civilized discussion with another professional athlete, he still said transgender bathroom laws allowed transgender people to use the

bathroom of their choice and said "perverts" and

"scum" now have the opportunity to molest women and children.

McCarthy replied with "What is stopping any pervert from already going into a bathroom not designated for them and doing what they want? Nothing.

Schilling responded with, "Oh sorry. Just assumed scum like that would take advantage of laws that gave them easier access to women and chil-

Everyone is entitled to his or her opinion, but the big question is why the hell do people keep giving this man an opportunity to make a fool of himself?

Someone outside of ESPN had to say something to Schilling. This isn't a new discussion. The LGBTQ community has been fighting for respect

The only reason Schilling had the opportunity to share this post was due to a North Carolina law that requires members of the public to use the bathrooms based on their biological gender.

This isn't the first time Schilling himself laughed in the face of political correctness — if it was, this

piece wouldn't be published. In August, Schilling tweeted a picture of Adolf Hitler with the text "It's said only 5-10 percent of Muslims are extremists" and "In 1940, only 7 percent of Germans were Nazis. How'd that go?

Well, how did THAT go Curt? Again the public demanded ESPN reprimand Schilling, who was calling the Little League World Series at the time. He was later taken off his assignment for the social media debacle, and ESPN told Schilling to watch what he's saying while employed with them.

Legally, it doesn't matter what he says on social media or during postseason interviews, as long as his contract doesn't say otherwise. But when your employer tells you to watch what you say, maybe you should listen.

This should serve as an example of how to voice your opinion. Some thoughts should be kept private, and if you want to discuss a sensitive topic, you should find a way to have an educated discus-

Schilling, I hope you learned a valuable lesson from your firing. Despite the openness of today's society in regards to social media, you should learn the importance of basic respect towards other peo-

Granted, that should have been a lesson learned a long time ago. There's a fine line between having an opinion that you are trying to voice, and coming off as an insufferable ass — especially if you are a public figure.

My advice to Schilling; delete your social media accounts and ride off into the sunset. The public will eventually forget everything you said, but trying to defend yourself is only making it worse.

It's amazing that a man who spent his entire life learning how to throw a nine-inch baseball and take control of a baseball game still can't find a way of controlling his mouth.