

THE JAMBAR

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Community Leaders Discuss Positive Developments Within the City

T. Sharon Woodberry, Youngstown's director of community planning and economic development, answers questions from the community at Wednesday night's town hall meeting at the McDonough Museum of Art. Also pictured (R-L): Dominic Marchionda of YSU's Regional Economic Development Initiative, 4th Ward Councilman Mike Ray, 2nd Ward Councilman T.J. Rodgers and Ian Beniston, executive director of Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation.

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

Youngstown City Council brought community leaders from across the city to the McDonough Museum of Art on Youngstown State University's campus Wednesday night to talk about the positive things they're doing.

The first citywide town hall meeting featured all seven members of the city council, Mayor John McNally and seven other featured speakers.

First Ward Councilman Julius Oliver and Seventh Ward Councilwoman Basia Adamczak introduced the event.

"We feel it's really important to come together as a city and as a council," Adamczak said.

McNally was the first featured speaker and, following a rendition of Happy Birthday complete with cake and candles, talked about infrastructure repairs coming to many parts of the city.

He discussed the improvements coming to Wick and Lincoln Avenues, as well as several resurfacing and ADA compliance efforts on McCartney Road, South Avenue and Meridian Road.

"It's going to be a hassle," McNally said. "But it's a good hassle because this means progress."

He also mentioned that the city would return to in-house garbage collection beginning Monday.

T. Sharon Woodberry, director of community planning and economic development, explained the function of her office to attendees and outlined a few big projects on which they're currently working.

These include a local corporation that will potentially invest in Wick Avenue, demolitions of the Wick Six car dealerships north of McCartney Road and also bringing someone into the former Bottom

Dollar Grocery store on Glenwood Avenue.

"It's something we believe is going to have a significant impact on the area and provide a valuable service," Woodberry said, while noting that they tried to attract a grocery store to replace Bottom Dollar.

She said every year city departments get a little leaner and need to collaborate more, but they're working hard to do what they can.

Robin Lees, Youngstown's chief of police, talked about the community policing unit that was launched last year. Lees said bringing community policing back was one of the first things he wanted to do when he came into office.

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Unity in the Comm.Unity

STORY: JEFFREY BASH | JMBASH@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

PHOTO: JEFFREY BASH

The Unity Community Foundation, known as Comm.Unity, is a new organization coming in July that aims to provide counseling, education and organization for LGBTQ individuals in Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties.

Tim Bortner, current president of YSUnity, created the program with Marnie Cram, a master's student in Health Counseling with a concern for the LGBTQ community.

"It's important to note that our new Foundation is completely separate from YSUnity. Where YSUnity is a program for students here at YSU, our foundation will be based on helping the community as a whole," Bortner said. "With our foundation we are working with the Mental Health Board of the State of Ohio to make sure we meet all qualifications

the state has set forward for our organization."

The group is currently reaching out to politicians, community leaders and rights advocates to help bring a more organized approach for education and mental health resources.

"It's really a huge project, I wasn't aware of how much it would actually grow," Bortner said. "We only publically launched two months ago, and now we already have mental health people in the community reaching out to us."



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From left to right; President of YSUnity and co-creator of the Unity Comm.Unity foundation Tim Bortner, co-creator Marnie Cram and co-creator Emily Coelho.



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New Associate Provost Brings Global Vision to Campus

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



Nathan Myers was appointed as the new associate provost of international and global initiatives by the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees during their March meeting.

YSU Provost Martin Abraham said Myers' presence has already been felt on campus.

"We are moving forward on a number of initiatives that he is getting his arms around," Abraham said. "We're excited about the types of things he will bring, the connections he has and the opportunities that he will offer for our YSU students."

Myers said he wants to increase enrollment of international students at YSU and make it easier for domestic students to study abroad.

"We have great programs at a nice price," Myers said. "I want to pull together a team to

market these programs more effectively."

YSU President Jim Tressel frequently mentions growing the international student population at YSU as a goal. He said they're excited about Myers' ideas.

"His initiatives will be great for our students and our entire campus community," Tressel said. "It would be great for our domestic students to live in a world that's more like the big world they'll face when they [graduate]."

Right now, only 400 of more than 12,000 YSU students are international. Myers said he would like to triple that number.

"I think it's reasonable to have 10 percent of the student body be international," he said. "We have some work to do."

Right now, around 140 students study abroad each year. Myers said the problem is

that the opportunities are not universal.

"Some students in some colleges ... don't have that path to study abroad," Myers said. "We're not offering a program specifically for every student at YSU, and that's a goal."

Myers said he is concerned that the university only has nine students from China, so one focus will be building on the trip YSU officials took last fall and recruiting more Chinese students.

"[The trip] was very important because we sent key decision makers who were able to make contacts to basically establish the seeds of joint programs," Myers said.

Myers said he sees advertising YSU's programs to international students as a major component of his plan to increase international enrollment. Establishing connections

overseas would help accomplish that goal. He said Kent State University has two employees working in China to represent their school. YSU doesn't have any.

Myers said he intends to recruit in Bangladesh later this year. He compared it to fishing in a small pond because it's a market many universities ignore.

"We're also looking at some other areas, maybe in the spring we're looking at Iran," Myers said. "I think with a university like YSU we have to work harder than other people, but we also have to work smarter ... there's still space in some of the emerging markets."

Myers served as the executive director of international programs at Ashland University

prior to his arrival at YSU. During that time, he helped Ashland establish a program to bring in 85 international students every summer, played a role in the university — obtaining CEA accreditation for their English language institute — and created an ambassadors program.

The program incentivized high school students to help international students for two hours a week by offering to deposit \$500 into an account each semester that can be used to study abroad.

"If you're an ambassador for your freshman and sophomore year, you have \$2,000," Myers said. "You can use that money anyway you want as long as you ... study abroad. People

loved it."

He said the ambassadors helped solve critical problems for students who were in the country for the first time, helping them to grow accustomed to life in the U.S. It also helped them prepare for studying abroad.

Myers said YSU needs to improve fundraising strategies so they can provide monetary support to students who travel overseas. There is currently a small scholarship, but Myers said it's not enough.

"They need someone to aggressively create new programs and aggressively find ways to support students financially to enable more students to do it," he said.

Donald Trump's Foreign Policy: America First

STORY: WILLIAM DOUGLAS & LESLEY CLARK / MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's vision for America's place in the world, spelled out in a rare policy speech Wednesday, offered a gauzy overview that left even some favorable to his campaign calling for more specificity.

Trump says as president he'd put "America first" when it comes to foreign policy. He'd bolster defense spending and push U.S. allies to spend more money on defending themselves — or let them fend for themselves.

Combating Islamic State militants? A priority — but his plans are secret. "We must as a nation be more unpredictable," the Republican presidential front-runner said Wednesday, promising a surprise attack and quick finish to the terrorist group as he delivered the first foreign policy address of his unorthodox campaign.

The calls for more details began with his embracing "America First," a phrase that harkens back to aviator Charles Lindbergh and his leadership of the political party that championed American isolationism on the eve of

World War II.

"Put America first,' we could put some more meat on that bone on what that means," said Donald Smith, a member of the Center for National Interest, which hosted Trump's talk.

Smith said he wanted more foreign policy specifics on NATO — which Trump has called "obsolete."

Yet Smith said U.S. allies wouldn't "suffer from his policies at all. Our enemies might suffer a little more, not our allies."

Trump's campaign in recent weeks has sought to make overtures to the Republican establishment ahead of what could be a contested convention this summer in Cleveland. And the speech sought to give Trump the imprimatur of president. He even used a teleprompter to deliver prepared remarks with little of the bombast that marks a Trump campaign speech, but for a reference to his campaign slogan.

He largely shied away from his prior attacks against George W. Bush's handling of the Iraq war, instead aiming to place the blame for tur-

moil in the Middle East squarely on President Barack Obama — and his first term Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton.

"The legacy of the Obama-Clinton interventions will be weakness, confusion and disarray, a mess," he said.

Trump's speech appeared to be aimed not so much at allaying fears among the conservative foreign policy community that has been alarmed by some of his policy proposals, as it was to voters wary of U.S. spending and involvement abroad, many of whom have driven the brash real estate magnate to victory.

He assailed U.S. allies for not putting up enough money for their security and he bashed trade deals that he said had bled jobs from the U.S. — a familiar refrain for attendees at Trump campaign events.

"It was definitely an attempt at a coherent strategy, but it has these contradictions that are not resolved and that doesn't help elucidate how he would actually manage," Kathleen Hicks, director of the International Security Program at the Center for

Strategic and International Studies said of Trump's speech. "He seems to point to a desire to say 'Just trust me and trust my principles,' I will learn the facts and do what's right."

Foreign policy experts said they found much of it a morass.

"There were four speeches in there: there was the speech that Charles Lindbergh gave before the faithful in 1933; there was the speech that Ronald Reagan might have given, briefly, in 1979; there was a speech that Bernie Sanders might have given last week; and there was a Donald Trump speech," said Danielle Pletka, senior vice president for foreign and defense policy studies at the center-right American Enterprise Institute.

"He's all over the map. 'We need to save the Christians, but we need to stay out of the Middle East. We need to stop ISIS from making money off Libyan oil by bombing and blockading, but Hillary Clinton made a mistake by going into Libya and not nation-building.' What?"

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PNC REACHES OUT TO YSU STUDENTS

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

Earlier this semester, Youngstown State University finalized an agreement with PNC Bank to provide banking services on campus. The Jambar spoke to Liz Ferrilli, relationship manager for PNC's University Banking division, and YSU Bursar Gloria Kobus about what the agreement means for students.

PNC has installed two ATM machines on campus for students one in Kilcawley Center and another on the Stavich Bridge outside of Meshel Hall. But a major aspect of the agreement revolves around financial literacy training for both students and staff.

Ferrilli said this will begin in the fall as students move into residence halls.

"We're going to have conversations with students when they first come to campus," she said. "So they can feel very comfortable about managing their money while they're away from home."

They are also scheduling lunch and learn sessions for faculty and staff this summer. Kobus will be

working with PNC on these initiatives.

"We're busy developing a calendar for employees and students, so PNC can be present and at the disposal of our employees and students," Kobus said.

Ferrilli said PNC trains branch employees to speak on 12 different topics relating to financial literacy, and they will schedule presentations on campus throughout the year. The presentations range from introductions to banking in the U.S. for international students to programs geared towards seniors who are going to be graduating and entering the wider world.

While the ATM in Kilcawley Center allows for PNC customers to deposit cash and checks as well as make withdrawals, the future could include a potential e-office, which is something PNC has at Kent State University.

"We generally have e-offices on campuses where we don't necessarily have a branch nearby or that there's a large resident-student population," Ferrilli said.

"It's possible in the future that if there was a significant portion of students living on campus that we would explore having an e-office."

Until more students live on campus, Kobus said she is striving to create a shuttle route that would take students to PNC's downtown office on Federal Street.

The new ATM machines still charge service fees for students who are not PNC customers, possibly in addition to service fees charged by the student's own bank.

Ferrilli said PNC became involved with university banking in the '90s because they see students as "attractive young consumers."

"If you get a college education, you're going to hopefully have a great job down the road," Ferrilli said. "Our goal is to develop a long term relationship with these students and see them through their major financial milestones."

Additional reporting by Gabrielle Fellows.

NEWS BRIEFS

'Bach and Before' Concert this week Features Chatham Baroque

The Dana School of Music will be presenting "Chatham Baroque," a Pittsburgh based trio. The concert is titled "Bach & Before" and will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 29 at St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Avenue, Youngstown. It is free and open to the public. There will be a pre-concert lecture starting at 7 p.m. presented by Randall Goldberg, a Dana Faculty member. There will be parking available in the Wick Avenue deck for a nominal fee or limited spots in the St. John's parking lot. For more information, call 330-941-2307.

YSU Pins, Who's Who, Presidential Mentors, Others Honored at Annual Student Awards Banquet

Youngstown State University's annual Students Awards Banquet is April 28 at 6 p.m. in the Chestnut Room in the Kilcawley Center. At the banquet, there for numerous students, student organizations and support staff members honored. The event is sponsored by Student Government and Student Affairs.



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DEVELOPMENTS FRONT

He said they're developing a new path for the unit rather than relying on models from other cities.

"There was a disconnect between the needs of some of the neighborhoods and the community policing unit," Lees said.

He said the unit's officers — one assigned to each ward — work with council on a day-to-day basis to address problems across the city. They recently started working with the department of justice to provide training to the officers to help them meet the needs of the communities in which they work.

Guy Burney, coordinator of the Community Initiative to Reduce Violence, opened by talking about an experience he had recently.

"Last Thursday I sat in city council chambers with 18 gang members," Burney said.

He said he told them the violence in the city has to stop, but if they want to change their lives CIRV will help them.

CIRV is scheduled to hold a Re-entry Hope Conference at YSU on May 13. In addition to helping reduce violence, the organization also helps people re-enter society following incarceration.

Ian Beniston, executive director of the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation, talked about the many efforts his organization is involved in across the city, including neighborhood planning and housing and lending programs.

"In some places in the city, the challenges we have are immense, so we really do have to just chip away to make progress," Beniston said.

He also said they work on healthy food access and drew attention to a double up program that allows those receiving food stamps to get double their value when they use them at farmers markets.

Abby Beniston, the city's code enforcement and blight remediation superintendent, reported that her department recently completed a survey of vacant homes in coordination with YNDC.

"We have a large number of out-of-town, out-of-state and out-of-country owners that need to be held accountable and fix their properties," Beniston said.

She informed residents about demolition efforts, grass-cutting services, a foreclosure bond program and the department's dedication to improving quality of life in the city of Youngstown.

Rebecca Soldan, an Americorps VISTA working with Strong Cities Strong Communities, spoke about the Taft Promise Neighborhood, which ties many of the efforts across the city together.

She said they chose the Taft School neighborhood because it has the largest number of children attending school living in the same neighborhood as the school. They worked with the community to develop a plan.

"We didn't want to come into the neighborhood and make plans without talking to the people that live there," Soldan said.

She said they have a United Way leading an education council, YNDC working with a neighborhood council. They also have a business council to improve employment and a health and wellness council that helps with physical and mental health issues as well as drug addiction.

They are scheduled to hold a block party on May 21 to introduce the effort to the community.

"The idea is that this will be able to be replicated in different neighborhoods throughout the city," Soldan said.

Dominic Marchionda also spoke to the community about the ongoing efforts of YSU's Regional Economic Development Initiative and Jennifer Jones of Green Youngstown spoke about recycling efforts, disposing of hazardous materials and services they offer to help residents adopt vacant lots in their neighborhoods.

Following the presentations, the panelists and city council fielded questions from attendees.

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COMMUNITY FRONT

Cram, a case manager in Trumbull county, said that she heard about the idea for Comm.Unity and knew she had to get involved in the organization.

"It's hard to watch someone struggling, who cannot get the help that they need," Cram said. "I believe this organization will help to bring the needed resources to the area and promote diversity."

Cram said she thinks that communities around the U.S. are lacking outreach and hopes that Comm.Unity can serve as a model for community awareness, involvement, equality and comprehensive care.

Emily Coelho, a psychology student at Youngstown State University, is also heavily involved in Comm.Unity and other benefit groups like YSUScape and CityScape.

"I would like to see a change in the community, especially in regards to how the LGBT community is treated," Coelho said. "It sickens me that they are not treated with equality that they deserve. The hate and fear I see on a daily basis due to prejudice is something I would like to see removed from the community."

Comm.Unity's first day in full operation will be on July 16, the day of the annual Pride of Youngstown Festival. Updates and more information can be found on Comm.Unity's Facebook page and at their website, www.unitycommunityfoundation.org.

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The Artists of the Mahoning Commons are opening the doors of the Ward Bakery building to the public for their spring Open Studio and Art Sale on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

Live painting, music, poetry readings, a food truck, a Chinese auction, a tour and art from a range of artistic media will be for sale. Twenty-five Youngstown area artists are participating in the sale.

The Ward Bakery is located at 1024 Mahoning Ave., Youngstown, across from the U-Haul Moving & Storage location. Admission is free.

For a full schedule, visit [Artists of the Mahoning Commons Facebook page](#).



Naomi Lyle (left) and Terre' Snead (right) sing "Lift Every Voice," at the Youngstown State University Diversity Council's second annual Diversity Showcase in the Chestnut Room in Kilcawley Center.

The event ushered in Kimiya Flowers as the council's new president and Jaylin Archie as vice president in preparation for the coming school year. Kadrian Hinton wrote and performed her poem "Black" in spoken word. Georgia Kasamias showcased her photography work.

Student showcases were followed by dinner. Afterwards, Student Diversity Council awards were given.

The night's featured artist was Paul Hill, a vocal performance major.

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.

Letter - *from the* - Editor

ONE FOR THE ROAD

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

This is my final Jambar editorial.

Not only that, but this is the final editorial of The Old Jambar. Next year's Jambar will print less but produce more, and it's very exciting.

Traditionally, this letter would be a goodbye letter to all my friends at The Jambar. I'm not going to do that for two reasons; first, I'm not leaving. I'll be back next year in some capacity. Second, I can tell them how much I like them in person. Rather than offering my unsolicited opinions on my co-workers, instead I'll offer up my unsolicited opinions on Youngstown State University and the insights I've gathered thus far.

Working as the paper's editor-in-chief means I see a lot of stories about a lot of different campus issues. We've covered everything from the smell outside of Cushwa to the experiences of adjunct professors and black students on campus. I've had someone dressed as Deadpool writhe around in front of my camera during a YSUnity Diversity Prom, and I've sat through eight hour Board of Trustees meetings.

So here's some thoughts, advice and rants rooted in my experiences covering the campus.

Board of Trustees Meetings

Sitting through a Board of Trustees meeting is an endurance match of responsibility for all involved. No one — not the board, not the committee mem-

bers, not the journalists, not the public — necessarily wants to be there, but everyone goes because they know it's important to participate in the administration of the school.

If you're reading this, you likely either pay to go to YSU, you pay for YSU or you work at YSU. So while yes, it can certainly be extremely dry — especially now that Sen. Harry Meshel is gone — it's important for the public to attend and keep an eye on how the school is being run.

Student Government

One of the most attractive aspects of journalism is that — if you're doing it right — you get to act out your problems with authority on a professional level. For that reason I was frustrated by this year's Student Government Association. They acted with benevolence and managed to get quite a bit done to improve the student experience at YSU. They gave me no machine to rage against.

If you're a student, don't ignore their emails. Go talk to them and tell them your honest thoughts about the school and the direction you want to take your student experience. You'll find them irritatingly receptive and willing to work with you.

Faculty

Don't be a dick to your professors, especially the adjuncts. Sure, everyone has that one professor that probably actually deserves it, but just remember they're humans with lives too who are trying to do a job, and

most of them will bend over backwards for you if you engage with them.

You should be especially nice to adjuncts, as they make barely any money but still have to put up with your bullshit. Engage in your classes. No one thinks you're cool because you brood silently in the corner. Most of us are going into substantial debt to be here, so you might as well squeeze as much out of your professors as you can.

People that cross Wick Avenue without waiting for the light

You are the absolute worst. For those of us that live in the neighborhood, your unwillingness to wait a minute to cross the street is infuriating. If I could strap mattresses to the front of my car and knock illegal cross-walkers around on Wick I'd drop out of school and make it my mission. Lucky for you, I keep forgetting to buy tow straps and can't afford a new mattress, so for now I'll just honk my horn while gesturing wildly as I wait for you to drag your tuba across the street during my green light. Hopefully when Poppa Tressel reworks Wick Avenue, he'll install Indiana Jones style pressure traps in the road to combat these societal tumors.

The City

I spent about 21 years in Boardman. It took leaving the country and traveling to the literal opposite side of the plan-

et before I was old enough and experienced enough to begin appreciating what Youngstown had to offer. Everyone has that friend who is dead-set on getting the hell out of Youngstown the moment they graduate so they can go "really learn who they are" in Brooklyn or trim pot plants in Portland.

Maybe it's you, dear reader. There's nothing wrong with that. But a mentor once advised me "wherever you're at, be all there", and I think that's especially applicable to the YSU student.

You're in Youngstown while you're in school. Maybe your life will become Broad City after college, but while you're in town, try to leave the place better than you found it. Whether you're working with the Youngstown Business Incubator, the Mahoning Valley Young Professionals, the folks at TedxYoungstown, the community leaders behind Youngstown Soup or any of the various other groups operating to benefit the city, you won't look back and regret your time pouring back into the city.

Last Words

It's been an honor to run the paper, a blessing to work with our talented and dedicated staff and a hope that we have served our readers well. I'll be riding off into the Arizona sunset this summer, and will likely be behind a video camera once I'm back in the fall.

For those of you leaving and not coming back, good luck and don't fear the world. Relax. It won't hurt.

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Restrooms are Not The Issue

STORY: GINO DIGUILIO | GRDIGUILIO@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

Recently, Target released a statement defending their decision to allow transgender visitors to use the bathroom and fitting room that best fits that person's gender identity. Target representatives said, "Inclusivity is a core belief at Target. It's something we celebrate. We stand for equality and equity, and strive to make our guests and team members feel accepted, respected and welcomed in our stores and workplaces every day."

After this statement, I noticed that within days, my Facebook feed was filled with massive amounts of opinions on the issue, most of these being negative. I was baffled that peo-

ple would decide to boycott the company and take their business elsewhere due to this change in policy. But the more I thought about it, I wasn't that shocked.

Americans are so fast to judge and make rash decisions before attempting to educate themselves on the issue at hand. Most of the arguments talk about the "fear" of men coming into the women's restroom unannounced. My take on this is that most people are bringing the idea of rape culture into the scenario. In my opinion, the idea of rape and sexual misconduct coming from heterosexual men and women is something that is hush-hush

in our culture. But the minute the public can blame these things on the transgender community, they hop right to it without any extra thought of the outcomes.

It is proven that transgender people are significantly less likely to be a part of rape than heterosexual citizens. But why is it that people don't think that everyday people could not already be taking part in this before the policy was changed? Why is it now that we have an issue with public restrooms and safety? Same sex rape and sexual misconduct is taking place everyday, but nobody brings light to it.

How can someone sit

there and say that we are not stereotyping a group of people when that's exactly what the public is doing? Stop creating clear-cut stereotypes of offenders and those that are not.

So before you decide to post your ideas, opinions and decisions to boycott Target or talk about the issue, take a look at the facts beforehand. Be sensible to the issue and realize that we can do so much more to help further our worldly views and be accepting to everybody. It is much easier to do this than degrade and make a person feel unwelcomed into a public company.

Words hurt, so watch where you throw them.

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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YSU Pitching Dominates Falcons

Youngstown State University catcher Johnny Miller sits behind the plate while he received signals from the coaching staff.

STORY: **JEFF BROWN** | JRBROWN02@STUDENT.YSU.EDU | PHOTO: **DAN HINER**

Youngstown State University's baseball team struggled offensively, but thanks to stellar pitching from Michael Semonsen and Joel Hake, it was able to hold on to a 2-0 victory over Bowling Green State University Wednesday night.

Mistakes cost Bowling Green early as a throwing error by shortstop Cody Callaway allowed a run off a double by Alex Larivee in the first inning. Larivee would score later in the inning on a fielder's choice by first baseman Gerrad Rohan to give the Penguins a 2-0 lead leaving the first.

After the first inning, YSU hit an offensive rut — failing to register a hit until the fourth inning — and failed to string hits together to amount to any offensive threat for the rest of the evening.

"We've had that happen where we get a couple runs early on and then it becomes tough for us," YSU head coach Steve Gillispie said. "They're going to keep swinging the bats, but if we can pitch and play defense like that, we'll be in most games.

Semonsen got himself into a jam a couple of times early but was able to work through it.

In the second inning, he allowed base hits to the first two batters, but was able to work his way out of it by striking out the next batter and forcing the next two to fly out. And again in the third, Semonsen loaded the bases with two outs, but forced a fly out to centerfield to keep the Falcons scoreless.

"His stuff is so good he's not going to get hit when he challenges the strike zone like he did most of the time," Gillispie said. "A couple of walks and a hit batter kind of created the trouble for himself. His stuff is so good he feels confident he can get out of those kinds of situations."

Semonsen pitched three scoreless innings, allowing only two hits and struck out two batters before being relieved by freshman pitcher Joel Hake in the fourth inning.

Hake came out strong pitching three hitless innings, and had an impressive pickoff in the sixth.

Hake allowed only one hit in four innings of work with two strikeouts.

"I was just spotting up with the fastball the best I can," Hake said. "I didn't think I had the best stuff I've ever had, but I was spotting up with the fastball and the slider was working pretty good."

YSU infielder and pitcher Shane Willoughby came in relief of Hake to start the top of the eighth inning and got off to a shaky start. Willoughby allowed hits to two of the Falcons' first three batters in the eighth, but was able to settle down and strike out the next two batters to keep the Falcons scoreless.

With the win, YSU improves to 9-26 on the year. Bowling Green drops to 16-25.

The Penguins continue their nonconference home stand with a three-game series against Canisius College this weekend.

PRESSBOX PERSPECTIVE: Goes on the Clock

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Later tonight at just past 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, the newly-relocated Los Angeles Rams will go on the clock with the top pick in the 2016 NFL Draft.

In all, 31 of last year's top college football players will hear their names announced by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell in this evening's first round.

The draft shakeup for this year's order began a few weeks after last year's draft ended when the New England Patriots were stripped of their first round pick, which would prove to have been 29th overall, as a result of "Deflategate."

Two weeks ago this morning, the Tennessee Titans, who clinched the first pick in the draft with a 3-13 record last year, traded the pick to

the Rams for Los Angeles' 15th overall pick.

Last Wednesday, the Cleveland Browns and Philadelphia Eagles joined the fracas of pre-draft trades. Not long after I wrote the initial draft of this column, the Browns and Eagles swapped picks in tonight's first round, Cleveland holding #8, Philadelphia holding #2.

The obvious question is "who won this trade?" With it being a pre-draft trade, nobody knows who they'll use the picks on. It's way too early for an answer.

In addition, the Browns now hold a third round draft pick (#77 overall) tomorrow night and a fourth round draft pick on Saturday (#100 overall), along with a first round draft pick in 2017 and a fourth round draft pick

in 2018. The Eagles will hold a fourth round draft pick next year after this trade.

The big drama surrounding tonight's opening round is the quarterback competition between Jared Goff out of The University of California and Carson Wentz out of the defending FCS National Champion North Dakota State University. Who goes where?

If you follow the NFL Network closely like I do, chances are you've already read what Mike Silver thinks the Rams will do with the first pick. Silver has sided with the Rams going for Goff.

I agree with Silver's opinion here. The Rams need a quarterback who'd be able to play a game this weekend if they had to. After having watched footage

of Goff's pro day, I can say that Goff is that guy. He has the proper skill set needed to be a pro quarterback.

Goff is a Cal prospect. The fan base out there in L.A. should already be familiar with what he's able to do. If the Rams draft Goff with the #1 pick, it'll be a smart move.

With the Browns now all but out of the running for Wentz, the Dallas Cowboys seem to be a probable fit for him. If you search the keyword "Carson Wentz Dallas Cowboys" into Google, the first result that pops up is an SBNation mock draft article outlining reasons as to why Dallas should take him.

As you'll recall, the Cowboys' coaching staff oversaw the North team at the Senior Bowl back in January, a team featuring Wentz. With

Cleveland picking later in the first round, this is a gift-wrapped opportunity for the Cowboys to draft Wentz.

Still, there's a chance that the Cowboys won't draft Wentz at #4 later on tonight. He may be drafted #2 by Philadelphia. The Eagles have some good options at #2, like running back Ezekiel Elliott out of The Ohio State University.

Elliott ran for just over 1,800 yards last fall. scoring 23 touchdowns en route to a Fiesta Bowl win for the Buckeyes. He was really phenomenal in 2014, especially in his team's postseason run.

In the three postseason games OSU played in the 2014 season, Elliott gained 696 rushing yards, scoring eight touchdowns over that span.

Even still, the Eagles could pass both Wentz and Elliott up in favor of Jalen Ramsey, defensive back out of Florida State University. Last year, Ramsey made 52 tackles and one sack. Two years back, Ramsey notched 75 tackles and three sacks.

As fans of the NFL, we have the easiest pick of the entire draft to make, a choice between watching the coverage on ESPN or the coverage on NFL Network.

This is the final Press Box Perspective of the semester. Good luck on your final exams and congratulations to all graduating students. Enjoy the summer, one that has some great sporting events coming up.

Thanks for reading this column everybody.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Neu, Grambling Named Athletes of the Year

The Youngstown State University softball team split a doubleheader against Kent State University on Wednesday. YSU came back to win the first game 7-6, but the Penguins lost the second game 3-2.

YSU's Miranda Castiglione led the team with five RBIs in game one. The Penguins will be back in action on Tuesday when they travel to the University of Detroit Mercy for a three-game series.

YSU Softball Splits Doubleheader

Conner Neu and Nina Grambling, two members of the Youngstown State University track and field team, were honored on Tuesday night and received YSU's Scholar-Athletes of the Year for 2015-16.

Grambling was the first indoor Horizon League runner to win the 60m and 200m together in two straight meets since Milwaukee's Timeka Walker in 2006-07. Neu earned first-team All-America honors at the 2016 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships.