

# NPHC GREEKS RAISE CONCERNS

MORGAN PETRONELLI  
JORDAN UNGER and  
JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ

Greek life at Youngstown State University has played an integral role in student experience throughout the university's history. These student organizations have promoted philanthropy, sisterhood/brotherhood and the academic success of its members.

## Concerns Arise

Recently, inactive and active members of National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) chapters at YSU have expressed their dissatisfaction with the Office of Student Experience's handling of the predominantly black Greek life chapters.

Members have described various incidents that called upon the request of physical or online documentation of NPHC-specific policies regarding their chapters' functions on campus.

Khadijah Ndoye, a member of inactive sorority Zeta Phi Theta, said Student Experience has accused her sorority of recruiting while inactive through strolls (a form of dancing practiced by black Greek life), promoting unsanctioned parties for charity and wearing their letters without

permission.

Upon request by the students to discover where it states strolling and other activities pose as violation of the policy, Ndoye said they have yet to see physical documentation of these rules.

"[They] will not give us a list [of what inactive chapters specifically can or cannot do]," Ndoye said. "There's nowhere that says we cannot wear Greek paraphernalia, there's nowhere that says we can't stroll, active or inactive."

Aujenay Cianciola, a member of the active sorority Delta Sigma Theta, said she has faced a similar situation.

"Say [NPHC members] asked for this policy, [administration] could go up and try to put something together. But if you look for the past policies, there's nothing there. It's just all what they're saying," Cianciola said.

## A Look at the Differences

There are three distinct Greek life councils at YSU. Out of the three, the NPHC is made up of predominantly African-American sororities and fraternities known as the "Divine Nine."

YSU has four of the NPHC chapters, which include Iota Phi Theta fraternity, Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, Delta Sigma Theta sorority and Zeta Phi Beta sorority.

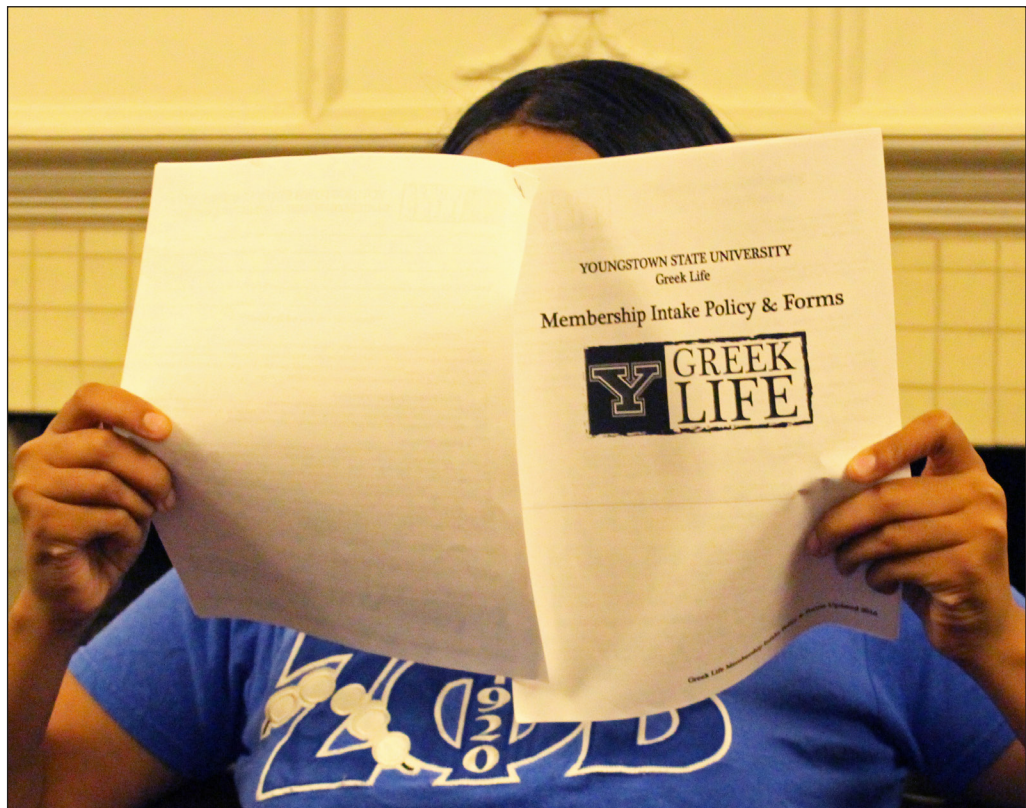


Photo by JORDAN UNGER/THE JAMBAR

## Administration Speaks Out

Erin Driscoll, director of Student Activities, said NPHC chapters have faced issues with inactivity due to lack of members for the past few years.

"We've had a variety of different groups active at different times," Driscoll said. "Often there were one or two active chapters, so they had five members or more ... and then it would kind of shift."

Eddie Howard, YSU executive director of Student Experience, said the five-member policy was not followed effectively in the past.

"We allowed black Greek organizations to exist with less than five [members]. So when I came here, I said, 'I don't know why we've allowed you to do that, but that is unfair to all the other student organizations on campus and you need to be in compliance,'" Howard said.

Carrie Anderson, YSU assistant director of Student Activities, said the number of members is a reasonable requirement.

"If you really think about it across the board, if you don't have more than five people, how are you going to have a full executive board? How are you going to

Currently, the only active chapter of the Divine Nine on campus is Delta Sigma Theta. Student organizations must have a minimum of five members to be considered an active group on campus.

During the member intake process, any organization wishing to recruit new members has to establish a recruitment timeline with their Greek life advisor on campus. This timeline includes when they will hold an informational (a meeting with potential members that provides information about Greek life on campus) and take in members, which requires permission from their regional council.

Once that is ready, the organization is invited to Meet the Greeks where they can begin to recruit new members, but there is a major problem with this for NPHC chapters; the NPHC has a different method of recruiting.

Instead of holding an informational and extending a bid to potential members like National Panhellenic Conference chapters, potential members are the ultimate decision makers when it comes to picking what NPHC chapter they wish to join.

Current members have expressed difficulties recruiting in an environment that does not encourage or allow them to recruit their specific way.



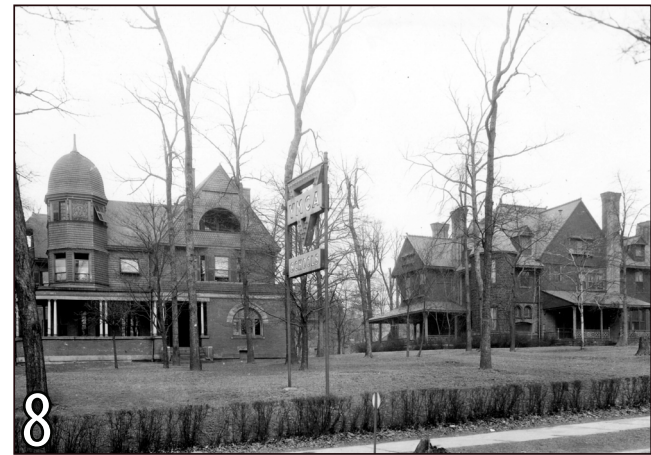
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Photos courtesy of NICK CHRETIEN

## YSUSCAPE INSTALLS UTILITY BOX ART DOWNTOWN

RACHEL GOBEP

YSUscape announced its successful completion of Phase 1 of the Utility Box Vinyl Artwork Project on Nov. 17. The majority of artwork has been installed in the downtown Youngstown area.

Daniel Bancroft, President of YSUscape, said the artwork is installed on utility boxes as a vinyl sticker.

Bancroft said YSUscape received a \$5,000 grant in the spring through the Neighborhood SUCCESS Grant from the Raymond John Wean Foundation, which is a local foundation in Warren, Ohio.

He said members of the group have seen utility box art in other cities and universities and wanted to bring it to Youngstown.

"So far, we have 15 designs that we are going to install, and around five have already been installed," Bancroft

said.

Bancroft said YSUscape received designs, artwork and input from Youngstown State University students, local artists, the Butler Institute of American Art, the Purple Cat and the City of You branding campaign.

"Right now, our focus is just on downtown, but hopefully in the future we will expand to Wick Park and corridors going into downtown," Bancroft said.

Arielle Pilolli, a YSU student and local artist, said public art is important to the community, according to a press release by YSUscape.

"Art brought into the public space allows for a group, an individual or anyone outside of a traditional gallery space the opportunity to experience art open and freely," she said.

She said the Utility Box Project helped to engage diverse groups of people in the Youngstown community to

participate.

Donald Tamulonis, a YSU graduate and local artist, said he was glad to have the opportunity to design for the Utility Box Project, according to the press release.

He said efforts like this set an example for upcoming students and current residents of Youngstown.

"As a resident of Youngstown and a graduate of YSU's Williamson College of Business and College of Creative Arts and Communications, I am very pleased to see public art initiatives being implemented by this active and dedicated group of students," Tamulonis said.

Phase 2 of the project will be completed soon, and YSUscape plans to expand the project in the spring 2018 semester.

Bancroft said it has been a focus of YSUscape to bring more public art into Youngstown and it is something on a smaller scale that can be done.

## TOMMY SIMON: A YOUNGSTOWN CULTURAL LEGACY

ELIZABETH LEHMAN

Thomas J. Simon, better known as Tommy, passed away Nov. 10, leaving behind a rich cultural legacy within the Youngstown community.

Simon opened Cedar's Lounge in downtown Youngstown on Hazel Street in 1975 and operated it until 2008. His daughter, Mara Simon, and her partner, Billy Danielson, took the reins after that. They now are the owner-operators of the new location on Steel Street on the West Side, where the club moved to in 2013.

Brady Secre was a frequent patron of Cedar's over the years when she lived in the area. She said to her, Simon and Cedar's were one and the same. She said Simon created a sense of inclusion where everyone fit in.

"Whether you were a housewife, doctor, college kid, punk rocker, drag queen, had three foot spiked hair, a polka dotted pompadour, or looked like you had just

risen from the dead, [everyone] belonged here," Secre said. "He helped all us square pegs feel like you didn't have to fit into that round hole."

Debbie Hannah is another former Youngstown resident who frequented Cedar's when she lived in the area. She remembers when her friend Cathy took her to Cedar's for the first time in 1983.

"It was that day I met Tommy Simon. I was so excited when I walked into Cedars and Tommy knew it," Hannah said. "I finally had found a place where I felt comfortable and entertained. Cedar's, a melting pot of artists, musicians and eclectic patrons, became my second home."

She said when she eventually moved away, she never found another place that was like Cedar's and it was the first place she'd go when she visited home.

"I lived in New York City and even CBGB's didn't remotely compare to Cedars. Somehow there was a magic that happened there and Tommy Simon made it happen," Hannah said. "Tommy Simon brought music and magic to downtown

Youngstown. To this day, I haven't found another place that remotely resembles what I found in downtown Youngstown."

Timber Gilliland was another frequent member of the Cedar's crew. He said Simon would often let his patrons cook up creative ideas for events at the club.

"Suddenly, we were all in charge. 'Hey Tommy, let's do a fashion show.' 'Hey Tommy, let's have poetry night.' 'Let's have a jazz night, rave night, swing dancing night.' 'Let's show videos and hang art and have fire eaters and skateboard tricksters.' Done, done and done," Gilliland said.

He said Simon was not always a man of many words, but he was an open-minded person.

"Often he would answer questions with a simple grunt, but he'd give you a chance," Gilliland said.

Secre said people from all around the region would converge at Cedar's, and their lives were impacted by the time they spent there. Cedar's was definitely more than just a bar to its patrons.

"Everyone walked away with lifelong friends, exposure to amazing performances and great memories because of Tommy. Tommy should be honored for his contribution to the Youngstown music scene and the revitalization of the downtown," Secre said.

Hannah said the legacy of Simon and the scene he helped create still lives on in the West Side location today.

"I'm so grateful for Mara Simon, Tommy's daughter, and Billy Danielson who keep Cedar's alive. It may not be in downtown Youngstown, but the original bar is there and it is filled with the Cedar's family," Hannah said.

Gilliland agreed.

"People are still coming together finding like-minded individuals," he said. "So many found lifelong friends, lovers, marriages, children, loads of musical collaborations, artwork, poetry and laughs. Tons and tons of laughs. Thank you, Tommy Simon."



# DEANNA FUSILLO: CHOOSING TO LIVE HER PURPOSE



*Photo courtesy of JENNA GIANNIOS*

## RACHEL GOBEP

Deanna Fusillo, owner of Sassy Girl Media in Youngstown, said she first used marketing on social media to promote her cake pop business. This led her to where she is in her professional career today.

Fusillo said she was working long hours at a wireless company when her youngest son, Alex Hernandez, explained to her that what he wanted for Christmas was for his mom to be home more and spend time with him.

She decided to quit her job in 2010 after a friend of hers in Atlanta posted a picture on Facebook of cake pops, which sparked her interest.

Fusillo said she began to make cake pops out of her kitchen and gave them to her sons to have other people taste test. She said everybody loved them, so she knew she was on to something.

Peter Hernandez, Fusillo's son and a Youngstown State University sophomore, said it was hard when his mom was not home for a majority of the time.

"I was young and a total momma's boy, so when she was going to work from home, I thought that would be really cool," he said. "She had more availability to do stuff with Alex and I and came to more baseball games."

Cake pops are baked cake balls covered in chocolate in the

shape of a lollipop. She said she used the name "Sweet D Bites," so no one was able to Google how to make cake pops.

"I started selling them, but I had no budget. I couldn't hire somebody to do the marketing or build a website for me. I had to do everything on my own," she said.

Fusillo said she began to do taste tests and used social media to get the word out about her product. Once her business gained prominence, she would spend all day making cake pops and all night building her website and marketing.

She said she was no longer able to make cake pops because without an employee because the high demand was overbearing.

Fusillo began working out of the house again, but did not feel fulfilled. She said a lot of women reached out to her about what she did to get the word out about her cake pops.

"There's something about when you're not really living in your purpose," she said.

She said she began to hold social media workshops about seven years ago for those interested and her phone kept ringing about social media and website design. Fusillo said she realized that she wanted to pursue a career in media management, which led to Sassy Girl Media.

"I took a leap of faith and started doing website design and social media marketing for companies," Fusillo said. "I work with a lot of women, startups and mid-size businesses."

Fusillo said there were a lot of people who had good ideas

or products, but did not know how to launch a business or get it to the next level. She said she wanted to provide people with solutions to these problems.

"I knew what it was like when I was in their shoes. I knew how painful it was to go through and teach yourself how to do everything because it really did suck," she said.

Fusillo said she created a program called The Startup Circle to teach people about web design, social media marketing and business development for a small fee.

She said she has spoken to communications and marketing classes at YSU and believes it is her turn to give back to the community.

"It's not even about the social media, it's about living your passion. Things are not always going to be easy, but every failure gets you closer to that success," she said.

When she began her cake pop business, she said she did not see the big picture. Rather, her passion is working with social media and marketing.

Fusillo said her mission statement is, "... to inspire, empower and educate entrepreneurs and small business owners, so that they have the tools and resources needed to take their business to the next level and create the lives they want."

She said her best advice to those looking to brand themselves on social media is to utilize Facebook Live and post videos to seem personable.

# YSU TEAMS UP WITH YWCA FOR HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE

MELISSA TUROSİK

Youngstown State University teamed up with the Young Women's Christian Association of Youngstown to help children in need receive gifts in time for the holiday season.

Becca Wolke, a graduate assistant in the Office of Student Activities at YSU, said YSU volunteered to take on 60 children and YWCA supplied them with a wish list of clothing sizes, shoes sizes and other necessities.

Wolke said she made ornaments out of the wish lists and placed them on a giving tree.

"People can come in and donate it to us, then we'll take it over to YWCA," Wolke said.

The giving tree table is in Kilcawley Center by the low arcade on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. until Dec. 11.

"They can stop by the Student Activities Office and put gifts out front. People can come at their convenience," Wolke said. "If they have other gift ideas they want to get, they can wrap them up and bring them into the office before."

Wolke said YSU students and faculty should participate because it is for a local cause.

She said any way a person can provide for a child, especially if they're not expecting it, is a great way to give back and it is fulfilling community involvement.

Wolke said the children were given donations within the first three days of the drive and she said they had an amazing turnout.

Elise Skolnick, communications and rental coordinator at the YWCA, said the gift drive is for the kids in their housing program.

"For some of them, this will be the only gifts they receive, and we just want to make sure they'll have a Merry Christmas," Elise Skolnick said.

Elise Skolnick said they're partnering up with several businesses this year.

"We have various nonprofit organizations and businesses as well as individuals who donate to this program. Some people do it every year, some have for years and others are new," Elise Skolnick said.

Elise Skolnick said the Wish Upon a Start Gift Drive has taken place for 25 years and is successful every year.

"It's truly amazing to see how generous people are and how much they want to give and help. Our gym will actually be full of gifts for these children," Elise Skolnick said.

Logan Skolnick, president of the American Marketing Association at YSU, said this is their first year participating and they picked two children to shop for.

Logan Skolnick said they are going to be buying animal and dinosaur toys for an 11-year-old boy and a football for a nine-year-old boy.

He said philanthropy is a big part in the American Marketing Association.

"This year we're just looking to get involved in the community and this is just another way to get involved and to help other people out," he said.

Logan Skolnick said it feels nice to help a child out in need.

"It's a special kind of help and they wouldn't have a Christmas if it wasn't for us, so it's nice to be able to give them presents and help them still believe in Santa and just to bring them hope," he said.

# I AM PENGUIN BOT! HOW MAY I HELP YOU?

JORDAN UNGER

An interactive chat bot service was recently introduced to the Youngstown State University website, granting students and faculty easier access to their university-related questions.

The Penguin Service Center launched Penguin Bot on its webpage in October. Carrie Stipanovich, the Penguin Service Center senior counselor, said the Penguin Bot allows students to get immediate answers to questions on their laptop or phone.

"It has built-in intelligence so that it will respond with the answer," Stipanovich said. "We go behind the scenes into the software that we have for it and can tweak the responses and train it to give the best response."

The bot is designed to answer frequently asked questions at YSU regarding financial aid, registration, records and university bursar. Stipanovich said these questions can be answered by Penguin Service Center staff, but not everyone is able to visit the desk.

"With today's technology and social media, especially students, they want an immediate response," Stipanovich said. "If you're working on something over the weekend and we're not open on Saturdays, it gives students, parents and faculty members the opportunity to get their questions answered."

For more complicated inquiries, Penguin Bot directs users where they can go to get their answers during open office hours. Links to campus maps, phone numbers and email addresses are provided when necessary as well.

If the bot doesn't know the answer to a question, Stipanovich said they will actively work to implement what users are looking for.

"The more students use it, the smarter it gets," she said.

Jessica Gaskell, counselor at the Penguin Service Center, was assigned to research how other universities use chat bot services. Gaskell said she

## Ask Us a Question

I am Penguin Bot! How may I help you?

Where do I find scholarships to apply for?

You can find scholarship information here.

Enter Question Here (then press Enter or Return)

Photo by JORDAN UNGER/THE JAMBAR

met with different companies for more information before the center decided on creating an in-home system.

"This was a better option for us right now because we wanted to see first if students were going to use it," Gaskell said. "The companies we talked to were telling about all of the positive experiences the universities they've worked with had with things like this."

She hopes Penguin Bot will have a similar response over time.

Maura Picciano, assistant director of the Penguin Service Center, said the students who know about the chat bot are using it daily.

"We go in to train it daily and see the new questions, dozens of questions, that come up," Picciano said.

Picciano said the bot service is not an active tool on the YSU app, but it is something she is working to implement.

Although Penguin Bot is a convenience after hours or on the weekends, the Penguin Service Center staff still encourages people on campus to call or visit the desk. Stipanovich said she always tells students the center is a good first stop when they don't know where to go on campus.

"We collaborate and work with a lot of different departments. We have a lot of information, so while we're not specialized in academic advising and we can't help you set up your curriculum, we can assist you in getting in contact with your academic advisor," Stipanovich said.

The center was previously called Student One Stop, but Picciano said the change was made six months ago to not limit their support to just students.

"We assist faculty members, parents [and] people visiting the campus, so we really thought that The Penguin Service Center better encompassed what our services actually offer," Picciano said.

The Penguin Service Center is located on the second floor of Meshel Hall.





# CAUTION: SLIPPERY WHEN WET

Photo by TANNER MONDOK/THE JAMBAR

## JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR COURTNEY HIBLER

Some students at Youngstown State University are hesitant to walk on brick walkways scattered throughout campus because they can be seen as dangerous when wet.

Elizabeth Terrell, pre-medical and psychology student at YSU, said she fell on the brick walkway outside Sweeney Hall on University Plaza.

"I'm always scared to walk there when it rains," Terrell said. "I've twisted my ankle a couple of times."

Terrell said the bricks are unsafe when wet and something should be done about them.

"I have added five minutes to my commute across campus in order to avoid the brick walkways," Terrell said.

David Ewing, associate director of the grounds department, said these brick walkways are sealed once a year in August before the semester starts.

"We pressure wash it and mix up a batch of sealer with

grit in it," Ewing said. "This is put in a sprayer and we spray it on the bricks."

Ewing said the red brick on University Plaza is a simple clay brick.

"The brick on Lincoln Avenue and Wick Avenue is a poured concrete with dye in it," Ewing said.

Shauna McKinstry, early childhood education student at YSU, said she uses the walkways on Lincoln Avenue daily, and when it's the slightest bit wet, it causes her to slip.

"I've slipped many times on this walkway and I've seen other students slip as well," McKinstry said. "I don't know what could be done to fix this, but it's a hazard."

Some students have gotten worse injuries than a twisted ankle.

Briana Cerneka, general studies student at YSU, said she slipped on the walkway by the tennis courts resulting in a sprained ankle.

"I sprained my left ankle because of these walkways,"

Cerneka said. "I would really like to see something done about it."

Ewing said students are able to file a police report to the YSU Police when they fall and become injured.

"If there is a police report, then the police will let us know," Ewing said. "We will determine what to do from there."

Cerneka said she didn't bother to file a complaint because she believed nothing would happen.

"There was no point in me trying to do anything, because I feel as if I would have hit dead ends," Cerneka said. "To me it wasn't even worth making a big deal out of."

As construction ended on Wick Avenue in October, more brick walkways were constructed, causing some students to worry.

"It doesn't help that Wick Avenue just received more of these walkways," McKinstry said. "It's calling for a disaster just like the other ones on campus."





## THE VINDYS KEEP GOING WITH A NEW VINYL RELEASE

JOHN STRAN

The Vindys are continuing their span of shows to promote their recent vinyl release of their album “Keep Going,” with a show at the Birdfish Brewing Company in Columbiana tonight. “Keep Going” was originally released in April, but the band decided devolving to vinyl had its benefits for listeners.

“Vinyl format sounds better than MP3,” singer Jackie Popovec said. “Also, having a tangible product makes it more special.”

Drummer Ed Davis said if people are going to buy the band’s music, they want to make sure it’s the highest quality possible.

“We recorded the album in a manner that would lend itself to vinyl,” Davis said.

Guitarist John Anthony said that, being huge fans of vinyl, he and the rest of the band have always had the idea of a vinyl release in the back of their minds. The group blends vocals, guitar solos and a rhythm section

to create a genre somewhere between pop-rock and jazz.

The band sticks out amidst other local acts by their ability to fluctuate between these genres.

“Jackie has a very unique voice and is able to sound like a lot of different things,” Davis said. “We’re all capable of playing different styles, and we’re unique because we are hard to define.”

Popovec added she has no favorite song on the vinyl, which may be testament towards the quality of the album.

“If I didn’t like them all, I wouldn’t have put them on the vinyl,” Popovec said.

Anthony pointed out two songs he really liked, “Wrong with Me” and “Too Long.” He said these songs show the improvisational side of the Vindys, while Davis promoted their song “Save Me,” saying it showed their funkier side.

Popovec, Anthony and Davis formed the Vindys in 2013, and played their way through the ranks of Youngstown’s music scene, eventually becoming a headlining act in the area, as well as, other surrounding cities. Along the way, the Vindys have experienced the advan-

*Photo Courtesy of CUSANO PHOTOGRAPHY*  
tages and disadvantages of being a Youngstown-based band.

“There are a number of amazing musicians in the area that are willing to share and create together, but venues are hard to come by,” Popovec said. “Though there has been a lot progress for venues in the last five years.”

Though there may be a lack of musical venues in Youngstown, Davis felt the venues have always been very supportive of the Vindys’ music and mission. Davis also felt a benefit of being from Youngstown is the proximity to other major cities like Akron, Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

With any dream, there may come a sacrifice, and the members of the Vindys have sacrificed their money and their time, but for them, these sacrifices are just a small price to pay.

“When you love making music so much, you don’t think of these things as sacrifices,” Davis said.

Following their show tonight, the Vindys next local show will be Fridaywww during the tree lighting ceremony in downtown Youngstown.



# YSU THEN AND NOW

LAURA MCDONOUGH

Over the years, many of Youngstown State University's original buildings have been demolished to make room for larger buildings and campus growth. Some staff from The Jambar thought it would be interesting to see what our area used to look like and

compare what it looks like now.

Old photos of the university are courtesy of the archives at Maag Library, with assistance from Brian Brennan, a library operations supervisor in the archives.

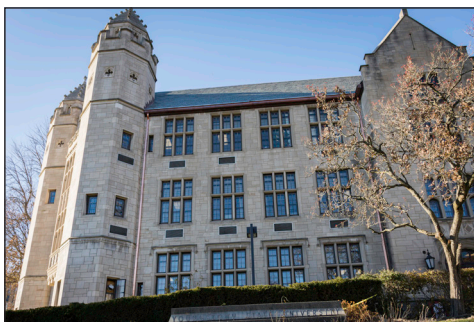


Photo by **TANNER MONDOK/THE JAMBAR**

In the 1920's, the YMCA held classes in the Wick House on the corner of Wick and Lincoln Avenues. This was YSU's first building and was later demolished to make room for Jones Hall.



Photo by **LAURA MCDONOUGH/THE JAMBAR**

Buechner Hall, a female resident's dorm, in 1943. In 2017 it is still a dorm for female students and working women.

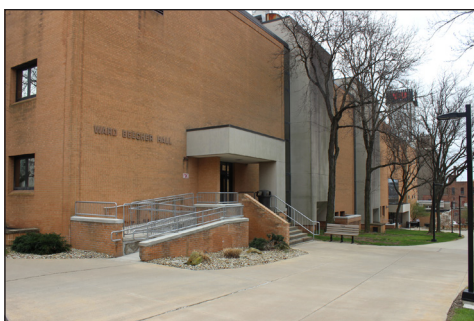


Photo by **LAURA MCDONOUGH/THE JAMBAR**

Due to the large influx of veterans attending colleges after World War II, additional classroom space was needed. Youngstown College acquired three surplus barracks from the U.S. Army to address this need. They were located where Ward Beecher Hall now stands.



Photo by **LAURA MCDONOUGH/THE JAMBAR**

In 1955, Pollock House housed Army ROTC and served as location for social gatherings. During the 1990's, it also functioned as a hotel. Today, it is the home of YSU President Jim Tressel.



Photo by **TANNER MONDOK/THE JAMBAR**

In 1948, the bookstore was located in Jones Hall and is now on Fifth Avenue near the University Edge.



Photo by **TANNER MONDOK/THE JAMBAR**

What now houses the Youngstown City School Board offices was once the Rayen School of Engineering.





# WILLOW HAWKS AND THE SONDER BOMBS

MARAH J. MORRISON

The Sonder Bombs are a Cleveland-based indie/alternative, uke/punk and grunge/pop band new to Youngstown. The band was originally formed by frontwoman and ukes master, Willow Hawks and guitarist, Jimmy Wilkens, but now include bassist Jake Stephens and drummer Eric Heald.

To discuss more about The Sonder Bombs, and their frontwoman, a question and answer was conducted with Hawks.

**Q:** What bands inspired you to do this?

**A:** Our main influences in writing are Weezer, Say Anything, The Pixies and The Cure. It's kind of like a weird mix of stuff.

**Q:** What were your favorite songs, artists or bands to listen to growing up?

**A:** Definitely Weezer. I love Weezer. I listened to a lot of Paramore growing up too.

**Q:** When do you write, and how do you write your songs?

**A:** The way we write songs usually is I will write the

structure of the song, and I'll write the lyrics and vocal melody on the ukulele. Jimmy will write a lead, we'll practice and then we'll bring it to the rest of the band to work on it together. It's a total group effort.

**Q:** What are your future aspirations for the band?

**A:** Right now, we don't necessarily have a set, "we want this," but we are going to be recording our album in early 2018, so that's a big thing. One of our main things is to record the songs we have. As of right now, we're trying just to play as many shows as possible, meet people, make friends and have fun.

**Q:** How is making music together moving you as a person and as a musician?

**A:** It's really fun working with other people because for a long time, it was just me playing the ukulele by myself in the bedroom, and I didn't let anyone hear. I only played covers, and I was scared to push myself to do something that was mine or original, and now I have the guys. We all inspire each other and provoke creation, so it's really nice. I feel like a happier person being able to make music with my friends.

**Q:** What do you like about playing the ukulele?

**A:** I first picked it up when I was 16, and I liked it because it was tiny, adorable and easy to play. I started off

by playing Misfits covers.

**Q:** Do you play any other instruments?

**A:** I can play "Seven Nation Army" on the drums. I play guitar as well, and then I've tried bass, but it's really hard to play bass. I might give it another go at some point.

**Q:** What advice would you give to people who want to do what you are doing?

**A:** I'm going to pull a Nike and say, "Just do it."

**Q:** Where did the name The Sonder Bombs come from?

**A:** Jimmy and I had just watched "The Runaways" with Joan Jett and Cherie Currie. We were watching that, and their single "Cherry Bomb" was stuck in our heads, and we were looking through a dictionary for weird words. One of us was on Urban Dictionary and we found the word "sonder," which is the sudden realization that every passerby and everyone around you is living a life as vivid and as complex as your own. It grounds you when you're feeling self-centered and it hits you like a bomb, so that's our name.

The band released their new song "Switzerland" on Nov. 24, and released their debut self-titled EP on June 30. For more information about The Sonder Bombs, visit <https://thesonderbombs.bandcamp.com>.

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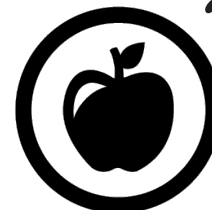
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be able to do all of the things you need to accomplish?” Anderson said. “That puts a lot of pressure on less than five people.”

Ndoye said it is difficult to find enough members to become active when they are not invited to attend Greek functions.

Howard swayed on whether or not being a part of an inactive organization means you are a member on campus.

“There is no such thing as ‘inactive.’ When you’re inactive, that means that your organization doesn’t exist,” Howard said.

He went on to say, “For the purposes of the policy that we have in place ... we keep their file, we keep their information but they’re not active, so there’s nothing for them really to be doing on campus because they’re not an active organization.”

Howard then said that when organizations like the YSU NPHC chapters don’t meet membership requirements, members are still a part of the organization.

**Frustrations Persist**

In NPHC culture, members put on yard show competitions to showcase strolling and stepping (a form of dance) abilities from visiting and host sororities and fraternities. The last recorded yard show at YSU was in 2013.

According to Ndoye, while attending Ohio State University, the NPHC was allowed to bring other chapters to their campus to hold step shows for the students. At YSU they are prohibited.

“If there was a school-wide step show but didn’t have enough members, we could ask neighboring schools to fill in,” Ndoye said.

Howard said yard shows will not be held on campus as long as he is here because it may promote these chapters on YSU campus, which could lead to improper intake process or hazing.

“You bring a chapter to campus that is not a chapter that we have on our campus ... when those kids come to campus they do their steps, they do their strolls, we introduce them to our campus and if there’s a connection made there, a student may think they can join, they may get themselves into a process where potentially our students can be in danger,” Howard said.

In 2012, the now-suspended NPHC fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi was caught up in a controversial hazing incident that sent two pledges to the hospital and indicted nine members of the fraternity with 16 felony charges. This led to the university suspending the fraternity until 2027.

Kappa Alpha Psi is not the only NPHC fraternity in recent years to face extended suspension.

Chakiel Crumsey, a member of the suspended Iota Phi Theta fraternity, revealed that his chapter has been suspended due to illegal recruitment allegations and parties by former members who no longer attend

YSU. The new members were suspended for five years.

“Everything we try to do is cancelled, is blocked [and] is basically trying to be shut down in many ways. We’re not held to the same standard that the Greeks are held to,” Crumsey said.

Driscoll said Greek life comes with more components than other organizations, such as recruitment processes, selection processes and the financial component. She said this may make it seem like the deck is stacked against them compared to other student organizations.

“The students who are in our NPHC chapters have invested a lot of time and energy in becoming part of those organizations,” Driscoll said. “I understand why it’s frustrating to not be able to get to that next step.”

Many NPHC members are left frustrated and questioning how they can obtain new members if they cannot wear their letters or stroll to let potential members know they are on campus.

When chapters are inactive, Howard said the Office of Student Experience discourages these groups from displaying their chapter’s letters or strolling.

“[NPHC chapters] do a lot of things that let people know they are a member of a particular organization ... so in my mind when an organization is inactive, when you do the things they’re talking about, when you wear your letters, you are a billboard,” Howard said.

Howard said the chapters can confuse interested students by doing this, making it seem as if they are active on campus.

“It is a recruitment tool for them,” Howard said.

This opinion is not shared among all YSU Greek life administration. Driscoll said she would not consider activities such as strolling as formal recruitment.

“I think of strolling as a demonstration of pride in your organization, a demonstration of your brotherhood or sisterhood, but I don’t think of that as a recruitment activity per se,” Driscoll said. “It publicizes the fact that you’re around, so it could contribute to students knowing that there are students on campus that are part of an organization.”

William Blake, the director of Student Diversity at YSU, had worked with NPHC groups for more than 15 years, but has not been affiliated with adjustment of the groups for the past four to five years. Blake said he has noticed a shift in issues from students over this time.

“Some of the problems that I think the students are seeing now is they don’t feel that people working in that particular area have a familiarity with NPHC groups,” Blake said. “And so there probably needs to be some education that goes on between and amongst them both, on the student side as well as on the advisory side.”

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## JAKE'S PICKS: "WIND RIVER": "LUCK DON'T LIVE OUT HERE"

JAKE MYERS

Well, it's cold outside, so why not grab your favorite "Star Wars" cuddle blanket, turn on the fireplace and watch a movie featuring white, frozen and desolate landscapes, and penetrating cold. No, I'm not talking about John Carpenter's "The Thing" (1982), although I do highly recommend it.

I am talking about the movie "Wind River" (2017) written and directed by Taylor Sheridan. Sheridan also wrote "Hell or High Water" (2016) and "Sicario" (2015). The man is on a roll. Incidentally, this is his directorial debut, and I have to say I think it is a modern, chilling masterpiece that should be up for Oscar consideration.

This poignant movie is "inspired by actual events" which makes it even more haunting. Not in a supernatural way, but a humanly haunting way. The film takes place in and around the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. The story follows Cory Lambert, a Fish and Wildlife Officer (Jeremy Renner), who is sent to kill wolves attacking a herd of sheep in the mountains.

He is the resident "predator hunter." Cory's next job is to track a lion, but he ends up tracking virtually everything else. He finds the body of an 18-year-old Native American, and her story unfolds as Cory assists FBI agent Jane Banner (Elizabeth Olsen) on the case. This movie is filled with foreshadowing, metaphors and cool

graphic matches. It is begging to be shown in a film class, but don't let this sway you; it is a really good movie. It is visually breathtaking, even though the film goes to some dark places.

The characters are engrossing. Gil Birmingham is excellent as Martin, the father of the girl who is found dead. Incidentally, Birmingham was also excellent in "Hell Or High Water" as Alberto. The cast also includes Graham Greene as the sheriff of Wind River, and Jon Bernthal of "The Walking Dead" and "Punisher" fame. Jeremy Renner's character was written for him. His character shows the most development throughout the film, and he nails it.

Elizabeth Olsen reminded me of Jodie Foster in "The Silence of the Lambs" (1991). Her character is called up to handle a case she is not prepared for. Jane shows up during a spring snowstorm, fresh from a conference in Vegas, hailing from Florida. She is ill-prepared for the weather, the case and the humanity of the situation.

As with "Hell or High Water," this movie deals with Native American relations and so much more. It is not condescending; it is a realistic glimpse into life on a reservation. The environment is a character in this film: predators, frigid cold and relentless wind. Welcome to Wyoming.

The opening scene is riveting. It starts as a black screen with a soft, female voice saying:

"There is a meadow in my perfect world where wind dances the branches of the tree, casting leopard spots of light across the face of the pond. The tree stands tall and

grand and alone."

At the words, "tall and grand and alone," the opening scene fades in as a girl runs across a desolate snow-covered valley. There is no music just the sound of the wind and the girl running. The voice goes on: "Shading the world beneath it. It is here in the cradle of all I hold dear ..."

The camera cuts to a flock of sheep being stalked by large wolves. The music is foreboding as they size up the herd to pick out the weakest, and this is a metaphor for the rest of the movie. It is a Man vs. Nature, Man vs. Man, and Man vs. Self tale. The music for "Wind River" was composed by Nick Cave and Warren Ellis. As Cory crosses onto the reservation, the music is eerie. There is a storm brewing.

The music starts back up again when Cory sees lion tracks for the first time. It stops. This is the best use of diegetic sound I have heard in a film, and it is used throughout. As he sets out on a snowmobile, the music starts again and turns into a wail, but more mournful. You can faintly hear a Native American voice reciting a poem over and over. It is captivating.

"Far from your loving eyes in a place where winter never comes, far from your loving eyes on the mountain wind I run. And I return to this place and close my eyes again."

As always, I would love to hear from you so email [jcmymers02@student.yasu.edu](mailto:jcmymers02@student.yasu.edu), if you wish to opine or use the comments section online.

# IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

NATHAN HRITZ

We've officially entered the part of the year where it seems days go by as if they were pages of a book. It feels like just yesterday I was concocting columns about Halloween and here we are getting into the Christmas season.

As I understand it, Christmas means different things to different people. Maybe you don't even take part. So as a heads-up, I will be writing about what Christmas has meant to my family and myself over the next few weeks.

Growing up in a Judeo-Christian family, Christmas has always been a cut-and-dried subject. Baby Jesus' birth is what

my family celebrates on Christmas. When it comes to lights, trees, gifts and what not, Christmas seems to take on a more social aspect. It's just what people do, and nobody really asks why.

If you ask me, I'd say the holidays take on more of a machine driven by consumerism. You see it daily, Honda has "Happy Honda-days" where you can find a vehicle for a better finance plan, and the commercials of the season's hottest toy or gadget. Black Friday as a whole supports a corporate machine the way I see it.

However, while it is something I don't particularly agree with, there really is nothing like watching a loved one's face light up as they open up a gift with thought behind it. One of the more memorable

gifts I've ever received was a flintlock rifle. For those of you who aren't familiar with firearms, a flintlock rifle is essentially what the farmers in the colonies used to gain freedom from the tyranny of England – a primitive weapon to say the least.

Receiving the gift meant I could extend my effective hunting season from two weeks to roughly two months – a very thoughtful gift. I also find that handmade gifts speak volumes. Personally, I have an affinity for woodworking. If I had access to a proper workshop, I would surely make all my gifts by hand.

In that instance, there would be no possible way to judge the gift by value except by man hours, showing I actually cared enough about somebody to take raw ma-

terial, and craft something for the individual specifically.

Bringing this all back to the Judeo-Christian upbringing, while baby Jesus was laying in the manger, he was brought gifts by three wise men: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In my faith, we give gifts to symbolize this event. Granted modern society has blown it way out of proportion, which doesn't surprise me, but this is what I was raised to believe.

So, in conclusion, the Christmas season is in full swing. You can expect every mall to be just about packed full clear from now up until Dec. 24. You can also expect chaotic drivers and Christmas music being played exclusively on every other station.



# A JAMBAR EDITORIAL: KEEP THE NET NEUTRAL

In a world where it's a cultural norm to find the quick answer to a question by a web search, to stream music when a new song comes out and to pass the time by scrolling through social media, most people probably don't even give a thought to how much freedom the internet offers.

Free access to the web and a free market for upcoming websites is just a part of our lives in the digital age of the United States, but this perk that is easily taken for granted could be deflated with the removal of net neutrality rules.

Net Neutrality was implemented in the United States during the Obama Era in 2015. The policy prohibits in-

ternet service providers from treating specific websites or content differently from others. This ensures internet users do not receive additional charges or limitations on web services, such as streaming speed.

Recent claims by Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai indicate that he wants to move forward with repealing net neutrality rules, which could be decided at the FCC meeting as early as Dec. 14.

What would this mean if the change goes into place?

ISPs such as Verizon, AT&T and Comcast would be given the power to set the playing field for online services, either benefitting their own content or the highest bidding companies.

This could influence the streaming speed of services such as Netflix or Hulu, but the true losers in this fight would be new, upcoming websites.

Net neutrality prevents ISPs from charging websites for prioritization, such as faster user access. Smaller websites may not be able to afford prioritization if ISPs implement these costs, making it nearly impossible for the sites to be noticed or grow.

The net neutrality issue cannot be undermined, and the best thing to do is not sit idly until a decision is made. Contacting elected officials is a first step to prevent a change that could damage internet freedom.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

The growing evidence of the long-term cognitive impairment that can result from playing football should be deeply disturbing to all, but especially to a university committed to improving the critical thinking skills of our students. If we are encouraging a large segment of our students to engage in an activity that may well cause severe cognitive disability, reduced self-control, and lifetime psychological problems, then we are betraying our values and our mission.

The evidence concerning the cognitive perils of football is becoming stronger and more obvious. Bob Costas, the former host of "Football Night in America," recently stated: "The reality is that this game destroys people's brains." The best available experimental evidence raises serious concerns about the cognitive perils; and the extensive neuropsychological research of long-term brain tissue damage provides even stronger evidence.

The evidence that playing football is a leading cause of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) is certainly strong enough to impose an obligation to make a serious investigation of the risks involved when we encourage and recruit students to play football for YSU. The question is not whether students should be able to play football or engage in other risky behavior: certainly, they should have the freedom to do so. The question is the legitimacy of YSU sponsoring and encouraging an activity that may cause irreversible cognitive damage.

There are people at YSU who have the expertise to critically examine the relevant research: psychology and biology

faculty are the obvious candidates. And as the part of the campus community most directly involved in and committed to enhancing the cognitive abilities of our students, the YSU faculty is also the appropriate place for such an examination. This is a project that the YSU Faculty Senate should undertake, and with great urgency. If there is a strong possibility that the students we are dedicated to helping are instead being severely impaired – suffering long-term and irreversible cognitive and psychological damage – there is no more important issue for us to examine.

As the research university of the Mahoning Valley, we also have an obligation to our community: an obligation to warn youth football leagues, middle schools and high schools, and parents if there is evidence that playing football poses special risks to adolescents, when their developing brains may be especially vulnerable to damage. The YSU Faculty Senate, with the full support of the administration (and ideally in partnership with neighboring universities such as Kent, Akron, and Pitt), should undertake this investigation as soon as possible.

If we are committed to the improvement of our students' reasoning and critical thinking skills we cannot ignore the question of whether a YSU-sponsored program may be pushing many of our students in the opposite direction toward severe cognitive, emotional, and psychological disability.

**BRUCE N. WALLER,  
PROFESSOR, PHILOSOPHY**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech"

If you pay attention to the news (or read any Facebook comments), you may have heard a mention or two lately about the First Amendment. Let me make this very clear: the right to free speech is incredibly important, but it is not unlimited.

To quickly detail some of the ways in which free speech rights have been curtailed by the Supreme Court, you can get in trouble for: "fighting words," meaning words that incite violence or panic, threats, slander and other more technical types of speech like copyright violation.

The government has often been hesitant to curtail free speech, and rightfully so, because I think very few of us would like to live in such an Orwellian society.

All of that being said, I think that the First Amendment has been taken out of context recently and instead used as a rallying cry for divisiveness (think your 50-year-old uncle with the Confederate flag as a Facebook profile picture). Now more than ever, it's of the utmost importance that we preserve this right for its original purpose of expressing dissent and unpopular opinions. As a queer, very liberal woman, I'm probably the last person most would expect to hold this opinion, but hear me out.

When someone is spreading false information and hatred, the only thing that can stop them is my First Amendment right, my constitutionally protected ability to speak

out and stand up for myself and others. If someone has a different opinion than I do, my First Amendment right enables me to engage in a discourse with them, perhaps helping change their mind or even my own.

Isn't that one of the most important reasons we're in college? To learn and grow and challenge ourselves? I'll be completely honest; when I first started taking political science courses for my major, I actively avoided taking any classes with professors who had a reputation for being conservative. It wasn't until I had to take a class with one of these professors that I learned what I had been missing.

Being in a position where I had to explain my beliefs and opinions helped me to mature as a person and a student. It actually reinforced most of my previously held beliefs and made me understand why I think what I do. On a few occasions, I've even changed my opinion because of a conversation I've had with someone whose perspective is different than mine. That's an incredibly important concept because you aren't always going to be surrounded by people who agree with you, but that's okay because it means we get a lifetime full of learning and growing and changing.

So next time someone disagrees with you, invoke your First Amendment right and go learn.

**MARISSA SNYDER  
MLSNYDER01@STUDENT.YSU.EDU**





Naz Bohannon (33) brings the ball up against Kent State as BJ Duling (2) looks to defend him.

Photo courtesy of YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

# YOUNGSTOWN STATE COMES UP EMPTY IN SANFORD PENTAGON SHOWCASE

**CHRIS MCBRIDE**

A trio of losses in the Sanford Pentagon Showcase has sent the Youngstown State University men's basketball team searching for answers. YSU has yet to beat a Division I team through seven games played.

The Penguins are coming off a three-game road trip beginning with the University of Northern Colorado before facing the University Southern Mississippi and ending the showcase against the University of South Dakota.

After a grueling road trip came up empty for the Penguins, YSU Head Coach Jerrod Calhoun stated that each game had its own storyline for what went wrong. The most recurring story seemed to be the poor free throw shooting of YSU.

"That's tough because you want to get to the free throw line and you tell your kids to drive the ball and that's the name of the game," Calhoun said.

Youngstown State is ranked 348 out of 351 teams in free throw shooting with a .569 percentage. Freshman Naz Bohannon,

expressed his frustrations over their shooting woes from the line.

"If we need to stay after practice and shoot until we make at least 300-400 free throws then that's what we need to do because we can't keep losing games off free throws," Bohannon said.

## Against Northern Colorado

In their first of three neutral site games, YSU faced off against a Northern Colorado team led by Jordan Davis and Jalen Sanders. The Bears came out strong managing to secure a 80-67 win.

As mentioned, Coach Calhoun said each game had a story. The story in this loss? Missed three pointers and a low team free throw shooting effort. The Penguins managed to only shoot 28.6 from three on 4-14 attempts. From the line, it didn't fare much better as YSU shot 9-23 only managing a 39.1 percent shooting effort in free throws.

"To miss so many [free throws] and to know the number of misses are more than the points we lost by is gut wrenching," Bohannon said.

Though the Penguin offense came into the game averaging 97 points a game, the

Bears slowed YSU holding them to just 67 points on 42.2 shooting. By contrast, Northern Colorado shot 57.6 from the field as they controlled the game from start to finish having never trailed.

## Against Southern Mississippi

YSU fared better in game two of the showcase despite a 71-64 loss to the Golden Eagles. Both teams were coming off a loss in their first showcase games as they battled it out in a closely contested game.

After leading the game in scoring with 24 points, Morse became the 12th player in school history to reach 1,500 points.

The storyline in this game was turnovers with the Penguins turning the ball over 18 times. In return, the Golden Eagles managed to convert those turnovers into 20 points.

Despite the USM defense forcing YSU to shoot just 37.7 from the field, both teams stayed close throughout the game. YSU led most of the first half behind Morse scoring 13 first-half points.

The game was back and forth in the second half with YSU battling back twice to tie before USM players Cortez Edwards and Tyree Griffin helped secure the win.

## Against South Dakota

Closing out the Sanford Showcase, YSU dropped a blowout 81-53 matchup against the Coyotes. The Penguins shooting woes continued in this game shooting 37.7 percent from the field.

Morse was the leading man for YSU with 12 points and five assists. He averaged 17.7 points per game over the three games en route to being named to the Sanford Pentagon Showcase All-Tournament Team.

The hot-shooting Coyotes connected on over 50 percent of its field goals and managed to convert 19 turnovers into points despite having 16 of its own. South Dakota ran away with the game by never trailing.

After the game, Calhoun praised South Dakota, calling them the best team they've played so far on the season. Coming off three losses, YSU looks to regroup at home this week.

Youngstown State will host Robert Morris on Nov. 29 in Beeghly Center with tipoff set for 7 p.m. before having five straight road games in the month of December.



## PRESS BOX PERSPECTIVE: THE MONTHS BEFORE THE WAR IN MARCH

SETH RIVELLO

Every year in college basketball, it seems like the Top 10 rankings always change, which is good. It keeps the game fresh even though there are a couple teams that might make it stale. The Duke Blue Devils always seem to crack the top, the Kentucky Wildcats, even with all its youth, always seem to be a top five team, The Kansas Jayhawks, Michigan State Spartans, this list could go on forever.

A huge part of these teams always coming back highly ranked is coaching, but it's also clearly the talent that's put on the floor which could be anywhere from a newly recruited freshman to fifth year senior.

Since Coach K took over the program in 1980, Duke has been a number one seed 13 times entering the March Madness Tournament. It looks to enter as number one this year as arguably the top recruit in the nation is putting up big numbers. Marvin Bagley III is a 6'11" forward with possible LeBron James-like upside. It's very early to say that, but this kid is good. He's averaging 22 points per game and 11 rebounds, which doesn't seem outrageous. But college basketball only plays two 20-minute halves. If you add up his minutes minus the Michigan State game (he was injured mid-game), he's averaging close to 34 minutes.

In each of his last three games, he has recorded 15 rebounds, and in two of those games he's had 30 or more points. It's hard to stop this kid especially when you pair him up with Grayson Allen and Trevon Duval.

Tom Izzo is working his genius again as he has his Michigan State Spartans ranked third

in the nation with a 5-1 record. Its only loss was given to them by Duke and Grayson Allen who had 37 points, but soon after Sparty bounced back and destroyed a top 10 North Carolina team by 18.

The Spartans team is built very well, so sophomore guard Miles Bridges doesn't have to score 40 every game to get a win. Bridges averages 15 points per game and seven boards; forward Nick Ward puts up 13 points and six boards. You can go down the roster and clearly tell this is an unselfish team. The Spartans don't have that one guy they rely on — they have multiple scorers, and if one of them starts to get hot, the team feeds him. Guard Cassius Winston has showed he can put up big numbers when he's on, but when he isn't hot he's not scared to feed others and earn double-digit assists.

This team is dangerous and showing its unselfishness; if they roll into March hot, this could be a runaway.

The Kansas Jayhawks do have a tough schedule approaching but it's hard to see them dipping below the top 10. They are led by the shooting big man Sviatoslav Mykhailiuk with his team high 18 points, junior guard Lagerald Vick who's having his best season by far, and the young big man Udoka Azubuike who's dominating down low averaging 16 points and seven rebounds.

There are a lot of teams that shouldn't be slept on like the Florida Gators, Texas A&M Aggies, and the Wichita State Shockers. You won't really be able to see a team's true colors until Conference Tournament play begins in March — that's when the first knockoffs and shocking the nation begins.

# SPRING SPORTS ANNOUNCE SIGNING CLASSES

MARC WEEMS

Many teams have signed brand new classes of athletes in an array of springtime sports at Youngstown State University. Those sports include swimming and diving, both men's and women's track and field, men's and women's golf and softball.

For coach Brian Gorby and the Horizon League champion track and field team, it added six to the women's team and five to the men's team.

For the women, it added Olivia Jones from England, Maggie Sebest from Poland, OH, Lauren Dolak from Austintown, OH, MacKenzie Scott from Minerva, OH, Charlotte Crouch from Cortland, OH and Hailey Puckett from Chillicothe, OH.

The men added Cole Smith from Smithville, Ohio, Seth Stokes from Lisbon, Ohio, Noah Drudy from Aliquippa, PA, Jett Murphy from Covington, Ohio and Zach Gehm from Harmony, PA.

All of them have been record holders or top players in their states or country.

To the links, both men's and women's golf teams added some high school talent. Coach Tony Joy added two Boardman products in Brian Terlesky and Bryan Kordupel.

Terlesky was a four-time state qualifier and was second team All-State as a junior. He was also a three-time All-American Conference player of the year.

Kordupel has only golfed competitively for the past four years and was a two-time All-AAC selection as a Spartan.

For coach Nate Miklos, he added three girls for the women's golf team. He signed Jenna Vivo from Boardman, OH, Pang Khuanrudee and Rattika Sittigool from Thailand.

Vivo was first-team all-league and All-Northeast Ohio three times at Boardman High School.

Khuanrudee and Sittigool went to different

schools in Thailand but were both very good. Sittigool won the Hurricane Junior Tournament at Augusta State.

In the pool, first-year coach Ryan Purdy got a talented class of nine girls added to his squad.

YSU added Allyson Wilson from Kings Mills, Ohio, Kayla Wrasman from Hartland, Wis., Josie Preski from Chatham, Ill., Taci Miller from Baltimore, Ohio, Mallory Pitstick from Ottawa, Ill., Tess Weiskopf from Clifton Park, N.Y., Elizabeth Wompey from Arvada, Colo., Riley Ernst from Hillard, Ohio and Averi McCarthy from Dayton, Ohio.

Weiskopf and Wrasman are divers while most of the rest of the group are freestyle swimmers. Josie Preski is the only one of the group that comes in with Butterfly experience.

Last but certainly not least, we head to the diamond as the YSU softball team and coach Brian Campbell added five talented girls for next spring's team.

The Penguins added Sarah Bader from Baltimore, Ohio, Grace Cea from Canton, Ohio, Alex DeLeon from Warrington, Pa., Addy Jarvis from Girard, Ohio and Kayla Rutherford from Youngstown, Ohio.

Bader batted .430 in her junior year as an infielder. Cea batted in 35 runs as a utility player. DeLeon batted .391 with 17 RBIs and was all-conference as a junior.

Jarvis, a pitcher and infielder for Hubbard High School the last three years, will pitch at Mathews High School this year. She went 20-1 last year with over 200 strikeouts and a .513 average. She has 47 career wins and was a two-time league player of the year.

Rutherford, a pitcher and infielder, had 210 career strikeouts and has .508 batting average.

All of these sports signed some very talented players that should guide YSU to great places.





Nikki Arbanas (4) goes up for a layup over Autumn Ceppi (24) in a 66-60 loss on Nov. 24.

Photo courtesy of YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

## STRUGGLING TO FIND CONSISTENCY: YSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

MARC WEEMS

After a home loss to Bucknell after two wins, it seems the Youngstown State University women's basketball team (2-3) is having a hard time staying consistent. After YSU's loss to Bucknell University, 66-60, it is looking to find consistency in each game.

"It's been a really tough schedule. We played an ACC team [University of Pittsburgh], Bucknell was picked first in their league, Kent State was picked second in their league. It has been difficult but we've been right there with those teams," YSU head coach John Barnes said.

Against Bucknell, almost everything but the scoreboard seemed to go YSU's way. YSU's biggest problem so far has been rebounding. Against Bucknell, it was outrebounded 44-27 and outscored 28-16 in the paint. YSU only made two free throws to Bucknell's 12 made free throws.

"The hardest thing for us has just been putting it all together on the same night. First few games we had too many turnovers. I thought against Bucknell we had too many mental mistakes. We took care of the ball but had

mental errors," Barnes said.

When YSU outrebounded other teams, it generally wins games. It outrebounded Loyola University Chicago 34-29 and outrebounded Ohio Valley University 43-29. In YSU's three losses, it was outrebounded.

"Honestly, I think we are in a good place. We know the things that we need to work on," YSU Guard Nikki Arbanas said. "Knowing that we have to play a full four quarters, that's what we know we need to do to get the win. Less turnovers, get more stops on defense are what we need to do to get some wins."

Now YSU can only look forward as it faces Robert Morris University (2-3) who have played well this year.

RMU allows teams to outrebounded it by over 10 per game. Even in its wins, RMU was outrebounded and also turns the ball over more.

"We are just trying to play complete games and if we do that, we will win some more games," Barnes said. "I'm not into moral victories but being right there with teams that are picked to win their leagues is encouraging. We just need to pull everything together. We have St. Francis [PA], who is picked to win their league and Robert Morris, who is picked second."

Barnes believes that its tough early season schedule will prepare it for the tough conference schedule.

RMU is the beginning of YSU's four-game road trip. YSU will also go on the road to face American University, the University of Akron and St. Francis (PA) University. Each of those teams will give YSU quite the test.

"It's never fun losing no matter how it happens. I honestly think that we know that we are capable of winning these games. We know what we are capable of as long as we put everything together," Arbanas said.

Arbanas has been a key in YSU's success over the last few years. She will need to continue to find her rhythm as she is averaging six points per game while shooting just 26.3 from the three-point line. She scored 15 points against Pitt but hasn't scored in double digits since.

"You have to play really well against these teams," Barnes said. "We are going to have to play extremely well to win these and that's the nature of the beast. Anytime you go on the road, it is always tough."

Barnes said that because American was picked third in its conference so it's a tough test.

YSU hits the road to face American on Dec. 2 at 2 p.m. in its second game of its four-game road trip.