

THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1931

#JAMBAR



AMID LOCKDOWN, CAMPUS SAFETY A RISING CONCERN OF YSU COMMUNITY

Photo by *Tanner Mondok/The Jambar*

MORGAN PETRONELLI

Chaos erupted on Youngstown State University's campus at 11:07 a.m. when a call came into the YSU Police Department regarding an altercation that allegedly resulted in a suspect pulling a gun on the victim. Due to the nature of the claim, YSUPD took precautions and placed the entire campus on lockdown.

The lockdown lasted roughly two hours, with students and faculty hunkering down in classrooms and other secure locations around campus. However, some of the YSU community argue supposedly "secure" locations were not fully secure and resulted in panic throughout YSU.

Students took to social media to voice their concerns and share photos of attempts to secure the doors of their classrooms.

Many photos displayed various ways they kept their doors secure, including barricading the entryways and doors with desks and chairs and tying the door handle with jackets, belts and shoelaces.

The main issue a majority of students and faculty reported was that some doors did not have locks on the inside, some professors did not have access to a key and the doors opened outwards rather than inwards creating a major

safety issue for those seeking safety during the lockdown.

Students Voice Their Concerns

Students in the Williamson College of Business Administration were moved to the auditorium during the lockdown. Nathan Rein, junior finance major, reported he witnessed no one checking classrooms to ensure all students and faculty were evacuated safely into the auditorium.

"Me and one other kid in my class were in the room for a while before I heard people had been moved to the auditorium, and on my way there I noticed there were still a person in a classroom or two. So, that definitely could have been handled better," he said.

Rein admitted he did feel safe during the situation on Monday and thought the university gave their best effort, but the Penguin Alert System could use some improvements when it comes to sending the alert faster and more efficiently.

Ashley Minniti, a photographer from Girard with relatives who attend YSU, wrote on Facebook her brother and cousins were safe but experiencing issues securing doors in their classrooms.

"My brother's lecture has four entrances, and the students had to use their belts to tie them shut," she wrote on social media. "This is after

the professor said he locked the door and then someone walked right in to tell him what was going on. So, the students decided to 'lock' the doors themselves. The other room had to use a pile of chairs. Real safe, Youngstown State University. At least the students are intelligent."

Isabella Orr, sophomore math education major, said both of her parents are Warren City School teachers and have to go through mandatory active shooter and lockdown training every year, while the ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training is entirely optional to professors at YSU.

Orr said she was in Lincoln Hall when the lockdown occurred and the door to her classroom could not be locked and opened outward, making it nearly impossible to barricade the entryway. Eventually, her class was told an hour and a half into the lockdown the main doors to the building were not locking, so they were subsequently ushered them to another location in Lincoln Hall that could be locked.

"YSU needs to implement procedures and update their buildings. I was truly scared today, and it was honestly one of the worst ways to handle this situation. We were all sitting ducks," she said.

Halle Van Scoy, a finance major at YSU, said some students were not scared during the lockdown.

"Some classes put riddles on their boards, made jokes and watched Netflix to pass the time," she said. "My class did not barricade the door because it opens out and doing that wouldn't help. We made the most of all being stuck together."

Faculty Speak Out

Students weren't the only ones taking to social media to voice their issues during the lockdown. Rachel Faerber-Ovaska, part-time French and German instructor, wrote on Facebook her door in DeBartolo Hall had no lock on the inside, so she and her class had to improvise in order to secure the room.

"The class put backpack straps on the door handle and we held on to the backpacks for an hour or so while sitting on the floor of the darkened classroom," Faerber-Ovaska said.

Diana Palardy, associate professor of Spanish, said there was no lock on hers or her colleague's classroom doors. She added another fellow professor resorted to running down the hallway in DeBartolo Hall to find a secure location.

Some students posted on social media their professors had little to no idea what to do during the university lockdown, and opted to ask their students what to do or decided to release their class to go home despite university officials and YSUPD orders.

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ACTIVE INVESTIGATION AFTER LOCKDOWN AT YSU; POLICE CHIEF SAYS "NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF FIREARM"

RACHEL GOBEP



Youngstown State University was placed on lockdown at 11:32 a.m. Monday when the YSU Police Department received a call about a physical confrontation taking place at the university. The man who was allegedly at the center of the investigation has pleaded guilty to unrelated charges.

Robert Allen, 19, pleaded guilty to one charge of possession of drugs

that occurred in April, and a warrant was issued in April when he failed to appear in court, according to a report by 21 WFMJ. The alleged suspect has not been charged in connection to the lockdown at the university or the altercation as of Wednesday.

YSU Police Chief Shawn Varso said during a press briefing Monday that there is currently an active investigation occurring regarding the altercation on the second-floor of Kilcawley Center near the Information Desk

Varso said the alleged victim, a YSU student, immediately left the scene and called the police department. Allen, the alleged suspect, is not a student at the university.

"As our officers arrived, which was about two minutes [after 11:07 a.m.], they were informed by the victim in this case that a subject had [revealed] a firearm during the confrontation," Varso said.

As of Wednesday, he said the department currently has "no physical evidence" of a firearm and there is no firearm in their custody.

He said according to witnesses the department have talked to, the physical altercation was "a lot of yelling, pushing and shoving." It is unclear what the confrontation was about at this time.

"At that time we did not know where the suspect had gone to, the last place he had been seen was in the vicinity of the rec center," Varso said.

The alleged victim called the YSU Police Department at 11:07 a.m., and the university sent out a Penguin Alert at 11:32 a.m. that read, "THE CAMPUS IS IN LOCKDOWN. A SUSPECT IS CURRENTLY AT LARGE WITH FIREARM. LAST SEEN BY REC CENTER."

Varso said there was a buffer time in when the department received the information and when the alert was sent to the campus community because the department wanted to send out correct information.

"We want to try to get as much information as possible ... As soon as we get the information, we're going to put it out as fast as possible. There is lag time in there, but in that lag time, you're not seeing what's happening behind the scenes," he said.

He said the victim did not cooperate with the officers at first and did not want to give information or a description.

Varso said the only information the police had when YSU was placed on lockdown was that there was a gun involved in the situation. All officers were then dispatched to YSU and searched the area to locate the suspect.

He said YSU also received response from the Youngstown Police Department, the Mahoning County Sheriff's Department, Ohio State Highway Patrol and various task forces.

Varso said the victim then gave the police department a description of the suspect, which was sent out to the campus

community via a Penguin Alert.

"The subject we are currently looking for is a black male, red hoodie with red and white lettering, dreadlocks and a black backpack," the alert read.

Varso said later witnesses gave the police department the name of the suspect. The department was then able to locate the family members of the suspect and "engaged him in conversation on the phone."

"The suspect was asked to come in to resolve the situation. He voluntarily did come to our station," he said.

Varso added the suspect is currently being questioned at the station and the department is still in the process of gathering witnesses, video information and statements from the victim.

Through the video currently in the department's possession, Varso said there were a large number of people present during the altercation.

YSU President Jim Tressel thanked Varso and the YSU Police Department for their response to the situation, and stressed the importance of Penguin Alerts to enhance the safety of campus.

"I think our people did a great job of responding to a situation that you hope never arises, but you have to assume can arise," he said.

"It is one of those days that you don't wake up and think are going to happen, but what I can tell you is that I'm unbelievably proud of our police department and our faculty on this campus that the first thing that came to their mind was the safety of our students and the safety of our campus," Shannon Tirone, associate vice president of University Relations, said.

This is a breaking news story, and as The Jambar receives more information, the story will be updated. Go to www.thejambar.com for updates.

AMID LOCKDOWN, CAMPUS SAFETY A RISING CONCERN OF YSU COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

Not every professor was unprepared during the situation. Multiple students from part-time journalism professor Michelle Gatts' class recalled her jumping right into action as soon as the lockdown was initiated on campus.

"Everything I'd learned in the ALICE class clicked into place. I wasn't even afraid, truthfully, but I felt a sense of urgency," she said. Gatts said as soon as a student announced to the class the university was on lockdown, she instructed her students to set up a barricade consisting of chairs, a lectern and a table, while she told others to tape newspapers she had in her bag over the window on the door.

She had students pull down the blinds in the room and shut off computers to reduce light, while she ushered in students from the neighboring computer lab into her classroom.

Gatts also said she instructed students to be prepared to throw objects at the intruder in the case they broke through the barricade.

"Some students were very shaken, and I did my best to calm them. I wasn't going to and wouldn't ever let anyone harm my students," she said.

Gatts attributes her preparedness to her ALICE training provided by the YSUPD she took in fall 2015, and said she continually reviews it with herself and her students each semester.

"The ALICE training needs to be mandatory for faculty and staff rather than optional, and it would be helpful if it were mandatory for students," she said. "The better educated we all are, the more confident we'll all be in our response should it be necessary again."

The Controversial Aftermath

Despite YSU's best efforts to resolve the potential armed suspect situation quickly and smoothly, there were a few hiccups in the road.

Multiple students took to social media with pictures of parking tickets they received during the lockdown. Many were quick to blame YSUPD and YSU Parking Services, despite neither of them having any involvement in the issue.

One student in particular, Chelsea Raymer, senior human resource management major, had her Facebook post go viral after she posted a picture of a parking ticket she had received while the campus was on lockdown.

"Everything ended up well, except I got a parking ticket while we were on lockdown," Raymer wrote. "I'm not sure how they expected me to put money in my meter when we weren't allowed to leave the building. I am even shocked they would take the time to write them considering it's from the Youngstown Police Department who was helping out during the

lockdown investigation."

She added when she contacted the police station to get answers, she said the police claimed it was her fault for running out of time on the parking meter and to visit the station to fill out paperwork to request a hearing.

"Unfortunately, during the lockdown yesterday, the contract folks we have that issued the parking tickets, who are not police officers, were unaware of the lockdown, so they continued to go their rounds," Youngstown Police Chief Robin Lees said according to an article by WKBN.

Those who received tickets from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. are instructed to bring their ticket and YSU ID to the Youngstown Municipal Court Building, YSU Police Station or the Traffic Division on the second floor of the Youngstown Police Station to have the ticket resolved.

Raymer's story wasn't the only post going viral on Facebook on Monday. Veronica Hall, junior communications major, wrote about her issue with finding shelter in Kilcawley House.

Hall said she was in Chick-fil-A with her friends when the lockdown was initiated. They witnessed people running after everyone received the Penguin Alert. Hall and her friends proceeded to enter nearby Kilcawley House lobby where they saw other students rushing into.

She said there were roughly 15 people in the lobby and the receptionist asked if they were all signing in with a resident. When the students proceeded to say no and they were just trying to find a secure place, the receptionist went into the back offices to ask.

Hall added a few employees emerged from the back and one woman, who Hall claims is Kate Fitzgerald, director of Housing and Residence Life, refused to locate the students to a secure place.

"She said we had to stay in the lobby where the door was still unlocked and people were able to get in and out. I asked her if there was an office or a back room that she could lock us all in because we didn't feel safe and she said 'No, you're not residents and besides there's no room for you back here. These are offices and people are trying to work,'" Hall said.

The two argued briefly before the woman walked away, leaving the students to huddle in a corner of the lobby while the doors remained open.

After speaking with a few other workers, Hall said one resident hall employee agreed to take the group of students to the basement if they signed in.

"Residents or not, we are still students, in fact, human, and we were treated so terribly in

a very stressful and scary situation. I did not feel prepared. If I was in a classroom, yes I would have felt safer and more prepared, but I was just getting lunch with my friends and I had no idea where to go or what to do. I went to where I thought would be the safest place to go," she said.

The University and YSUPD Respond

Fitzgerald responded to the accusation by Hall and said the residence halls have a safety policy that prohibits anyone who is not a resident or a guest of a resident to enter the halls where the dorms are located.

"During the lockdown — no one was turned away or kicked out of Kilcawley House. Nonresident students were given safety in the locked lobby area and within 10 minutes were escorted downstairs to wait out the lockdown in our lounges," she said.

During a 2:30 p.m. press briefing after the conclusion of the lockdown, YSU Police Chief Shawn Varso acknowledged not everything went according to plan procedure-wise, but was happy with the police response during the situation.

He also said some doors in buildings around campus only lock if a professor has the key, while some don't lock at all.

"We're going to take a look at what happened today, what went right today and anything we need to improve on," Varso said. "I don't doubt there was some hiccups ... With situations like this you always look to improve it. Fortunately for us today, the incident turned out the way it did and I'd like to see this as something we can build upon."

Following Varso, YSU President Jim Tressel thanked the YSUPD any other law enforcement agencies who worked together to resolve the firearm incident.

"There are always teachable moments," he said.

Tressel said situations like the one on Monday are a great reminder to constantly encourage the YSU community to sign up for Penguin Alerts.

"This is just a reminder that we take those alerts and we take those directions very seriously," he said. "We don't ever assume that maybe we're making more out of something than it ought to be because when you have a real problem, you need to make it priority number one and I'm sure [this] will be a great teachable moment for all of us."

Addressing Room for Improvement and Looking Toward the Future

The YSU Student Government Association wrote in a statement on Facebook that the lockdown situation on Monday brought up the need for more "reliable communication within

the YSU community."

"In order to fully address safety on campus, we hope to further our involvement in providing safety training to all students, faculty and staff. We are in the process of making connections to university officials to ensure that all members of our campus feel comfortable, and more importantly, prepared, to deal with dangerous situations," the statement from SGA said.

In a email to faculty members on Dec. 4, Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Joseph Mosca thanked them for their response, but acknowledged the university was aware some faculty members were unprepared and ill-equipped for the incident on Monday.

Mosca said the university plans on debriefing faculty on lockdown procedure do's and don'ts. He also highly encouraged, but did not mandate, YSU faculty to attend ALICE training provided by YSUPD.

He added the YSUPD and various college deans are coming together to develop a crisis plan to better equip staff to handle situations such as these.

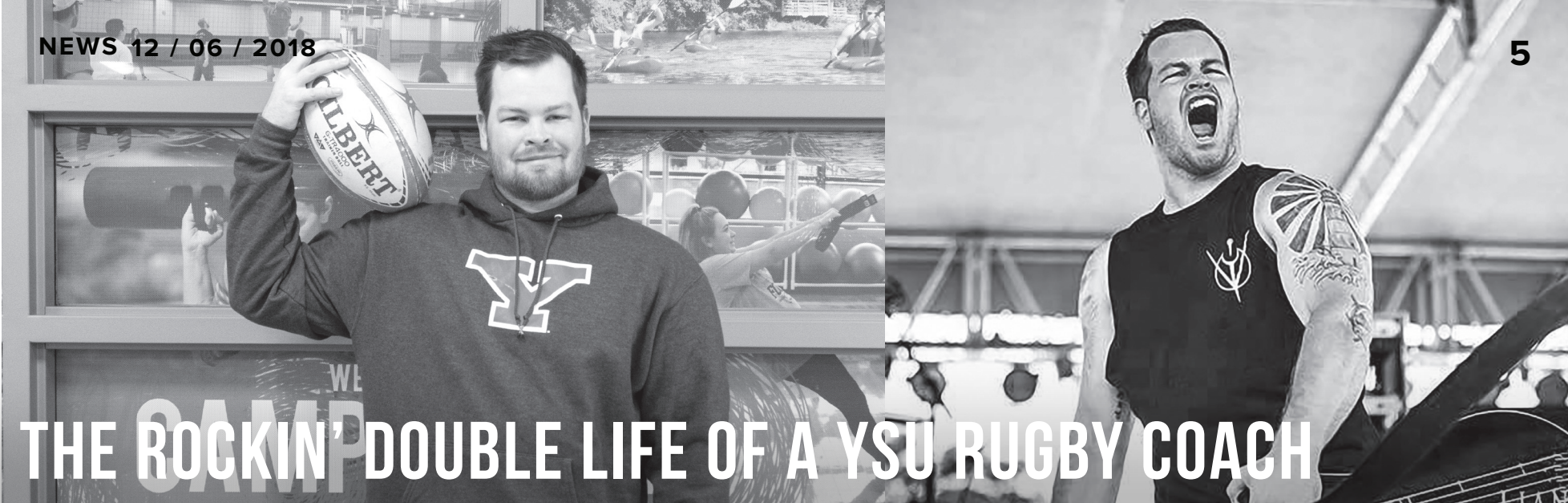
Eddie Howard, vice president of Student Affairs, sent an email out to YSU students addressing ways both the students can find help and how the university plans to improve itself for situations like the recent lockdown.

For those who need help, Howard suggested contacting Student Counseling Services, Student Outreach and Support or "any other office on campus where you feel most comfortable."

"YSU is a family, and we are always here to support you when you need it," he said.

To sign up for the Penguin Alert System, visit <https://ysu.edu/penguin-alert> and if you wish to voice your opinion about the lockdown incident, fill out the survey at [surveymonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com).





THE ROCKIN' DOUBLE LIFE OF A YSU RUGBY COACH

Left photo by **J. Harvard Feldhouse /The Jambar**, Right photo courtesy of **Liana Marie**

FRANCES CLAUSE

“At the end of the day, people will always make time for what they are passionate about,” Jeff Horton, Youngstown State University’s women’s rugby coach, said.

Horton makes time for two passions: coaching rugby and performing in his metal band, This is a Lifetime.

“It’s been a continuous struggle to not only coach and make music, but maintain a professional job, as well,” he said. “But life is too short to pass up on opportunities, and my thought process was to take advantage of any that I was fortunate to come across.”

This is a Lifetime formed in 2010 and began to play and write pop punk music. After changes in band members, the group’s sound evolved and metalcore emerged.

“Even though we have continuously adjusted our sound, our message has always been based around positive mental attitudes and doing good for others,” Horton said.

Horton’s favorite memory with the band was performing at iMatter, a free annual festival featuring local and national hard rock bands.

“The festival counters suicide, self-harm and self-doubt by promoting unearthed value, unveiled purpose and defiant hope to this generation,” he said.

This is a Lifetime was active and touring until 2015 and performed at other festivals, including Warped Tour and JAMBoree. The band was also featured in music publications such as Alternative Press.

When Horton was more active in the band, his days ended at 10 p.m., and he would head to rehearsal afterward as the group’s bass guitarist.

“Truthfully, because I’m not a musician by

trade, I have always loved music that involves heavy bass and great rhythms, so it just made sense for me to pursue bass guitar,” he said. “With the style of music we play, playing bass also allows for me to bring lots of energy to the stage.”

Horton believes keeping metal music alive is important because of the positivity and diversity of the metal community.

“Naturally, [metal] isn’t everyone’s cup of tea, but the culture and bonds associated with this particular style of music are second to none,” he said.

Kaitlynn Sloan, a junior international business major and women’s rugby team member, is impressed Horton balances his job with his love for rugby and music.

“I think having a creative and athletic side gives a chance to really express yourself,” she said. “And although both are great alone, it’s

always a good idea to have more than one outlet to vent stress and express your emotions.”

Sloan said Horton has encouraged the rugby team members to attend This is a Lifetime’s upcoming reunion performance at The Foundry in Lakewood, Ohio.

“The first time I heard about [Horton’s] band was from teammates when I first joined,” she said. “He never really mentioned [the band] until he announced a few months ago that he would be playing with them again.”

“A lot of [the team] is interested to see and support the part of [Horton’s] life that isn’t playing or coaching rugby,” she added.

This is a Lifetime will perform Dec. 20 and feature Horton on bass guitar, Stevie James on vocals, Mike Oiler on lead guitar, Morgan Patterson on rhythm guitar and Jordan Marich on drums.

YSU INTRODUCES A SUSHI RESTAURANT

NAMI NAGAOKA

Chartwells Dining Services at Youngstown State University introduced Hissho Sushi on Nov. 27 in Kilcawley Center’s The Cove. Hissho Sushi features menu items like maki sushi, specialty rolls, combo items and more. The sushi is made to order in front of customers.

Wesley Paing, senior regional manager of Hissho Sushi, is originally from Bourma, Burkina Faso in West Africa.

“We use premium items,” he said.

Paing said Hissho Sushi has many other locations. The corporate headquarter of Hissho Sushi is located Charlotte in North Carolina.

Hissho Sushi’s menu items are within a price range of \$6 to \$13.

“We make sure that students can afford [our product],” he said.

Paing said the quality of the food is the same as more expensive sushi options, however, the quantity of product helps balance the cost.

Paing said every morning Hissho Sushi sets more than 20 packages of popular items such as Crispy Crab and Crunchy

Shrimp Roll at the each “Grab and Go” location across campus.

“Students here are very friendly, and I am very pleased to work here,” Paing added.

Eddie Howard, vice president for student affairs, said he and Chartwells decided to pursue installing an Asian food counter service restaurant after reviewing the results of a survey conducted last spring. Almost 100 students were surveyed from the YSU resident halls.

“One of the things that came as a result to the conversation was [students] want some type of Asian concept [of a food],” he said. “It’s also not a lot of sushi anywhere close our campus,” Howard said.

Howard also found there was a need to increase vegetarian options on campus.

According to Howard, having Hissho Sushi in The Cove also satisfied the want to have a food option on the south side of Kilcawley Center.

“It brings a different scale of variety,” Howard said. “I just hope people enjoy it and come there a lot,” he said.

Rayven Shaffer, a freshman psychology major, loves sushi and hibachi and was very happy to have a sushi restaurant on campus.

“[The cost] is a little high, but I understand why they have it

like that. They know that people would buy it because the closest place you can go [get sushi] is Boardman,” Shaffer said.

Garret Kuchmaner, a freshman music major, thinks some of the sushi rolls are inexpensive and affordable, and he got Special Cooked Combo on the opening day.

“I have had a sushi at a lot of different places, and this seems very high quality,” he said.

Kuchmaner said it is great to have a healthy choice to eat on campus.

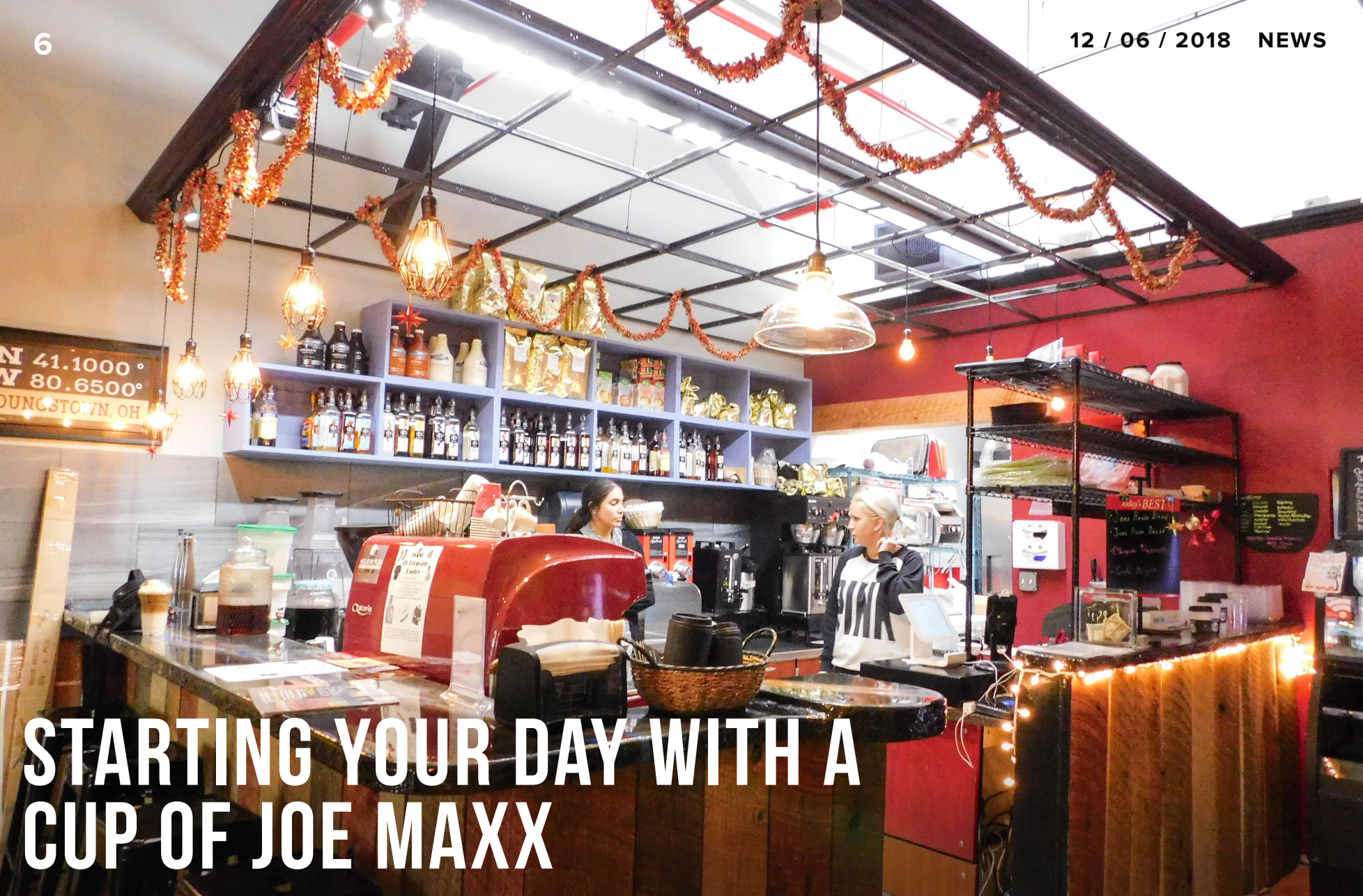
Risa Kimura, an English language institute major, is an exchange student from Nagoya University of Foreign Studies. She said she was happy to have a sushi restaurant on campus.

Kimura has been to some Japanese restaurants in Boardman, however, it was not easy for her to find an off-campus ride.

“In order to get there, we have to use Uber or a bus,” she said.

Kimura said she was surprised that there was a great interests from many students to bring a Japanese style of food on campus with such a small number of Japanese students at YSU.

“[The sushi] was so good. I want to get their food every day if I can,” Kimura added.



STARTING YOUR DAY WITH A CUP OF JOE MAXX

Photo by **Amanda Joerndt/The Jambar**

AMANDA JOERNDT

It's not hard to find a cup of joe in downtown Youngstown, but finding a bumblebee latte is another story. Youngstown locals walk through the doors of Joe Maxx Coffee Co. awaiting their favorite coffee at 265 W. Federal Street.

The coffee shop opened in Youngstown almost seven years ago and provides a relaxing and stress-free environment for students to take a break from their daily lives.

Victoria Clark, manager at Joe Maxx Coffee Co., has been working at the shop for five years, and said she greets new and old faces every day.

Clark said the shop provides an environment for students and community members to take a break from their daily lives.

"We want to be chill and the students from Youngstown State University to come here, get some lunch and sit for a few hours and relax," she said. "We want to be a break from your desk job where you can come over with some friends."

The shop serves signature pours such as sweet

vanilla lattes with ground cinnamon, hazelnut lattes with honey and crushed pecans and iced banana and mocha lattes with sweet coconut.

The title "Joe Maxx" is not related to a person, but to an idea that turned into a reality for the owner, Mike Avey.

Joe Maxx was a pilot who flew coffee from the bean belt in the north and along the way, he crashed his plane. The only item left in his plane were coffee beans, which led him to sell coffee out of his plane.

Various Joe Maxx locations are also stationed in Colorado, Pennsylvania, Florida and Nevada.

Clark said working with her co-workers is her favorite part of the job, along with the science behind making a cup of coffee.

"We've all worked here for as long as I can remember; we've all been together," she said. "My employees are my favorite, and I really like science in coffee working with math and numbers."

She said she hopes for Joe Maxx to stay true to their roots with having a positive atmosphere.

"This Joe Maxx will always be here, whether it's here or down the street again in seven years,"

she said. "I would like to see more Joe Maxxes, but to stay the way that we are and to not become commercial."

Dante DelBene, an employee at Joe Maxx, worked summer festivals for the coffee shop since 2013 and transferred to the Youngstown shop in 2016.

DelBene said the move from East to West Federal Street felt strange but was rewarding in the end.

"We have built a whole new shop and [Mike] did a great job because he built this shop from scratch," he said. "It was weird because we went from working every day to not having a lot of business because of the move."

DelBene said having a close knit group of co-workers is key to enjoying your work place.

"In service jobs, part of the only joys in that — other than working for your money — is the people," he said. "You just have to have a good relationship with your co-workers and that's what makes it worthwhile."

DelBene said he hopes that Joe Maxx will keep the same environment while allowing the business to grow.

"I want to see Joe Maxx continue to be the coffee shop that everyone likes to come to and talk in," he said. "It would be nice to see it grow how Mike is doing it with opening stores in different parts of the country, but I hope it doesn't change from how it is."

Brenda Zywith, a legal secretary for RothBlair, is a Joe Maxx regular and has been a loyal customer since 2001.

Zywith said her favorite part of Joe Maxx is trying a new product and talking with the employees.

"It's the best coffee in town and these people are wonderful," she said. "They're more than just people who give me my coffee; they're friends that I've had in my home and I've built great relationships here."

Zywith said Joe Maxx gives her a place to feel welcome and start her day off on the right foot.

"It's welcoming, warm and a good product," she said. "They get you in and out of here, and I would be disappointed if there wasn't a Joe Maxx here."

YSU STUDENTS GIVE BACK DURING THE HOLIDAYS

COURTNEY HIBLER

The holiday season has inspired some Youngstown State University students to give back to their communities. Students are volunteering their time at animal shelters, rescue missions, churches, hospitals and more in hopes of giving others a brighter holiday season.

Jenna Pavlansky, a senior psychology major, said she continually volunteers at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Boardman, Ohio.

“We have a Youth Retreat Program that I volunteer for,” she said. “We held a Thanksgiving food drive where we packaged and delivered meals to people that needed them.”

Pavlansky said during the holidays, the church organizes a giving tree in which members of the church will choose a name and purchase a gift for that individual.

“Giving a family a little gift they don’t think they will be getting definitely puts a smile on their face,” she said. “It makes their holiday a little more special.”

Members of YSU sororities and fraternities are required to complete a mandatory number of volunteer hours.

Veronica Hall, a junior communications major and an alumni of Alpha Omicron Pi, said each member was allowed to choose what they wanted to volunteer for.

“It was all individual based,” she said. “We had to find different things to volunteer for, and I chose to volunteer for a food pantry.”

In Hall’s opinion, volunteering is a great way to give back to the many people in Youngstown who are less fortunate.

Nicole Kent-Strollo, director of Student Outreach and Support at YSU and chair of the Salvation Army Advisory Board in Mahoning County, said she assists several groups with volunteer opportunities.

“I believe volunteering provides us with a unique opportunity to identify and pursue our passions,” she said.

Kent-Strollo assists the athletic department with volunteering

and said some athletes volunteer with the Salvation Army to collect donations.

“Over the past several years, our YSU student athletes, student organizations, faculty, staff, coaches, administration and alumni have helped raise thousands of dollars in critical funds,” she said.

Annette El-Hayek, an advisor to the Arab Language and Culture Association, hosts dinners for students so they can “feel at home.”

El-Hayek said it’s important everyone feels included in something, and she thinks the dinners provide unity as well as a place for students to socialize with one another.

Halle Van Scoy, a junior finance major, said she volunteers at New Lease on Life Animal Shelter in Struthers, Ohio, and mentioned volunteers play an important role for the shelter.

“A lot of the dogs don’t go outside and walk around unless a volunteer comes out,” she said. “It can get overwhelming if there’s no help.”

Van Scoy said an adoption event, including cats, dogs and rabbits, was held last year around Christmas on a tree farm.

“It’s important for people to adopt,” she said. “The event was successful and I’m hoping to hear it will happen again this year.”

Hall said volunteering is a humbling experience.

“It’s especially important to volunteer during the holidays because you never know who needs a helping hand,” she said. “It makes you look at things differently and I think it’s rewarding.”

A list of a few places to volunteer in the Youngstown area include:

Animal Charity of Ohio

Volunteers at this animal shelter can walk dogs, play with and interact with the animals.

Located at 4140 Market St. in Boardman, Ohio.

(330) 788-1064

New Lease on Life

Volunteers at this animal shelter can walk dogs, work adoption events and care for the animals.

Located at 2773 E. Midlothian Blvd. in Struthers, Ohio.

(330) 397-8270

Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley
Volunteers can serve meals, babysit children, organize a project and tutor.

Located at 962 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Youngstown, Ohio.

(330) 744-5486

Sunrise of Poland - Senior Assisted Living
Volunteers can organize outings, spend an afternoon with residents and participate in activities.

Located at 335 West McKinley Way in Youngstown, Ohio.

(330) 707-1313

Mercy Health St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital
Volunteers can answer telephones, deliver flowers, restock closets and change linens.

Located at 1044 Belmont Ave. in Youngstown, Ohio.

(330) 746-7211



FLYING PENGUINS

BRIAN BRENNAN

Ohio styles itself as the “Birthplace of Aviation.” The slogan is emblazoned on its license plates and graces the state’s commemorative quarter. After all, the Wright Brothers were born in the Buckeye State, as were astronauts John Glenn, Jim Lovell and Neil Armstrong.

North Carolina also lays claim to this distinction because the Wrights’ first flight took place there in 1903. Arguably, the Tar Heels’ position is tenuous, as Orville and Wilbur conducted most of their research in Dayton. Regardless of each state’s assertion to its nativity, aviation would quickly seize the American imagination.

By the 1930s, Youngstown College students were taking wing.

Freshman Arthur Smith, who earned his

pilot’s license in 1930, studied aeronautics in California under an Army instructor who reportedly taught Charles A. Lindbergh to fly. In 1936, YoCo junior Galen Elser flew an airplane that he constructed with his brother Donald Elser and Carlyle Jobs.

Powered by a Ford engine, the aircraft had a wingspan of 28 feet and a top speed of 85 miles per hour. Later, Galen would teach high school English, and Donald would retire from Youngstown State University as a speech and broadcasting instructor. Carlyle Jobs’ fate is unknown.

As the clouds of war gathered over Europe and eastern Asia, President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced a program of reserve pilot training at selected American colleges and universities.

Initially funded by a grant from the National Youth Administration, it was regulated by the Civil Aeronautics Authority. The program

spread, setting up shop at Youngstown College soon thereafter. In 1939, 80 students applied; 40 were disqualified.

Of the 20 selected for training, a coed named Beryl Dent was the only female. Several weeks later, these 20 trainees formed a permanent flying club, the Dawn Patrol, a term that harkens back to the early morning combat sorties flown during World War I, as well as the 7 a.m. start time of flight classes at YoCo.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor and America’s entry into World War II, the CAA pilot curriculum evolved into the War Service Training Program, providing aviators for both the Army Air Forces and naval aviation. The CAA ended its affiliation with Youngstown College in 1944, when pilot training was moved to Greensboro, North Carolina.

No account of Penguin aviation would be complete without Marie Barrett, Youngstown’s

first homecoming queen in 1938. A participant in the CAA program, Barrett earned her pilot’s license in 1940. During World War II, Barrett was a member of the Women’s Airforce Service Pilots, a group of female pilots who ferried aircraft from the factories to the military. They also transported high-ranking officials, conducted humanitarian flights, and flight tested repaired aircraft. Sadly, military status and benefits were not granted to the WASP until 1979.

After the war, Youngstown College and the Youngstown Municipal Airport jointly conducted a flight course for veterans. Later, in 1974, Dr. Edwin Bishop and interested students formed the YSU Flying Club, complete with its own airplane.

Penguins do fly, after all.

Photo courtesy of *Ballet Western Reserve Company*

'THE NUTCRACKER' IS COMING TO YOUNGSTOWN

MARAH J. MORRISON

A collaboration between the Ballet Western Reserve and the Dana School of Music's jazz program will bring "The Nutcracker," a classic, two-act ballet, to the stage on Dec. 7 and 9 at Stambaugh Auditorium.

Since the late 1960s, "The Nutcracker" has gained popularity and is now performed by a large number of ballet companies during the holiday season.

Katie Merrill, the executive director at Ballet Western Reserve, said "The Nutcracker" is a family tradition, and there's a special place that people have for "The Nutcracker" and the variations the company is able to do.

"You're not seeing the same Nutcracker, but you still have that connection to it," she said.

Merrill said Ballet Western Reserve is offering local dance students an opportunity to perform on a full-sized production stage in front of 2,100 people to actual live music, and it's very rare for people to see live music with a ballet.

"The educational benefits for our students are astronomical," she said. "They are learning to adapt and work within their

abilities."

Merrill said she is excited about the collaboration with Youngstown State University and their program. She said YSU students, with a valid YSU ID, will receive a discount of \$12, plus additional fees on Friday night's performance.

Jacquelynn Cunningham, the artistic director at the Ballet Western Reserve, said she wanted to bring "The Nutcracker" back to Youngstown, but also wants it to stand out. She said she's always been a fan of jazz music.

"I wanted to bring [jazz music composers] into that traditional story line of 'The Nutcracker,' but kind of spice it up a bit," she said.

Cunningham said in this version of "The Nutcracker," the time period is changed. She said this version of the ballet will take place in the 1920s, preferably 1926, when Stambaugh Auditorium was built.

"It's the jazz age — The Roaring '20s," she said. "So, there is quite a few flappers. The story line is still about the same. I kind of tweaked some of the lead names."

Cunningham said The Mouse King's role in this version of "The Nutcracker" will be Mouse King Capone, and Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald were very popular at the time, so they are going to make an appearance in the ballet as well.

"You do have the Tchaikovsky music but in different arrangements by Duke Ellington and Glenn Miller, and the whole show does not exist in a full jazz format," she said. "I've had to select non-Nutcracker music to fill in the gaps."

Cunningham said in the iconic battle scene between The Nutcracker and the Mouse King, she is using Benny Goodman's "Sing, Sing, Sing" for music. She said it's going to be very lively and be entertaining toward the children in the audience.

"We're still a ballet school and we're still putting on a ballet production," she said. "There's [just] elements of jazz dance within the whole show."

Emily Pasquale, the ballet mistress at Ballet Western Reserve, said she has done a lot of work with the rehearsals for "The Nutcracker." She said when she was growing up, she has always done "The Nutcracker."

"It's so much fun to teach and rehearse with kids with this classic choreography," she said. "It's fun to watch them learn all of this choreography that I learned as a little kid."

Pasquale said "The Nutcracker" has always been a classic tradition every year, but what's great about this year's production is the jazz element. She said she is excited to have the kids be able to experience it.

"It's a whole new experience," she said.

REFLECTING ON YSU'S MOVING PRODUCTION OF 'HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE'

**ALYSSA WESTON &
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
EMILY ISAAC**

Youngstown State University's Department of Theatre and Dance took on the emotional production of "How I Learned to Drive" by Paula Vogel in November at the Spotlight Theatre in Bliss Hall.

Nearly a month after the show opened, the lead actors reflect on their experience in a show with "uncomfortable" topics that YSU's theatre wouldn't typically cover.

The play is told from the perspective of a woman nicknamed Li'l Bit, retelling the story of how she broke the chains of her family, specifically a complex sexual relationship with her Uncle Peck, who engages her in pedophilia.

The show was mostly focused around the journey of Uncle Peck teaching Li'l Bit how to drive in their hometown in rural Maryland.

Mason Edmunds, a senior theatre studies major who portrayed Uncle Peck, said when he saw the script he immediately loved the characters and how ethically and morally challenging the show was.

Edmunds explained the massive amounts of trust between cast members to put on a show with such sensitive material.

"The trust that I had to have with Rosie, [who played Li'l Bit] the camaraderie and relationship that we were able to build with one another as professionals was unlike anything I've had to develop [at YSU]," he said.

It may have been easy for some audience members to villainize Uncle Peck, but Edmunds saw him as a damaged man who is a product of his environment, and is someone who is relatively relatable and genuinely loves Li'l Bit.

Edmunds said when he was reading the script he was surprised by how smooth, compassionate and complex Uncle Peck was.

"To me it was very important for the audience to be conflicted about [Uncle Peck] when they walk away from the show ... to pull for him and root for him even though in the back of their mind they think they aren't supposed to," he said.

Edmunds said although he enjoyed doing the show, there was a level of relief when it closed because of the overwhelming amount of energy and emotion it took to bring the character to life.

"I feel like now having completed this show and gone through the journey of Uncle Peck, and the story in general, I feel equipped with the tools I need to go out into the professional world and be successful. I feel ready to go," he said.

Rosie Bresson, a junior musical theatre major, played Li'l Bit. She said the most challenging part in preparing for her role was finding ways to portray the different ages of Li'l Bit's flashbacks.

"Because each [age] has a unique vocal, physical and mental quality to it and they don't change chronologically, I had to find very specific head spaces and voices for each one and learn to inhabit them instantly to convey all the shifts laid out in the script," she said.

In Bresson's opinion, Li'l Bit is a strong willed, compassionate woman who handles unfortunate circumstances with grace.

"I admired that strength and perseverance that she had to stand out from everyone else around her," she said.

Bresson, like Edmunds, described the show as rewarding but emotionally draining at times, but through the ups and downs Bresson said "How I Learned To Drive" ultimately changed her life as an actor and as a person.

The cast worked to figure out the psychology of the characters and the best way to tell the characters stories while remaining true to Vogel's original work.

Pat Foltz, part-time faculty member at YSU, directed the show. Foltz specializes in difficult psychological plays as a director and actor.

"This cast has been amazing. Hours and hours, week after week, they have learned to love these damaged characters and present them to an audience," Foltz said.



Photo courtesy of *Rosie Bresson*

MARIO'S MOVIES: FLASHBACK FILMS- 'THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON'

MARIO RICCIARDI

Benjamin Button is a myth — the tale of a man who ages backward. Born as a baby in an old man's body to dying as an old man in a baby's body, it is marketed as a story about life. For me, the film says more about death than life. At Benjamin's introduction on screen, the thought is planted, "We've seen his birth; what will his death be like?"

Originally a short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Benjamin Button was never written with any clear ancillary. Apparently, written just to play with the idea of a man aging backward, screenwriter Eric Roth spins "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" into a study of those final moments with our mortal coil.

Ultimately, the film reveals itself as a love story. Benjamin, played by Brad Pitt, meets Daisy, played by the always incredible Cate Blanchett, at a young age — an age when his appearance does not allow things to progress. Conclusively, they must meet

in the middle. Traveling from 1918 up to 2005, the couple's love spans decades and locations from the mystical town of New Orleans to dark and dreamy Russia, to New York, and back to New Orleans. The film consistently comes full circle, mirroring its depiction of life.

Beautifully executed, "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" is one of David Fincher's few attempts at something that's not directly cold, bleak and involving serial killers. Using state-of-the-art equipment to age Brad Pitt, the film has viewers staring at both the past and future all at the same time. Through Fincher's vision, we get an homage to death in a contradictorily fantastical and melancholy way.

Occasionally, the film teeters in the direction of one of those "old people in a bathtub" commercials, but for the most part, balances the mythical aspects with reality. The film can honestly be categorized as a fairytale for adults, not in a twisted sense, but rather in its truthful depiction of just how strange and wonderful life can be.

In the same way as mirroring chimps to humans in "Planet of the Apes," it leads to a unique retrospective on the human condition, and so does aging a man backward. "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" encourages the viewer to see themselves in every character and every opportunity or setback Benjamin faces. Then at the end, not necessarily ask us to live a better life because of death, but rather to accept that without death there is no opportunity for life.

When so many stories make death the footnote, Benjamin Button makes it the reason that his story is worth telling. Sure, strange nuances like aging backward can provide a distraction, but in this case (no pun intended) I believe it provides clarity. We want to see ourselves in stories, but only just enough - just enough that the message can get through without our personal lives, complicating it. "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" isn't about life — it's about death, and that's an okay thing.

4/5 Penguins

SPOONBEAMS: A STUDENT EXPERIMENTATION

VICTORIA REMLEY

A recital for the Spoonbeams focused on unconventional music and getting the audience to really think about what they were hearing on Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the McDonough Museum of Art.

Andrew Morro, the creator of Spoonbeams and a junior music recording major from Youngstown State University, wanted to make an ensemble where he could create his own music.

"I wanted to bring this high level of art form of modern art and super math music into a view where the average person can listen to it or be a part of it somehow rather than 'what's going on there,'" he said. "So, it's to bring the high art to the people."

During the performance, Morro, Dominic Gentile, a junior trombone performance major, and Ian Kinnaman, a junior music education major, used synthesizers and other technology.

"We're not asking you to agree with what we're saying," Morro said. "We're going to put our ideas forward ... We just wanted to share

our opinions."

Morro started the project eight months ago by messing around with music in his college dorm room. He eventually made an algorithm called Synoptic, which turns pictures into music. He also thought about the theories and philosophies behind the music he created.

"It's not music that you would go and be like 'oh yeah, Bach man, yeah. Dude, I love me some Bach, some Hinder Myth,' yeah, no. It's more just like if you want to think and if you're open to new thoughts and ideas," Morro said.

Caroline Oltmanns, head of piano studies at the Dana School of Music, said the Spoonbeams recital started in her Chamber Music class. The goal of the class was to develop a piece, but Morro, Gentile and Kinnaman wanted to create a show around their piece.

"The main gist of this whole show is, I think, interaction with the audience and the reaction of the audience, how much the audience is really part of the program and how much can we draw the audience in," Oltmanns said.

Jamie Wilding, from Hudson, Ohio, thought the recital focused on free expression and improvisation.

"You heard this sort of free approach to

music making. It expands the mind of both the performer and of the listener," Wilding said.

Wilding came to the event because one of his pieces was performed in the show. He said they were looking for things to do that were weird and fun, so he gave them some weird and fun things with mutes.

David Morgan, professor of composition, improvisation and the bass, said the recital was fantastic in every way.

"To make it in the professional music world, musicians have to create their own opportunities, book the venue and get people to show up," he said.

Morgan said there are great things outside the structure of what happens in their normal curriculum. He said when students actually reach that level, he feels like their work is done.

Makenzie Poe, a freshman music education major, said it took a while for her to understand the recital's content.

"At first I was really confused and kind of not sure what was going on, but whenever they described everything I got a better understanding and I was able to kind of set my mind where they were thinking," she said.



Photo by Tyler Rothbauer/The Jambor

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HELP WANTED

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Sunshine Brite is looking for part time laundry attendants. We are located at 2608 South Ave, Crimms Corner. If interested please call 330-786-7231 for application. Flexible hours.

OTHER

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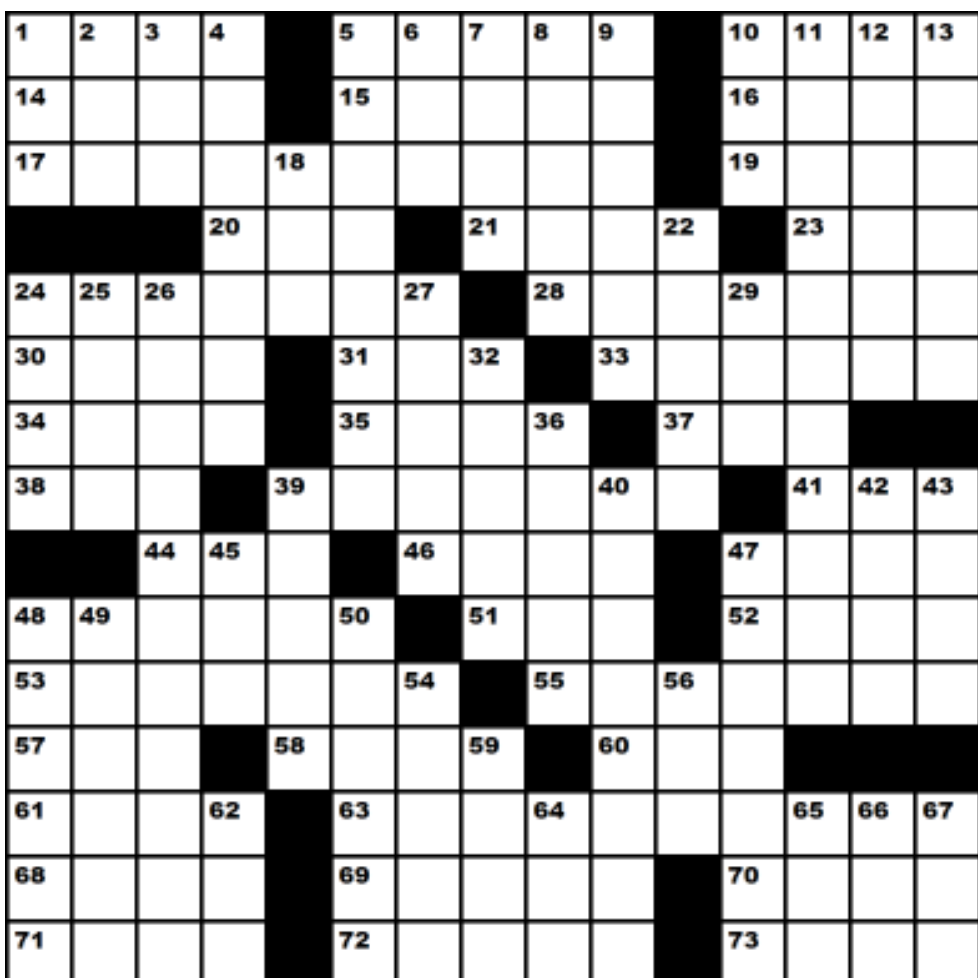
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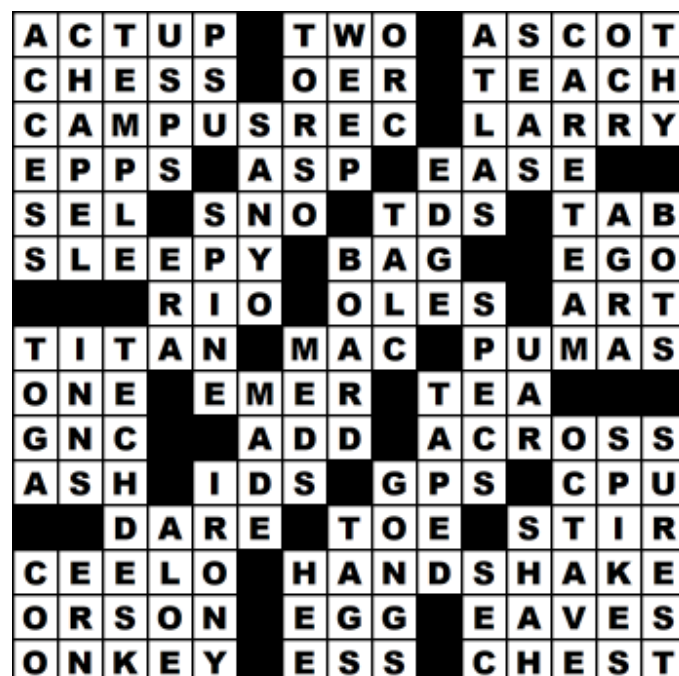
THE JAMBAR STAFF PRESENTS



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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



FIND THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE ONLINE.

END OF THE SEMESTER

Across

- Project Apollo org.
- Gives off, as an odor
- Defraud
- An Eastern European
- Marisa of "My Cousin Vinny"
- Hodgepodge
- Marathoner's destination (2 wds.)
- Surprise "from the blue"
- Folk singer DiFranco
- "Fuhgeddaboutit!" (2 wds.)
- French contraction
- PR event; 2 wds.
- Use a La-Z-Boy
- Car with a bar
- Kung __ chicken
- Scrooge
- "... happily __ after"
- QB turnovers (Abbr.)
- Brain scan (Abbr.)
- More than just ask

- Playwright's resolution
- Middle of a game?
- Letters on some churches, and the French word for soul, coincidentally
- Part of BYOB
- Let go
- Building with wings?
- Tommy and Dil's dad
- Bullets and such
- Supervise
- Josephine or Catherine
- Catch red-handed
- Roll call response
- Sheepish remark?
- Render speechless
- Ultimate academic hurdle
- 10 to 20?
- __ des Beaux-Arts
- "It suits you to __!" (2 wds.)
- Eurasian range
- Sounds like Christian Bale in "Batman Begins"
- Kitten's plaything

Down

- Rubber check letters (Abbr.)
- Mahershala who played Remy Danton on "House of Cards"
- __ Antonio
- Amelia Earhart, for one
- Djibouti's neighbor
- Gretchen of "Boardwalk Empire"
- "Sign me up!" (2 wds.)
- Andrea Bocelli, for one
- Much of medieval warfare
- Have a bawl
- Semisonic song with the lyric, "You don't have to go home but you can't stay here"
- Sick, and not in a good way
- __ Crüe
- __-Cone
- Largish combo
- Commoner
- Honeybee's home
- Horseshoe-shaped nterstellar cloud in Sagittarius (2 wds.)
- Violet variety
- Tell it like it isn't
- Preminger and Klemperer
- Literally, "bounced"
- Chow line?
- Tofu alternative to ground meat
- Weaponry
- Future Williamson grads, maybe
- Dir.
- U2's "Stay (__ , So Close!)"
- Mt. Fuji's island
- Film set on Pandora
- "__ Madness"
- Dr. Hahn on "Grey's Anatomy"
- __ de deux
- Hazzard County lawman
- Provider of some Monday night programming (Abbr.)
- Mont Blanc, e.g.
- Pilot's announcement, briefly
- "Most miserable hour that __ time saw": Lady Capulet
- Barbie's beau

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Youngstown State University community,

Several concerning events took place on YSU's campus on Monday, one being the lockdown situation due to a suspect with an alleged firearm.

Another unfortunate incident occurred during the lockdown that may have caused some panic, and perhaps a few chuckles, regarding a supposed article from The Jambar circulating throughout the internet.

A photo of a computer screen with a Jambar article titled "YSU Lockdown: Suspect At Large With Firearm" was pulled up and quickly became viral. The article in the post read, "There is only one reported death and the victimum [sic] has been identified as High School Senior London Hua from Warren JFK. Suspects say the shooter fired at Hua because he asked to rip his juul."

Not only is this grammatically incorrect and obviously goes against Associated Press style, it is also extremely embarrassing to have multiple people send me the photo, questioning our ethics

and if it was a legitimate article.

As editor-in-chief of The Jambar, I am both disgusted and appalled that a young student would think it was appropriate to cause a panic or to joke about something so serious during an already chaotic time on campus, while simultaneously tarnishing the reputation of the university's student newspaper.

Through an internal investigation, The Jambar discovered a student from Warren John F. Kennedy High School had used the "inspect element" option when you right click on any webpage and altered the words on his screen to claim another student from the school had died during the firearm suspect and lockdown situation at YSU.

It is important to note that when utilizing the "inspect element" option, the person using the tool can only manipulate what appears on their own screen and does not appear on others' screens. Thus, the use for a photo taken from a phone of the computer.

We at The Jambar take a strong stance against the spread of fake news, especially when it comes to our own articles, and will not tolerate any infraction made against our journalistic integrity in an attempt to discredit our news organization or simply play

a "prank."

We are living in a sensitive time when everything we say, write or do is carefully examined and has the power to influence those around us. This is why The Jambar is dedicated to taking the necessary precautions to ensure we disseminate the most accurate and truthful information to the Youngstown area as possible.

We take our jobs very seriously and highly denounce any attempts to play a prank aimed to be funny, especially during times of distress and panic like during the lockdown on Monday.

We hope Warren JFK officials take the necessary measures to discipline the culprit and welcome the student to join us for one of our production nights next semester to learn about what we do at The Jambar. Readers can reach me at my university email, mlpetronelli@student.ysu.edu if they are interested in my offer.

Best regards,

Morgan Petronelli
Editor-in-Chief
The Jambar

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

We all hear about it too many times in the news and wonder how it could happen ... again.

And the accompanying question, at this time, is usually: "What would happen if it happened at YSU?"

On Monday of this week, it did happen at YSU.

The school had a gunman loose on campus.

The text alerts went out, anxiety went high and parents and loved ones found all that they could do was try to communicate with their on-campus family members and simply wait.

Thankfully, there were no injuries. All was well, once again.

But I think everyone, even those remotely tied to the university that day, will be changed by this event.

I know I am. I know it makes it all seems so real.

I graduated from the university in 1988 and have a daughter who attends the university currently.

Monday was a tough day.

But it was made more stressful because my daughter has special needs. She attends the university in their TOPS program. This program has given her a wonderful college experience. She attends classes, meets people, works out at the rec center and has lunch with friends. All these things are done with a coach/buddy near her.

These coach/buddies are students themselves. Some are younger than my daughter, but their maturity and caring are far beyond their chronological age. These coaches/buddies have made this YSU college experience all that it is for her.

My daughter was at lunch in Wendy's when the lockdown began. The crowded lunch time meant so many people had to hide at the same time. All the while, quelling down panic.

It was the coach/buddy, Kraig, who she was with, who knew what to do. How to get her to safety and how to keep her safe and calm until the "all clear" was given.

Not only did this buddy do these things, but he made sure to text me personally to let me know that she was fine. Pretty amazing and wonderful!

The thing is, in the world we live in, so many people care only about themselves, but it was at this time that these coaches/

buddies, just young adult themselves, made sure to think of someone else first.

My daughter has two friends from her part-time job who attend the university as well. And I received texts from them asking me if my daughter was okay. One of these friends, Lexi, was in Wendy's with my daughter when the alert went out. She told me, "I made sure she was with her buddy and okay before I left."

It turns out that these two amazing people texted each other during the lockdown to see if either knew if Elizabeth was still okay. The other friend, Mitch, told me on the phone later that day that, "Your daughter was the first person I thought of when the alert went out."

Again, pretty wonderful.

In a world of "me first," I had to write today to say thank you to those who were part of my daughter's safety net that day, and because these wonderful young adults took the time to think of that "someone else" first and then themselves.

Michele Gianetti

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Photo courtesy of *YSU Sports Information*

YSU FOOTBALL WITH MANY HONORS, DESPITE BAD SEASON

MARC WEEMS

The Youngstown State University football team placed three players on the Missouri Valley Football Conference 2018 All-Newcomer Team, nine players on All-MVFC teams and two on all-MVFC academic team.

YSU senior quarterback Montgomery VanGorder, redshirt freshman tight end Miles Joiner and redshirt freshman linebacker Ray Anderson were named the conference's all-newcomer squad.

VanGorder is the first YSU quarterback since Kurt Hess in 2010 to make the All-Newcomer Team and is the fifth Penguin signal caller to be named to the squad. Anderson is the first linebacker since Lee Wright and Armand Dellovade in 2015 to be recognized. Joiner is just the second YSU tight end and first since Louis Irizarry in 2006 to make the All-Newcomer Team.

VanGorder passed for 1,934 yards in his lone season with the program after transferring from Notre Dame. He started 10 of the 11 contests and also rushed for 209 yards on the campaign. Joiner became a key playmaker on offense leading the unit with four touchdown receptions. Anderson saw increased playing time during the conference portion of the season and started five league contests.

It marks the second straight year the Penguins have had three players make the MVFC All-Newcomer Team.

Dellovade and senior center Vitas

Hrynkievich were named to the All-Academic Team.

Dellovade was named to the second team while Hrynkievich was tabbed honorable mention. It is the second year both student-athletes were named academic All-MVFC. In 2017 as juniors, Dellovade was a second-team honoree while Hrynkievich was a second-team pick. Dellovade was also a second-team recipient in 2016 as a sophomore.

On the field, Dellovade and Hrynkievich were both recognized as second team All-MVFC picks.

YSU seniors Tevin McCaster, Gavin Wiggins and Steven Wethli were named first team All-Missouri Valley Football Conference. A total of nine Penguins received honors, with three more on the second team and three were named honorable mention.

Dellovade, Hrynkievich and Savon Smith were second team selections.

Penguins recognized as honorable mention were safety Chrispin Lee, defensive tackle Shereif Bynum and Joiner.

McCaster was recognized as a first-team honoree for the second straight season. Wiggins was a second-team honoree in 2017 while Wethli becomes the first long snapper in school history to earn first-team all-league accolades.

McCaster is the first YSU tailback to be recognized on the first team in consecutive years since P.J. Mays in 2001-02. Mays and McCaster are the only two tailbacks in school history to be named first-team All-MVFC twice.

Dellovade earned second-team honors for

the third consecutive year. He was a four-time all-conference selection in his career after being recognized as an honorable-mention pick in 2015. He is the first player in school history to earn all-conference accolades in four straight seasons. Hrynkievich was named second team all league for the second straight year while Smith received honors for the first time in his career.

The seniors on the team were part of some historic teams over their time.

Senior linebacker Armand Dellovade was a four-time All-MVFC selection, earning second-team honors on three occasions. Dellovade had 102 tackles in just 11 games in 2018. He started 47 of 49 games at YSU. He had 337 total tackles in his career, including 198 solo stops. He finished 12th in school history in career stops and had the most tackles by any YSU player since 2000.

Senior tailback Tevin McCaster was a two-time first-team All-MVFC pick. He is the first YSU tailback since P.J. Mays in 2001-02 to earn first-team All-MVFC honors in consecutive seasons. McCaster rushed for a career-high 1,235 yards on 269 carries in 2018. He had seven 100-yard rushing games. For his career, he rushed for 2,970 yards on 626 attempts and scored 36 touchdowns in 42 games played.

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Photo by *Tanner Mondok/The Jambar*

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL LOOKING TO CONTINUE SUCCESS

BRIAN YAUGER

The Youngstown State University women's basketball team is in a lull in their schedule, only playing one game this week, a 4:45 p.m. tip-off on Saturday against St. Francis University from Pennsylvania.

The Penguins are 6-2 and sit in a tie for the best record in the Horizon League with Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis.

"Honestly, we just need to shoot the ball better," head coach John Barnes said at last week's weekly press conference. "We haven't shot the ball that well this whole year. As to how we're shooting, I think we're last in the league in 3-point field goal percentage. Going in, we figured that would be our strength. I think we've been getting good looks, we just need a

few to go down, and we'll be in great shape."

The team has shot much better since then, capturing two victories over the University of Akron and Canisius College.

The Penguins are coming off of last week's 62-36 victory over Canisius where senior Alison Smolinski set a school record with nine 3-pointers in the win. Smolinski finished with 29 points, just one point shy of her career high that she set twice in her sophomore year. Smolinski also increased her career 3-pointers total to 184, moving her past Monica Touvelle into fifth place on YSU's career leaders list.

"It felt pretty good out there tonight," Smolinski said after the win. "I was lacking some confidence lately, and my coaches and teammates have a lot of confidence in me. My teammates do a great job of finding the shooters, and they found me a lot tonight."

It's not just Smolinski that's feeling better. Chelsea Olson is as well, after her stellar performance against the Zips. Olson shot 55 percent from the field, and 90 percent from the free throw line against Akron, scoring 22 points, marking a career high for the sophomore. It took until three minutes left in the third quarter for Olson to miss her first shot of the night. Getting her confidence back has been the key.

"Just being more confident in myself," Olson said. "I've been struggling from the field this season, so just keeping my confidence up and knowing I can hit those shots because I can."

The team has impressed on the defensive side of the ball ranking first in the Horizon League in overall defense, perhaps no one more as an individual than McKenah Peters. Peters limited Akron's leading scorer Megan Sefcik to seven points on the night.

"McKenah just shadowed Sefcik and stayed with her so they couldn't make the long pass to her," Barnes said after the Akron game. "Coach Nicolais and Coach Davidson have done great jobs with scouting reports. I thought they did a great job today taking away what Akron does, and take advantage of some other things that we do."

Saturday, the Penguins mens and womens teams are hosting a double header, with the men squaring off against Western Michigan University and the women hosting St. Francis of Loretto, Pa. The women's team takes ten days off before heading to Lewisburg, Pa. to take on the Bucknell Bison.

YSU hosts St. Francis on Dec. 8 before getting a week and a half off.

WITH ONE THIRD OF THE SEASON COMPLETE, THE PENGUINS LOOK TO REBOUND

JOSHUA FITCH

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team has struggled out of the gates through 10 games of the 2018-2019 season. The Penguins have a record of 3-7 and are currently on a three-game losing streak.

The last of the three was a triple overtime thriller at Beeghly Center as the Central Michigan University Chippewas took down the Penguins, 100-94.

"Mental breakdowns," Garrett Covington, Penguins starting shooting guard, said about what led to the loss for the Penguins on Tuesday. "Just not being in the gap defensively, just mental things."

Covington, a sophomore, led the Penguins in scoring with 26 points and 13 rebounds, while playing in 48 of the 55 minutes in the game.

While the Penguins sit at four games under .500, three of its last four losses have been within 10 points, showing improvement. Though there aren't any moral victories in collegiate sports but steps toward improvement must be recognized.

"We're just learning from this," Covington added. "We're going to continue to move forward. Watch film and get better after this."

Turnovers have plagued the Penguins thus far into the season, averaging just under 17 per game while allowing 19 points off turnovers per game for opponents. In the loss to Central Michigan, YSU turned the ball over 22 times and allowed 33 points off those turnovers.

Jerrold Calhoun, YSU men's basketball head coach, echoed the same message in the postgame press conference, saying his team must improve.

"Our kids battled," Calhoun said. "That's a 7-2 team for a reason, they have good guard play, but we just have to keep plugging away. We really gave the game away with our off turnovers. That's the frustrating part; if you just limit those turnovers to 15 or 16, which a young team should do — not 22, you win the game probably going away."

The struggles come with the territory along with learning experiences that Calhoun acknowledged. Learning opportunities will continue to present themselves going forward.

"You're going to learn a lot," Calhoun said. "That's going to be a lot of teaching moments. I thought we learned a lot against West Virginia, but this one we're going to learn even more."

Looking ahead, the schedule doesn't get easier for the Penguins. The team plays six of its next eight games on the road, where they haven't seen a win yet this season. A notable matchup at the Schottenstein Center in Columbus with a matchup against the Ohio State University Buckeyes on Dec. 18.

Calhoun noted that his team is still a young one, one that is hungry and will continue to improve, but also one that needs to learn to take advantage when given the opportunity.

"I feel sorry for our guys because they competed their hearts out," Calhoun said. "You need a win like that to get that thing rolling, and we haven't had that yet. But it will come. We just have to keep working."

Other standouts in the loss to Central Michigan was junior Devin Morgan who had 25 points, 21 in the second half, and sophomore Naz Bohannon who notched a double-double with 14 points and 19 rebounds.

The Penguins are next in action for an afternoon game Dec. 13 at home against Binghamton University before hitting the road against the Buckeyes, then traveling to face the University of Detroit Mercy on Dec. 28.

