

# THE JAMBAR

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Thursday, April 20, 2023

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## PRIDE AND PREJUDICE



The tradition rock was painted to show pride on campus.

Photo courtesy of Rayvin Gorrell

## Contention on the rock

By Elizabeth Coss and Christopher Gillett  
The Jambar

Last week was a busy week for Youngstown State University's tradition rock, going through various phases of both acceptance and disagreement.

The rock, initially painted for Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month around April 4 by YSU student-athletes, was repainted April 12 with statements targeting the LGBTQ community, such as 'Transing Kids is Sexual Assault [Awareness Month]', 'Stop Mainstreaming Delusion' and 'Only One Flag Represents Us All,' with an American flag painted below.

On the same day, the statements were covered up with hearts and small designs to bring awareness back to Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

However, the changes didn't last. By the morning

of April 13, similar messages stating, 'Stop Transing Kids' and 'Children Are Not Lab Rats' were painted onto the rock.

By the afternoon, other organizations began painting the rock, covering up the rhetoric to promote upcoming events on campus.

Teagan Kostelnak, a senior psychology and sociology major, and member of the YSU Coalition Against Human Trafficking, said he repainted the rock to prevent others from seeing the statements and to advocate for awareness about human trafficking.

"I'm tired of looking at this kind of stuff, tired of seeing it everywhere, and it needs to change," Kostelnak said. "Just be nice to people. This has gotten to be a world where it's exhausting and I think it's tiring to see so much hate everywhere."

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## Proud to show pride

By Elizabeth Coss and Christopher Gillett  
The Jambar

Campus Pride Month is dedicated to recognizing the importance of accepting the LGBTQ community across U.S. universities.

Youngstown State University honored the month through a variety of events curated by YSUnity, Student Experience and other participating divisions.

Rayvin Gorrell, the president of YSUnity and a junior anthropology major, said it's important YSU takes part in recognizing the month.

"Pride is very, very important and I think it's extraordinary that the campus is willing to participate," Gorrell said. "I am sad to hear and have heard in the past that it has not been celebrated on campus, so I'm very proud to be able to hold these events and make people feel welcome."

Events ranged from painting tradition rock, to a 'Pride Ride' cycling event in the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center. On April 12, a panel met in Kilcawley Center's Hub to discuss LGBTQ issues in both personal and political ways.

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April is also recognized as Campus Pride Month which brings awareness to LGBTQ inclusivity collegiately.

Joy Polkabila Byers, the associate vice president of Student Affairs, said the rock can be painted by anyone to voice opinions.

The only kind of language not allowed on the rock is language implying threats or harm to an individual.

“[The rock] allows people to voice their opinions. At some point, it’s about sharing ideas, for bringing awareness for different events, bringing awareness for different topics,” Byers said. “[The university has] a role to make sure we are

creating a safe and inclusive environment for all students.”

Byers explained there are guidelines and scoring that evaluates what is written on the rock, but if students feel discriminated against, they can file a complaint.

“You have the ability to say, ‘I feel like this was against my free speech,’” Byers said. “We will direct you to the right location to make those complaints. You can go through the Dean of Students Office — a Penguin of Concern Form — we will make sure they get to the right location. We do have a complaint system for the university for students to voice your opinion.”

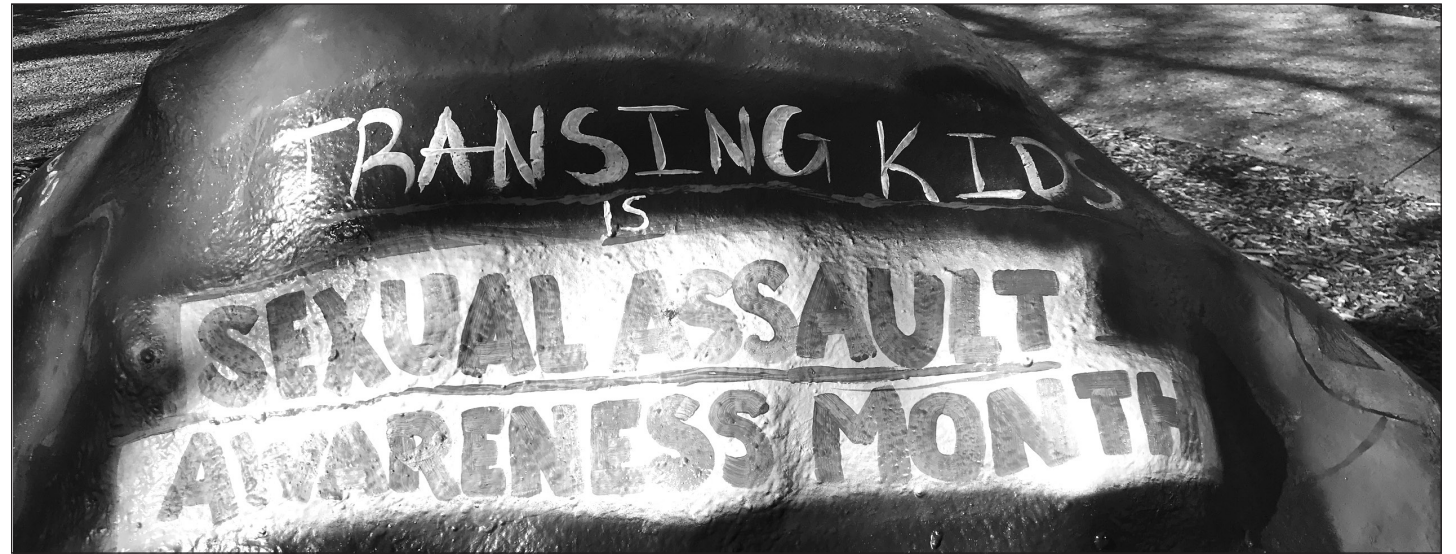
Rayvin Gorrell, president of YSUnity, said there are supportive environments such as YSUnity for people on campus

despite hurtful rhetoric being spread.

“Just because there are hateful messages out there does not mean that is the way everybody feels,” Gorrell said. “It is just very sad to see that people may not feel as welcomed into our community as we would like them to be.”

Gorrell also said they’d encourage people to find safe places like YSUnity and other organizations.

“There is a lot of support on campus. There is [YSUnity], we are very supportive and we support trans people,” Gorrell said. “People just don’t know that we exist and haven’t heard about us to know there is a supportive, welcoming [and] happy place where you can be who you want to be.”



Tradition rock went through various changes over the week.

Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

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**7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed

High: 84°F	High: 78°F	High: 63°F	High: 51°F	High: 51°F	High: 59°F	High: 58°F
Low: 57°F	Low: 54°F	Low: 39°F	Low: 33°F	Low: 33°F	Low: 41°F	Low: 43°F
Chance of precip: 1%	Chance of precip: 84%	Chance of precip: 94%	Chance of precip: 25%	Chance of precip: 41%	Chance of precip: 55%	Chance of precip: 59%



Partly Cloudy



Scattered Showers



Scattered Showers



Partly Cloudy



Scattered Showers



Scattered Showers



Scattered Showers

Information courtesy of accuweather.com



Photo by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

Cohill played for the YSU men's basketball team.

## YSU basketball player arrested

By Elizabeth Coss and John Ostapowicz  
The Jambar

Senior Dwayne Cohill of the Youngstown State University men's basketball team was arrested April 13 on charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

According to a supplemental police report, YSU police officers were dispatched to the University Edge Apartment Complex's V62 Lot at 9:48 p.m. in response to a disturbance call.

Allegedly, 50 to 70 individuals were gathered at the lot. Officers began speaking with Cohill to question ownership of a vehicle.

While searching for the owner, Cohill allegedly approached one of the officers with an open alcohol container in hand, while on the phone with the alleged owner.

The officer advised Cohill to back away but when he failed to do so, another officer responded to calm Cohill down, who had begun using profanities toward the officers.

According to the report, Cohill allegedly continued to taunt the officers and interfere with the investigation. At that point, Cohill was informed he was under arrest for disorderly conduct.

Cohill allegedly began to twist his body and become uncooperative with officers, as the unknown individual encouraged Cohill to resist, and attempted to pull Cohill away from the officer, creating safety concerns.

The report stated, "[Officers] decided that the escalating tensions and emotions of the crowd was too great of a safety risk to officers present."

Cohill was then transported to The Mahoning County Sheriff's Office until he had a video arraignment the next morning.

Cohill was released on his own recognizance and entered a not guilty plea to both charges following a video arraignment at 1:30 p.m. on April 14 in Youngstown Municipal Court.

He is scheduled to be back in court for a preliminary hearing at 10:15 a.m. May 16.

YSU's Athletic Department stated it's aware of the situation and is cooperating with local authorities.

# Ohio's new driving law

By Christopher Gillett  
The Jambar

The Ohio state government passed a bill to crack down on electronically-distracted driving, which became effective April 4.

Ohio drivers cannot interact with their phone while they drive, unless the action involves a single push or swipe, and they cannot have a phone in their hand, lap or body while driving.

Motorists must pull over to use their phones to text, make phone calls, watch videos, livestream, play games or browse the internet. Drivers over 18 can use hands-free devices or have their phone paired with their car.

GPS and navigation displays are still permitted as long as they are started before driving.

For the first six months the law is in action, law enforcement will issue warnings for violating the law. Beginning Oct. 5, law enforcement will start issuing citations for breaking the law.

Danny O'Connell, the director of Support Services at Youngstown State University, said he supports the new driving law.

"I'm glad Ohio went that way. I know a lot of states already had that law, so I think it's a good law all the way around," O'Connell said. "I'm a bicyclist and I ride on

trails because I'm afraid to ride on streets or even bike lanes because I've seen what happens when people are using their phones."

O'Connell also said students should be mindful of end-of-year stress when driving.

"This time of year, students are distracted because of exams [and] finals. There's a lot of pressure for the next two weeks, and [Support Services] tried to remind everyone about, not the student who's driving, but the student who's walking," O'Connell said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, distracted driving kills around 3,000 people every year. According to the law firm, Kidemenos, Wisheart, Hines, Dolyk & Wright Co. LPA, distracted driving was responsible for over 10,000 accidents in Ohio in 2021.

Gabrielle Wagner, a graduate physical therapy major at YSU, was involved in a car collision in 2019 because another driver was on their phone. Wagner explained her experience.

"I was leaving class. I was parked in the Wick Deck, and I was just leaving for the day and some guy rear ended me really hard. I was stopped at the stoplight over on Wick [Avenue] and he just slammed into me and he was texting," Wagner said. "My car was totaled. I had to get a new one."

Wagner said she was happy no one was hurt, despite

the aftermath being troublesome.

"[The guy] got a ticket, and he had to go to court, and I think he just pled guilty. So he just had to pay a bunch of fines. His insurance had to cover my car. It was just a whole hassle, and just thank goodness everyone was okay. I wasn't injured, he wasn't injured [and] everyone was good that way. But there's a lot of potential for anyone to get injured," Wagner said.

Carter Cook, a freshman telecommunications major, said distracted driving is a problem, especially among freshmen and at night.

"A lot of people are on their phones and that's probably the huge thing, and maybe like GPS, because our campus is kind of confusing for freshmen," Cook said. "A lot of times at night here a lot of people just run through red lights because they're on their phone."

Lou Janowicz, a senior athletic training major, said he thinks the law will be hard to enforce.

"Reading [the new law], it's gonna be very difficult for them to actually enforce it, and to maintain [or] ensure someone's touched their phone one time," Janowicz said.

If interested in learning more about the new law, go to the Ohio Department of Transportation website. To see the full law, go to the Ohio Laws and Administrative Rules website.

**Pride**

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Timothy Francisco, an English professor and the director of YSU's Center for Working Class Studies, said recent anti-drag and anti-LGBTQ bills distract from real issues.

"None of these [bills] are actually going to improve the lives of constituents," Francisco said. "It's political performance. It's masking actually doing the hard work of legislation, and making people's lives better. That's what frustrates me about all of this."

Lance Nave, the associate director of Housing and Residence Life, said gendered clothing cannot be defined or boxed into gender roles.

"What is quote-unquote male or female clothing? Is it not all just a piece of cloth that is designed in a different way and different shape?" Nave said. "The notion that a T-shirt belongs to a certain gender or a pair of pants belongs to another — It's ridiculous. It's close minded. It's sad."

A 1920s-themed event called the Gayla will be held in The Cove on April 21 and is free and open to everyone.

Gorrell said the Gayla will act not only as a sec-

ond-chance prom, but as an opportunity for members of the LGBTQ community to feel comfortable being themselves.

"It's mainly aimed at the [LGBTQ] community because maybe people didn't feel welcomed to bring their prom date when they were in school," Gorrell said. "It's not just students — faculty and staff are welcome, especially if they weren't out of the closet at the time. They're welcome to bring their current partners. So, it's exciting and means a lot because you have the chance to be yourself and be proud."

Next week, April 25, students will also have the chance to tie-dye clothing articles as the final event for Campus Pride Month.

Joy Polkabila Byers, the associate vice president of Student Affairs, said the key takeaway is education.

"We looked at things that would be educational and provide social opportunities for students," Byers said. "We're all about helping students belong on campus, so it was really important that it had a little bit of fun and education in the activities."

Byers also said offering activities for Campus Pride Month helps push for inclusivity at the university.

For more information about upcoming events, visit YSU's website and search for the events calendar.



Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

YSU will hold a variety of events for Campus Pride Month.

## Penguin receives prestigious Truman Scholarship

By Shianna Gibbons  
The Jambar



Photo courtesy of Jason Hess

Jason Hess is the recipient of the Truman Scholarship.

Jason Hess, a junior mechanical engineering major, became the first Penguin to receive The Harry S. Truman Scholarship on April 10.

The Truman Scholarship is a nationwide, prestigious scholarship for students pursuing their education in graduate school and aspiring public service leaders. Hess was selected from a pool of over 700 candidates to become a 2023 Truman Scholar.

Hess said he saw the scholarship listed in the Sokolov Honors College's newsletter and applied in November.

Hess said a few weeks after the application deadline, he was informed that he was a finalist and would be interviewed April 3.

"It was a shock. There [were] like [700] kids that applied for this, and to be 1 out of 200 of the best in the nation that was — that was amazing," Hess said.

Hess said he talked to some fellow finalists and believed each one was unique but that he was a strong candidate in each pillar of the Truman Scholarship.

"My mechanical engineering background was a little different than law or political science. I also interned at Washington D.C. last year and had different public service things that I've done," Hess said.

During Hess' internship in Washington D.C. with ASTM International, he learned about science-technology policy and met with policymakers. Hess said

for his own project with ASTM International, he researched and published a paper on space debris.

Interim President Helen Lafferty surprised Hess in class to announce that he was selected as a 2023 Truman Scholar.

"Jason perfectly exemplifies the outstanding leadership potential, commitment to a career in public service, and academic excellence the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation is looking for when naming their scholars," Lafferty stated in a press release. "This is a well-deserved honor, and we celebrate Jason's hard work in the classroom and his dedication to [making] an impact in his community."

Hess said he is honored to receive the award and to be the first recipient from Youngstown State University. He also said he hopes this brings pride to YSU.

"[Being the first YSU student] probably means the most to me," Hess said. "I just thought of all the great people around this university — I didn't think of myself. I thought of all those people who are sad to go to this university, but they should be proud. It means a lot to have this community be at my back, and to represent them is all I could ask for."

After Hess graduates from YSU in the spring of 2024, he plans to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and pursue a master's degree in aerospace and astronomical engineering and public policy.

# Bitonte boasts healthy awards list

By Madison Fessler  
Jambar Contributor

The Bitonte College of Health and Human Services faculty has received many awards in the past month.

Nancy Landgraff, department chair of graduate studies, won the 2023 Tressel Endowed Chair Award for Excellence in Department Chair and Instructing.

Landgraff's award came with a monetary prize of \$24,000 for her and the department to use how they see fit. Landgraff and faculty in her department have been discussing how they want to spend the money.

"Part of the money that comes to the department is for departmental use, things that we want to do as a team. So whether it be research or faculty development or improvement in certain areas or special speakers or individual development," Landgraff said. "It's just whatever that we decide as a group we want to do."

The award was previously given to Nancy Wagner, director of the Centofanti School of Nursing, for the 2021-22 academic year. Landgraff said it's meaningful to the college that both winners of the award come from Bitonte.

"That kind of recognition to what we're doing here in the college — to grow good health professionals that are sound in what they're doing, sound in their skills and employable — is very important," Landgraff said.

The doctor of physical therapy program is included in the graduate studies department. The program has won the Ohio Physical Therapy Association Program of the Year award two years in a row.

Eleven schools participated in the Program of the Year competition. The award is given to the university with the most points. Points are based on service hours completed by students in the program.

"A lot of the service [the students] did was out in the community. They've helped with Habitat for Humanity, they made Valentine's and took them to local nursing homes, they put on an event for some of the adults with disabilities that attend Purple Cat," Landgraff said.

Another faculty member recognized by the university was John Hazy, criminal justice and consumer sciences department chair. Hazy won the Watson Merit Award and the Excellence Award for Department Chairpersons in Teaching.

Hazy said the awards won are not just his, but belong

to the whole department as a symbol of its hard work and dedication.

"You don't earn these kinds of awards by yourself, these awards are based on the efforts that everyone makes day in and day out," Hazy said.

Other Bitonte College of Health and Human Services faculty members won awards as well.

Dana Davis, department chair for social work, said there have been three awards given to the social work faculty.

"One [award] for our amazing administrative assistant, Mrs. Shari McKinney, and two for our part-time faculty," Davis said.

McKinney won a 2023 Distinguished Service Award. The part-time faculty awards were for the 2023 Part-Time Teaching Excellence Award.

The first part-time award went to Heather Eynon in the undergraduate program of social work. The second went to William Aley-Byrne in the graduate program of social work.

For more of the awards won by university faculty, visit YSU's website.

# Jenny Magazine gets spooky

By Lindsey Linard  
Jambar Contributor

Jenny Magazine is a Youngstown State University literary publication that's releasing its 21st edition April 20.

Jenny is a student-led online magazine created in 2010 that publishes works of fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry and art.

Named after the Jeannette Blast Furnace, a furnace from Youngstown's steel-producing days dubbed "Jenny," the magazine pays homage to Youngstown's working-class history.

According to Cassandra Lawton, Jenny Magazine's editor-in-chief, the publication receives hundreds of submissions each year from writers both in the YSU community and internationally — connecting the city of Youngstown with people from around the world.

"We want to be a Youngstown magazine that looks outward," Lawton said. "And [it] brings outward, inward, which

is really fun."

This year's issue will feature 18 pieces of writing that were curated by a staff of YSU students. The magazine chose the theme of "the supernatural" to follow this year, with all the published works containing some aspect of ghosts, ghouls or general spookiness.

Submissions to the magazine are reviewed by multiple student readers and judged with a rating system. Criteria include: theme, story arcs and characters, formatting, grammatical errors and more.

Faculty advisor Christopher Barzak said there are benefits for students working at the magazine, such as learning how to gather and edit content, making editorial decisions, branding or developing a branded entity like a magazine, fundraising, publicizing and organizing events.

"The students who work on Jenny in some capacity learn how to organize as a team to create something together," Barzak stated. "These are all transferable

skills that they can take to many other kinds of careers."

Some roles YSU students can fill on the magazine staff are managing editor, fiction editor, poetry editor, nonfiction editor, copyeditor, contributing editor and submission evaluator, as well as jobs outside the magazine such as social media managers, event coordinators and public relations.

Poetry Editor Tommy Mihalopoulos was first introduced to the magazine when he submitted his writing in 2021. He then joined the staff and has been working at Jenny ever since.

Mihalopoulos said Jenny is a unique opportunity for students to have their work published.

"You can say you're published," Mihalopoulos said. "That's something that you hear about but you never know how to do, and Jenny's a great avenue for that."

Once this year's issue is released, students can start submitting their writing

for next year's edition by going to Jenny Magazine's website.

Jenny will host a launch party at 6 p.m. April 20, at Westside Bowl to celebrate the release of this year's issue. The event is free and open to the public and YSU students are encouraged to attend for fun, food and socializing.

The magazine staff will offer sample readings from the content selected for the issue, and five of this year's published authors will do a live reading of their works.

Mihalopoulos said bringing people together for the event is something the staff looks forward to.

"It's cool to have everyone coming in for a little celebration and it's just fun to hang out," Mihalopoulos said. "All the stress and the hard stuff is done, now we get to celebrate."

Students can get involved with the magazine by emailing [contact@jenny-mag.org](mailto:contact@jenny-mag.org) and can read the latest issue on its website.

## PROTECTING PETS

# Vet clinic comes to campus

By **Cassandra Lucyk**  
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University's Pre-Veterinary Society and Buster's Brigade are teaming up to provide the Youngstown community a low-cost pet clinic. The clinic will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 23 in Stambaugh Stadium's Gym.

Sydney Weidler, president of the Pre-Veterinary Society, said the clinic is important to the surrounding area. "It's a low-cost vaccination clinic. Dr. [Tina] Costarella started it knowing the low-economic status of Youngstown. [She wanted] to help those that don't have the money to go to the vet annually to get their vaccines, to be up to date on their health and do physical exams," Weidler said.

The clinic allows pre-veterinary students to work with eight veterinarians. Weidler said they'll perform free and low-cost services.

"We do free wellness exams, so the doctors will look

at the animal, listen to them, see if they have any illness or ailments going on," Weidler said. "We'll do low-cost vaccinations that are usually about half the cost of going to your regular vet. We'll also do free toenail trims, low-cost heartworm exams and feline combo tests as well."

Costarella, a local veterinarian and YSU alumna, said she started the clinic in 2018 to give pre-veterinary students more experience.

"When I was a student here, I didn't feel my preparation or focus toward veterinary medicine was here at all. I didn't feel very supported or directed. So, I wanted to change that for kids interested in veterinary medicine at YSU," Costarella said.

Originally, the event was held biannually but was switched to every spring semester.

Jackie LeViseur, a board member of Buster's Brigade, said it has more attendance in the spring than the fall.

"In the fall, we're going to do more of a community education program. Teaching people how to take care of their pets, animal welfare and that kind of thing, but

still working with the pre-vet students," LeViseur said.

In the last few years, the Marjorie Hartman Family Foundation of Columbus has funded the project. Costarella said she wants the community to know how important the foundation is for this event and to YSU.

"They've helped us support [the clinic], by us being able to have a much larger venue, being able to pay the veterinarians that come in and volunteer their time," Costarella said. "It helps us purchase the needed vaccines. We were able to buy a scale for the clinic so we could weigh the patients and supplies like microchips."

Costarella also said she hopes the clinic will cause YSU to expand its animal-science program.

"I'm hoping that it'll extend out into a greater direction for the university — that the university itself will take an interest in doing more animal-science things — like more pre-veterinarian courses and faculty down the road," Costarella said.



The Pre-Veterinary Society will hold a low-cost pet clinic April 23.

Photos courtesy of The Jambar staff

# Showcasing STEM at YSU

By Molly Burke  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics will host its annual STEM Showcase from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 22 in Moser Hall.

STEM Showcase coordinator, Emilie Brown, said the event will feature a variety of student projects across different disciplines.

“We have projects from all across the college and all the different majors. There’s research projects, there’s senior design and capstone projects,” Brown said. “Some of our popular competition teams come and show off like the Concrete Canoe, the Baja Car [and] the Steel Bridge.”

Attendees at the event can come at any time to explore projects.

“We’ll have projects [outside], and then we go into the building and we have projects all throughout the first floor. We’ll have probably some of our research labs open ... It’s free flowing,” Brown said.

Students in the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program are required to participate in the STEM Showcase. The program is offered to Ohio residents pursuing a ma-

yor in STEM or a STEM-related field.

Elizabeth Williams, junior industrial systems engineering major, said she will be presenting her Choose Ohio First project that she worked on with senior industrial and systems engineering major, Jarod Zillinger and industrial engineering professor, Osama Aljarrah.

“My project is about integrating discrete event simulation machine learning in lean manufacturing to help see if it would be beneficial for small additive manufacturers,” Williams said. “A lot of people don’t know about industrial engineering or lean manufacturing, so it’s really exciting to kind of teach them about what we do and the impact we can make.”

Williams said she will also be presenting with Concrete Canoe at the STEM Showcase.

“Concrete Canoe is part of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and basically we just make a canoe out of concrete, and race it ... [At regionals] we actually placed first, so we’re going to go to nationals in Wisconsin,” Williams said. “We’ll have the canoe at the STEM Showcase so that’s definitely something to check out.”

Biology professor Michael Butcher has mentored Choose Ohio First students and graduate students in preparation for the showcase. Butcher said the STEM Showcase gives students an opportunity to expand their

presentation skills and deepen their knowledge of their fields.

“It’s not only laboratory preparation but it’s also reading and familiarizing yourself with the primary literature so you can speak with some degree of a fundamental knowledge about your topic and then offer valid conclusions that can be verified by your initial understanding. So, it’s a lot of work that goes into these projects,” Butcher said.

Spencer McGarrity, junior mechanical engineering major, has been presenting at the STEM Showcase since he was a freshman. He said the showcase has made a positive impact on his experiences at YSU.

“It’s gotten me a lot more comfortable with speaking to people both casually and a bit more professionally,” McGarrity said. “You get to present what you are most proud of. You made something work, and it’s very very cool to see your hypothesis turn into reality.”

McGarrity will present research on shape memory alloys with a group of mechanical engineering majors, junior Allison Stanko, junior Matthew Fabian and sophomore Tyler Miller.

For more information on the STEM Showcase, head to its website.

# Positions available in SGA

By Samantha Smith  
The Jambar

The Student Government Association officially announced next semesters president and vice president as Alexander Papa and Jordan Pintar, along with representatives for each college.

There will be SGA positions available in the fall. Pintar, a sophomore philosophy and anthropology major, said the executive cabinet will be appointed and elected April 24.

“They are the chief of staff, financial affairs and then public relations. Those three positions are appointed by me and Alex [the new president of SGA], so those will always be appointed by the presidential ticket,” Pintar said. “The other three

positions, which are student life, parliamentarian, and assessment and enrichment, are elected by our student representatives.”

Pintar said students interested in open representative and senator positions can apply during the fall.

“[SGA has] three freshman representative positions open, so those will be appointed next fall once the freshmen are on campus and we can talk to them. We have three international representative positions that will also be appointed next fall,” Pintar said. “Then we have a veteran representative position also being appointed next fall.”

The amount of representatives per college is determined by the number of students in each college. The minimum

number of representatives is three and the maximum number of representatives is nine.

“Cliffe [College of Creative Arts], being the smallest one, has three [representatives],” Pintar said. “STEM has eight, I know Bitonte [College of Health and Human Services] usually has four to five. [Representative numbers] change just based on, obviously, the size of majors.”

Pintar said if students are interested in being a part of SGA, they should keep an eye on their emails.

“[Applications] will come out in an email sent to all students by the Student Government email, and that’s how you can fill out the application. It’ll be online, but we’ll also be doing tabling at, obviously the student org fairs, and then hopeful-

ly, we’re doing Ignite again, like we did this year,” Pintar said.

Depending on the amount of students who apply for each position, interviews may be required. Pintar said the interviews would help SGA learn more about each candidate and why they want to be a part of the organization.

“They’re really supposed to be fun because it’s just to get to know the students. So we usually bring them in, we ask like, ‘What have you been involved in?’ ‘Why do you want to be in student government?’ ‘What are you looking to change on campus?’” Pintar said.

Students interested in learning more about the SGA can visit its meetings from 4 to 5 p.m. every Monday or visit its website.

# Read. Write. Go!

By Hannah Werle  
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University is holding its 45th annual English Festival April 19 to 21.

The English Festival is a reading and writing event for students in grades 7th through 12th to visit YSU and participate in competitions, discussions and workshops about books they've read throughout the year.

The festival is split into three days and hosts approximately 200 schools from Ohio and Pennsylvania. Students in 10th to 12th grade visited April 19 and students in 7th to 9th are split between April 20 and 21.

Angela Messenger, co-chair of the festival, works with community members, schools, libraries and YSU faculty and staff to organize the event.

"Our motto for the festival is 'Read. Write. Grow.' And I really think that's what we give to the community," Messenger said. "It's an opportunity for students to read beyond the regular curriculum they get in school and to really push their boundaries of what they might pick up to read."

When they arrive at the event, each student is randomly assigned a series of classes to attend.

Gary Salvner, co-chair and a founding member of the event, said the English Festival allows readers to interact with others like them.

"[Students] are finding a community of other readers

and others who share some of their interests and enthusiasms," Salvner said. "Sometimes at your own school you feel very lonely doing a certain thing, but they find others here who have those same interests."

Each year the festival brings three guest authors who hold lectures, discussions and book signings. Eliot Schrefer will be visiting as the James A. Houck Memorial lecturer, while Rita Williams-Garcia and Chris Crutcher will appear as the Thomas and Carol Gay Memorial lecturers.

The festival formed around the Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest, which was created by English department faculty members Thomas and Carol Gay, in 1978 to honor their daughter after she died of cancer at 13.

Students still participate in the essay contest, along with three other pre-event competitions. These competitions include the Jeremy Salvner Memorial Music Award, the Festival Art Contest and the English Festival Graphic Essay Contest. Each competition has one winner a day.

Jeff Buchanan, co-chair of the festival and chair of YSU's English Department, believes the English Festival shows students the value of reading.

"[Reading] can help you sort things out. It can help you think about things. You can learn about yourself in a book. You can learn about others in a book," Buchanan said. "Any encouragement we could give to students to read and read beyond what we require in school is

wonderful. It just opens up so much for them."

Before the festival, students are asked to read a list of six to seven books. The list varies based on grade level, but often share a few common names and titles.

According to Salvner, the English Festival has received criticism in the past because of the content in certain featured books.

"Over the years we have walked ourselves into, not necessarily looking for trouble, but some real controversies about books — public controversies that in a couple of cases raged through the Mahoning Valley," Salvner said. "I would say that this adds another layer to the festival's mission."

Salvner said the festival organizers aren't seeking controversy, but believes it's their job to challenge students.

"We are trying to announce that kids can be effective readers of even challenging subjects. In fact, they benefit from being readers of challenging subjects," Salvner said. "We feel that the festival has a role to play in that."

Buchanan said the festival's committee is cognizant of a book's content when creating its reading lists, but believes students should be allowed to decide what they read.

"As students become readers, they become discerning readers, too. They can learn to select books for themselves and choose what they want to read. A part of our job is to teach students to make those decisions and those choices on their own," Buchanan said.



The YSU English Festival brings students from over 200 schools in Ohio and Pennsylvania.



Photos by Hannah Werle / Jambar Contributor



## SOUL-ROCKING MUSIC

# The Valley's own Vindy's

By John Ostapowicz  
The Jambar

The City of Youngstown is considered a home to many, including the local band, The Vindy's.

Since 2014, The Vindy's have provided a variety of music to the Mahoning Valley with two full-length albums and an EP. The band blends combinations of rock, pop and soul genres together to form its own sound.

With a scheduled re-release of the band's debut album, "Keep Going" in vinyl, on Record Store Day 2023. The band will be performing in the Mahoning Valley at The Record Connection in Niles, April 22.

The sound of The Vindy's can be attributed to vocalist, singer-songwriter and guitarist Jackie Popovec accompanied by guitarists John Anthony and Rick Deak.

At a young age, Popovec fell in love with music with the help of her father, who pushed her to pursue music professionally. From that point forward, she started writing songs and performing at local venues.

"From there, I started networking and playing since I was 14," Popovec said. "It has been a long road since then."

Although Popovec went on a brief hiatus from music as a child, her return was met with an opportunity to open for a Frank Sinatra tribute band. This prompted her to record demo tapes at Peppermint Records on the southside of Youngstown.

"That was my first experience of meeting professional musicians in town," Popovec said.

After a few years, Popovec found herself in a position to join a band, which shortly after her inclusion, became The Vindy's.

During that span, Anthony met Popovec at a gig and from there, a partner-

ship between the two expanded.

"That's when I met Jackie — when my friend's and I were starting a new group — and she saw that band and wanted to be a part of it," Anthony said.

Anthony is a trained musician, with an undergraduate degree from Slippery Rock University and a master's degree at Youngstown State University in the Dana School of Music in Jazz Studies.

Deak also graduated from YSU with a Bachelor of Science in computer science. Prior to earning his degree, he was a member of the band Sinomatic from 1999 to 2003.

In a short time, The Vindy's started to perform in the local area with a mix of cover songs and original music.

The demand for the band's original music led to the release of the band's EP, "Red Wine," in late 2014. The collection of seven songs, was picked up by Summit 91.3 FM with the EP's titular track garnering the most attention.

"We were not even thinking it was going to be a real thing and it got picked up by the Summit," Popovec said.

The success of The Vindy's EP, sparked the band's freshman album "Keep Going," in 2017. Its release quickly turned The Vindy's from cover songs to original music. The song, "Classic" is the band's most listened to song on Spotify and Apple Music.

At Federal Frenzy 2017, hosted by Penguin Productions, the band took the stage with the new album.

"That was such a turning point for us and we never looked back to the cover thing," Popovec said.

The band quickly got to work on its second album, "Bugs" which was released in 2021. The album has received countless praises from media outlets and has earned radio play.

The Vindy's have gone on to perform at several venues, most recently with the Canton Symphony, March 18. For

Deak, it was a high point in his career.

"That was a major highlight because it's very rare that you have an opportunity to play a rock band with a full symphony," Deak said.

Besides local venues, the Vindy's announced a three-day tour in Texas which includes San Antonio, Austin and Kyle, May 5 to 7.

Besides Popovec, Anthony and Deak, several other musicians collaborate with the band such as drummer Owen Davis, bassist Brendan Burke and keyboardist Nathan Anthony.

The band also features a horn section that includes trumpet player Kyle O'Donnell, trombone player Brian Mayle and saxophonist Garret Kuchmaner.

To RSVP for the event, visit [band-intown.com](http://band-intown.com). The Vindy's music is available on Spotify and Apple Music.



The Vindy's will be at The Record Connection on April 22.

Photos courtesy of Raquel Markulin

# Big brass takes over Bliss

By Jessica Stamp  
The Jambar

Tuba and euphonium music filled the air at Youngstown State University's Bliss Hall for its 2nd Annual Tuba/Euphonium Day, April 15.

Guest artists, Staff Sgt. Irving Ray, United States Army Band, Pershing's Own, and Timothy Northcut, a tuba and euphonium professor from the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music taught tuba and euphonium master classes to high school and YSU students who attended.

The day started with a warm-up session with Yukitada Onitsuka, a YSU euphonium professor, then a panel discussion, a student ensemble concert and ended with a Ray and Northcut recital.

Onitsuka said the event's main motivation was to recruit high school and YSU students into the tuba and euphonium program.

"It's a recruitment to be honest with you," Onitsuka said. "We want to let society know — society at YSU know — that there is something active going on in Youngstown State University."

Onitsuka said the tuba and euphonium program is open to all students, not just tuba and euphonium

majors.

"They don't play it simply because they are in a different major or simply because they don't think they are good enough, the tuba-euphonium ensemble is open for everybody," Onitsuka said.

Onitsuka said it was exciting to have Ray and Northcut visit as guest artists.

"I wanted to get my students to have an opportunity to meet with those people and talk to those people not through YouTube ... actually talk to them, interview them and hear their sound live and teach [students] live," Onitsuka said.

Onitsuka also said the tuba and euphonium ensemble first invited Northcut in 2020 for the event but had to cancel it because COVID-19 hit and Ohio shut down.

"I was planning to have [Northcut] on campus back in 2020 and we had everything ready, I figured out the budget, travel plan and programmed everything," Onitsuka said. "The state of Ohio decided to shut down everything and the event was canceled."

Onitsuka said it was nice to see Northcut in person again because Northcut was his professor in graduate school.

"We're inviting him up here, so I'm so happy and looking forward to the event and inviting my teacher

to the campus that I teach is going to happen finally," Onitsuka said.

Connor Remington, a senior music education major, said students could learn from Ray's and Northcut's experience and knowledge of tuba and euphonium at the event.

"The insightfulness that Tim Northcut and Sgt. Ray have to give to students who registered for this event and also being able to play side by side with collegiate musicians at this level and be able to participate in the mass ensemble," Remington said. "It's a good experience in my opinion."

Ryan Lamb, an incoming freshman music education major, said this year was his second time going to the event and finds it knowledgeable learning from professionals.

"I'm excited about the experience of working with professionals," Lamb said. "It's just a great experience to have someone who you know is one of the greats to come in and tell you how you're doing as a professional."

Lamb also said it's nice that students can come to YSU to observe and learn from professionals.

"It's nice to have a place where students can come in and actually learn about the instrument and see what other people can do with their instrument," Lamb said.



Yukitada Onitsuka, a YSU euphonium professor, teaches high school and YSU students tuba and euphonium techniques.

Photo by Jessica Stamp / The Jambar

# Crossword Puzzle

## ACROSS

**1.** A GROUP OR ORGANIZATION OF PEOPLE WHO CREATE A SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG THEMSELVES

**4.** HOUR, DAY, WEEK, ... , YEAR

**6.** THE FIRST GAY RIGHTS ORGANIZATION, THE SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, WAS FOUNDED IN WHAT CITY IN THE 1920'S?

**8.** AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DESCRIBES THEIR GENDER AS FLUID OR VARYING FROM MOMENT TO MOMENT OR DAY TO DAY MAY IDENTIFY AS:

**10.** CARL NASSIB BECAME THE FIRST ACTIVE NFL PLAYER TO ANNOUNCE HE IS GAY WHILE PLAYING FOR THIS SPORTS TEAM OUT OF LAS VEGAS ...

**15.** A COMMUNITY EVENT USED TO CELEBRATE HOLIDAYS OR BRING AWARENESS TO ISSUES. THESE HAVE BECOME IMPORTANT TO THE LBGTQ COMMUNITY

**16.** BILLY PORTER BECAME THE FIRST OPENLY GAY BLACK MAN TO WIN A(N) ... AWARD FOR BEST LEAD ACTOR IN A DRAMA SERIES.

**17.** THIS SONG BY MADONNA IS OFTEN SEEN AS AN ANTHEM FOR THE LBGTQ COMMUNITY AND WAS THE BEST-SELLING SINGLE OF 1990

**18.** THE FIRST SAME-SEX MARRIAGE HAPPENED IN THIS STATE

**21.** IN 1993, THIS PRESIDENT BARRED OPENLY GAY AND LESBIAN AMERICANS FROM SERVING IN THE MILITARY UNDER THE 'DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL' POLICY

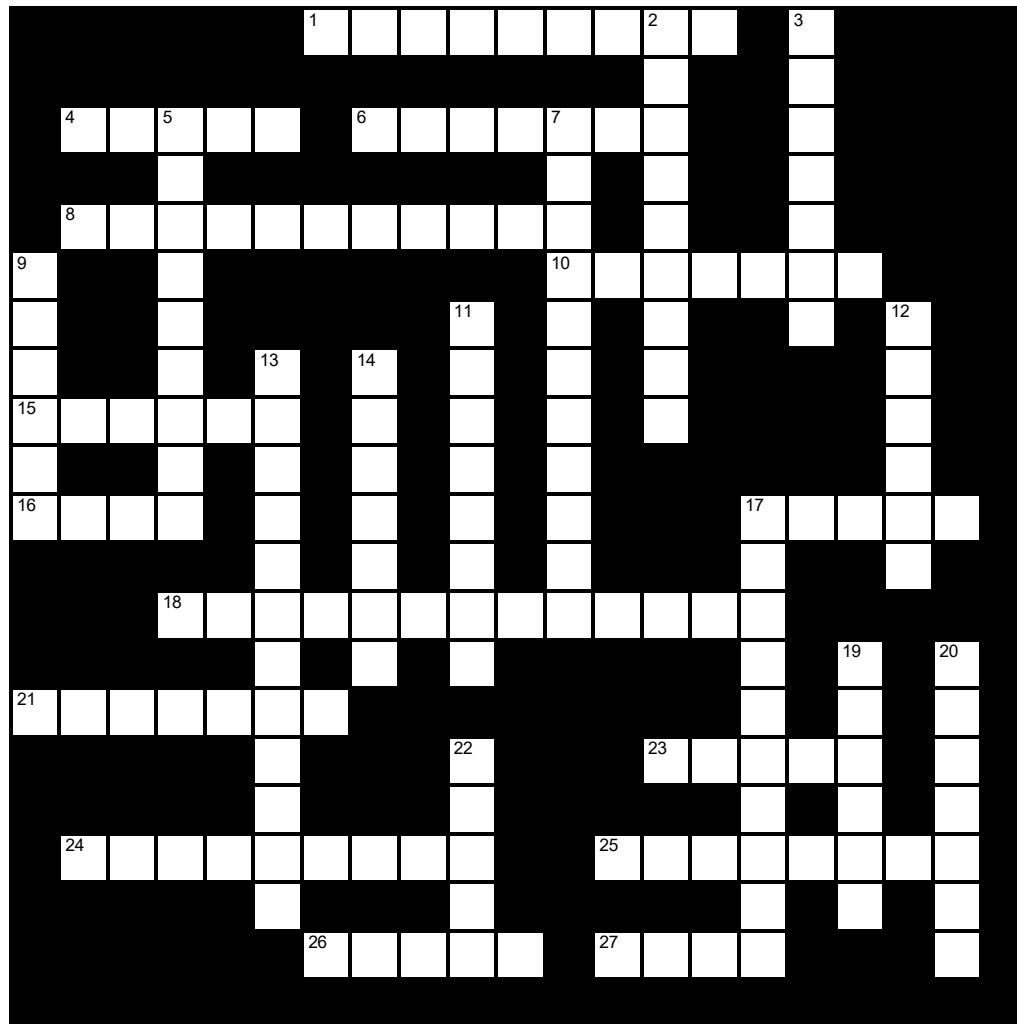
**23.** ONES' DIGNITY OR SATISFACTION FROM ONE'S STATE OF BEING

**24.** A TERM DESCRIBING SOMEONE WHO IS ATTRACTED TO ANY PERSON REGARDLESS OF GENDER IDENTITY OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION

**25.** THE FIRST STATE TO DECRIMINALIZE GAY RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN TWO CONSENTING ADULTS

**26.** THIS BAND WAS LED BY SINGER- SONGWRITER FREDDIE MERCURY, AN LBGTQ ICON.

**27.** SOMEONE WHO IS AN ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF THE LBGTQ COMMUNITY



## DOWN

**2.** A MODERN UMBRELLA TERM USED BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WHO IN THEIR COMMUNITIES TAKE ON A THIRD GENDER ROLE WITHIN THEIR CULTURE

**3.** THE FIRST NAME OF THE DESIGNER CREDITED FOR CREATING THE RAINBOW FLAG OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE LBGTQ COMMUNITY

**5.** SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT EXPERIENCE GENDER WITHIN THE CONFINES MALE OR FEMALE BINARY

**7.** A TERM SOMEONE MAY USE TO DESCRIBE HAVING BOTH MASCULINE AND FEMININE TRAITS REPRESENTED IN EITHER HOW THEY LOOK, ACT, DRESS OR BEHAVE

**9.** A PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING BOOK THAT DISCUSSED THE

FEMINIST MOVEMENT, STRUGGLES AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN FACED IN THE SOUTH, AS WELL AS RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN WOMEN. 'THE COLOR \_\_\_'

**11.** ANOTHER TERM FOR SOMEONE WHO IDENTIFIES AS HETEROSEXUAL OR SOMEONE WHO IS ONLY ATTRACTED TO THE OPPOSITE GENDER

**12.** THIS AMERICAN DRAG QUEEN IS KNOWN FOR HOSTING, PRODUCING AND JUDGING A POPULAR TELEVISION SHOW ABOUT DRAG RACES

**13.** A GRAPHIC NOVEL WITH A TV ADAPTATION THAT FOCUSES ON THE DEVELOPING INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO HIGH SCHOOL BOYS, NICK AND CHARLIE

**14.** SOMEONE WHO EXPERIENCES LITTLE TO NO SEXUAL ATTRACTION TO ANOTHER PERSON MAY IDENTIFY AS:

**17.** THE STATE OF BEING ABLE TO SEE OR BE SEEN

**19.** THIS NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION HELPS SUPPORT LBGTQ INDIVIDUALS ACROSS AMERICA THE ... PROJECT

**20.** MARSHA P. ... WAS A KEY ACTIVIST FOR BOTH GAY AND TRANSGENDER RIGHTS DURING THE 1960S

**22.** THE AUTHOR OF 'THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY' WAS JAILED FOR TWO YEARS FOLLOWING A RELATIONSHIP WITH ANOTHER MAN IN 1895. OSCAR ...

## THE JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Press Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published weekly in the spring and fall semesters. The Jambar is free for YSU students and faculty.

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The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor, news editor, sports editor, arts and entertainment editor and head copy editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager, multimedia journalists and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

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The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com. Letters should concern a campus issue, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence for publication. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff has decided that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitted writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of YSU.

## The Jambar Column

# Frenzy in the streets

Federal Frenzy is upon us, and if you have the chance to go, I can't recommend it more. This Saturday, Penguin Productions will put on a free, all-day concert at Penguin City Brewery and Youngstown Flea.

The Jambar has covered some of the artists who will be performing, like Candace Campana, Riley Burke and Unc D, but I'd like to highlight some of my favorite acts who will be rocking our socks off this weekend.

I have to start off with my favorite local band: Speedo Agreedo is the most fun act to watch in Youngstown. Mike, Mike and Kenny play music with catchy lyrics and intense technicality that will be running through your head for days to come.

East 9th was one of the first local bands I saw live. Youngstown State University's own Jarrett Walters slaps the bass in this high-energy ensemble. Between their driving rock and a fantastic stage presence, they'll be a show people won't want to miss.

Jambar alumna Krista Ritz fronts Madame Marlow, a relatively new band to the local scene. Ritz's magnetic stage presence and powerful voice makes you feel transported to a Janis Joplin or Jefferson Airplane show.

In their short time performing, they have already garnered a following of loyal fans and credibility among other musicians on the scene. Sedona's own Harrison Rhinehart sported a Madame Marlow shirt during their recent show at the



Henry Shorr

Wickyards.

Speaking of Sedona, they will also be melting faces at Federal Frenzy. Their vibe is so good.

Their EP is chock-full of songs that make you want to learn every word so you can sing along with them. I have

never had a bad time at a Sedona show, and I don't think Saturday's set will be any different.

Finally, my must-see recommendation is The Goners.

While their single (and my personal favorite song of theirs) "Nobody Knows" came out while they were still called The Drive, they have been putting in work around Youngstown and have made a great name for themselves as The Goners.

Frontman TJ Logue has that indescribable "it" factor that keeps the audience engaged for as long as he wants.

This is just a small smattering of bands playing at Federal Frenzy. There are 24 acts total, including Mick Jenkins(!).

While you will definitely catch me in the front row for every band I mentioned, you better believe I'm excited to listen to a bunch of bands I've never heard before, too.

Come on down to Federal Frenzy this weekend. It's free, it's fun and you might just find your next musical obsession.

## Quote of the Week

"Orpheus with his lute made trees, And the mountain-tops that freeze, Bow themselves when he did sing: To his music plants and flowers Ever sprung; as sun and showers There had made a lasting spring."

— William Shakespeare,  
English playwright and poet

## The Jambar Editorial

# Stand by survivors

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. This year was dedicated to teaching about the connected violence and cultural norms that perpetuate and oppress survivors of sexual violence.

According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, over half of women in the U.S. — and almost 1 in 3 men — have experienced sexual violence that involves physical contact. Studies have shown that a true account of how many people affected by sexual violence are inaccurate, but even these numbers are high.

Think about every person you know and love, many of them have experienced sexual violence and harassment — or will — in their lifetime. And you may not even be aware.

Thankfully, many movements have been slowly changing the culture surrounding sexual assault. The most recognizable is the #MeToo movement, which gained attention in 2017. These movements have created safe spaces for survivors to come forward, raised general awareness, and contributed resources to support survivors.

According to CNN, the #MeToo movement has been successful. There has been a shift in how we address sexual assault and the conversations surrounding it. Policy changes have been made expand protections for victims of sexual assault and harassment in workplaces and in the court systems.

Youngstown State University held different activities to raise general awareness such as a march through campus and a painting of tradition rock. However, this message was covered up by contradictory rhetoric, and blatantly disregarded the importance of this message to those affected by sexual violence.

However, these movements are often underfunded and lack the proper resources. Racial, ethnic minority women are also severely underrepresented and experience sexual violence at a disproportionate rate, according to the CDC.

There are also no major reports of sexually violent crimes decreasing.

It may seem we'll never truly escape sexual violence, but reports have shown there are preventative measures that individuals and society can take to reduce and prevent sexual violence in our community.

The CDC states, "certain factors may increase or decrease the risk for perpetrating or experiencing sexual violence. To prevent sexual violence, we must understand and address the factors that put people at risk for or protect them from violence."

In a 48-page report, the CDC identified five areas of change on an individual and societal level to stop sexual violence. The broad ideas are, "promote social norms that protect against violence, teach skills to prevent sexual violence, provide opportunities to empower and support girls and women, create protective environments, and support victims and survivors to lesson harms."

There are more detailed steps and changes necessary to truly enact change, and it's worth giving the report a read.

President Joe Biden increased funding for the Violence Against Women Act, which has given to tools to the Justice Department to prevent and prosecute sexual assault and protect survivors. \$700 million was approved for 2023, and protections for survivors have expanded to include those disproportionately affected.

While these changes are a step in the right direction, we should be making leaps and bounds to end or reduce this public health problem. We have the blueprint and can get the resources. What is stopping us? We are only protecting abusers and oppressing victims with indifference and lack of change.

This month, educate yourself on systems that oppress survivors. Change your behavior, correct others' behavior, create a safe space, become an ally and hug your loved ones.

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# Letter to the Editor

A tribute to Dr. James Scanlon, Provost at Youngstown State University from 1993-2001, who passed away recently after a years-long battle with cancer.

Dr. Scanlon's tenure at YSU was one of distinction; indeed, his transformational activity rendered him a titan in our educational and leadership history.

Dr. Scanlon guided the Academic Division through reorganization, the creation of the College of Health and Human Services, conversion to the semester system, general education reform and the establishment of a host of new academic programs, including the first new master's program in decades.

His commitment to excellence was fundamental to the growth of the University Honors program and to improved academic quality at YSU, which was recognized by accreditation from several national professional organizations, as well as numerous student and faculty/staff awards.

Dr. Scanlon's leadership was instrumental in affecting the integration of teaching, scholarship and service and led to dramatically increased external funding and connections with the community.

His contributions to YSU and the community and his personal integrity, which fostered values of inclusion, collegiality and quality of service, at-

test to his human qualities.

President Emeritus, Leslie Cochran, stated in 2020 that "James 'Jim' Scanlon was the most significant academic leader in YSU's modern-day era; in fact, he shaped most of the present-day academic standards, structures and expectations."

As impressive as the above contributions are, there is something more that Dr. Scanlon imparted to us during his years at YSU.

In his 1997 address to YSU's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, "Ethics in the University," he articulated thoughts from Plato and Aristotle, to Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin about the role of a university as a place for individuals to pursue meaning for themselves and the common good.

He said, in quoting Franklin, "that a university education should serve individual interests and advance, in practical ways, the building of a nation or promote the common interest."

Scanlon asserted that the moral foundation of the American university, including YSU, unmistakably links the individual and the common good, giving public higher education its moral function.

In his concluding remarks he argued, "The ethical challenge for us in the university is to take leadership in defining and articulating our intellec-

tual purposes and in connecting them to our work together in the University and to societal needs — to the intellectual, social, cultural and economic needs of society ... It requires us to connect the values of the intellectual community — Youngstown State University — to the public good, to build our future on a moral foundation that accommodates individual and common good in the best traditions of American higher education."

Dr. James Scanlon's tangible contributions to YSU were varied and impactful; his moral compass regarding the role of universities was deeply respected by all who worked with him.

In recognition of his extraordinary service, Dr. Scanlon was selected to receive the 2021 YSU Heritage Award, an honor that recognizes former YSU faculty and professional/administrative staff who have made major contributions to the university during their years of employment.

By: Dr. Cynthia Anderson  
Dr. George Beelen  
Dr. Barbara Brothers  
Dr. Janice Elias  
Dr. Stephen Hanzély  
Dr. Ikram Khawaja  
Dr. Thomas Shipka  
Marlene Dailey

Have something to say to  
The Jambar?  
Send a Letter to the Editor!  
Email [thejambar@gmail.com](mailto:thejambar@gmail.com)

# 'Guins hit the road

By John Ostapowicz  
The Jambar

After 10 games at home, the Youngstown State University softball team hit the road over a seven-game span, April 14 to 22.

To start off the road trip, the team traveled to Indianapolis to face off against Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis in a doubleheader, April 14.

Senior Conchetta Rinaldi said she enjoys road trips because it's a chance to see different places and play on different fields.

"Traveling is a lot of fun, going to experience other places is part of the game here," Rinaldi said. "I don't mind the travel."

In the opener, the Jaguars overwhelmed the Penguins in the bottom of the fifth inning with seven runs en route to an 8-2 loss.

Despite the loss, Youngstown State walked away with two runs by senior Megan Turner and junior Hailey Niederkoehr.

In the nightcap, the team struggled defensively but managed to secure a single run. Junior Sara Fessler re-

corded a hit that allowed senior Hailey Roach to score.

The lone run was not enough as Youngstown State fell, 2-1.

Over the two games, the Penguins totaled eight hits and three runs compared to the Jaguars' 21 combined hits as well as 10 earned runs.

With a two-game deficit in the series, the team turned it around against IUPUI with six runs the following day.

For the Penguins, junior Sophie Howell led the way with a stand-out performance on the mound, which held the Jaguars to one run to claim a 6-1 victory. Howell struck out five batters to earn her 10th win of the season.

Over three innings, the team allowed zero runs but in the bottom of fourth the Jaguars secured a single run.

In the game, six different players secured a run as the Penguins jumped out to a six-score lead. Niederkoehr stood out for the team going 2-for-3 with two runs scored, two RBIs and two stolen bases.

To round out the road trip, the team traveled to Columbus to take on The Ohio State University for the first time since 2011 on April 18.

The Penguins struggled defensively to keep up with the Buckeyes as they scored five straight runs until the fourth

inning.

In the fourth, the team secured two runs. The first came off of a Fessler RBI that allowed junior Elyssa Imler to score. The second was a Rinaldi single to center field which advanced Fessler to home.

Youngstown State fell to Ohio State, 10-2 and over 13 meetings against the Buckeyes, the Penguins are winless.

With six road games left on the season, head coach Brian Campbell spoke about the importance of team bonding on the road.

"Spending a little time together on the road sometimes helps us come together and have a little bit of fun," Campbell said.

The team fell to 20-20 overall and 8-5 in conference play.

With conference games in full swing, the Penguins are batting .296 with 22 doubles, nine home runs and 56 RBIs against league opponents.

Youngstown State is back in action against University of Wisconsin-Green Bay over a three-game span, April 21 to 22.



YSU Softball cheers on teammates.

Photo courtesy of Robert Hayes

# Kickin' it with the soccer team

By Haley Thierry  
Jambar Contributor

The Youngstown State University soccer team is wrapping up its spring ball league and preparing for the upcoming fall 2023 season.

The team will welcome nine new recruits to Youngstown State for the 2023 season.

Jordan Evans, graduate student and captain of the soccer team, said the team has worked on the technical side of the game.

“[The team is] really taking what we were able to do in the fall and expand on it, and keep growing and keep getting better as a program,” Evans said.

The team battled its way to the Horizon League Championship against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee last season.

Head coach Brian Shrum said playing in the Horizon League Championship last season is pushing the team forward.

“That has caused a newfound motivation to improve the program even more, and keep us hopefully at that

standard,” Shrum said.

Evans said she has fond memories competing in the Horizon League Championship and hopes to carry that momentum from last year.

“It was an indescribable feeling when we made it to that championship game. It’s something that we have all been striving toward,” Evans said. “Me being here for now five years, it was really exciting to see the growth of the team and how everybody this previous season came together.”

Evans said the team promised each other to always give 100% effort for practices, and hold each player accountable.

“Really both on and off the field, it was a team effort that everybody bought into that idea, and everybody worked as hard as we could to really better ourselves and better the program,” Evans said.

Jordan Diaz, senior defender, has been recovering from an ACL injury for two years. Despite the challenges, she said she continues to show up and support her team, even though she may not play next year.

“I kind of did a different outlook on it. It was like, I

just need to be there for my team and be like, the best teammate I can be during this time and not feel bad for myself,” Diaz said.

With the upcoming season holding such high expectations for the women, Shrum explained what he’s looking forward to next season.

“[We’re looking forward to] playing. The season itself is always competitive. So, most coaches, we enjoy that part of it. We’re strategically planning, figuring out who we’re gonna play, how we’re gonna play,” Shrum said.

Shrum’s goal for the upcoming season is to win another championship. He said he has high expectations this year.

“To continue to keep a high bar — It’s really hard to keep the bar high — It’s really hard to be able to control the way you think about things after you’ve had some success,” Shrum said. “That is my hope is that we as a staff are helping them continue to develop that process of keeping the bar high.”

Spring ball will continue as the women face off against Kent State University at 1 p.m. April 22, at Kent.



The YSU soccer team playing against Tiffin University.



Photos by Haley Thierry / Jambar Contributor

# YSU's Red-White Spring Game

By **Cameron Niemi**  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University football team had its annual team scrimmage, the Red-White Spring Game at Stambaugh Stadium, April 15.

The red team secured a 37-13 victory over the white team.

The team ended its 2022 season with a 7-4 record but missed the playoffs. The Penguins are hoping for a strong 2023 season, the team will retain a majority of its offensive and defensive starters.

Senior quarterback Mitch Davidson returns after an impressive junior year.

Davidson started the final seven games of the season and completed 59.2% of his passes.

He also threw for over 1,600 yards, 12 touchdowns and just one interception. Davidson also had four rushing touchdowns.

The Penguins also retained senior wideout Bryce Oliver who racked up 821 yards on 59 receptions and 10 touchdowns last season.

Youngstown State will have big holes to fill after losing star running back Jaleel McLaughlin and center Mike McAllister to the 2023 NFL Draft.

Senior tailback Dra Rushton returns after 329 rushing yards and two touchdowns last season. The team will lean on him heavily this upcoming season.

On the defensive side of the ball, the 'Guins have their leading tacklers returning. Defensive backs junior Jordan Trowers and senior Quincy Lenton led the team in tackles.

The linebacker core will return as well. Led by senior Greg Benton Jr. and junior Alex Howard as the duo combined 69 tackles a year ago.

In the scrimmage, Davidson played four series for both teams, as he led

the offenses to a scoring drive in each series. Davidson threw two touchdown passes in his first two drives.

His first drive was caught by Oliver and the second was caught by senior tight end Jake Benio.

That drive was followed by an impressive rushing touchdown by red-shirt freshman Cephus Harris III, as he broke multiple tackles on his way into the endzone.

Harris ran the ball well the entire game and then caught the final touchdown pass from Davidson shortly after his touchdown run.

Davidson spoke after the scrimmage about being one of the veteran leaders on the team and the progress of the team throughout spring training leading into the summer.

"Our brotherhood has been extraordinary, we were out here having fun today. We drafted teams, you have offensive guys drafting defensive guys, and defensive guys drafting offensive guys," Davidson said. "Coming back this summer it's going to be huge to get some off-field work in and fix all the little things, get in the film room and study all this tape from these 15 practices."

The starting defense was solid and stopped the run early. Later in the game the red team defense got a safety in the endzone against the white team offense.

Redshirt freshman quarterback Beau Brungard also had an impressive day throwing the ball and using his feet, as he had a rushing touchdown later in the game and threw one to Tomczak.

Head coach Doug Phillips is entering his fourth season and spoke after the scrimmage on his team's performance.

"We talk about being disciplined, driven and when you play games in the Missouri Valley you gotta be a disci-

plined group," Phillips said. "I thought both sides you saw some big plays, from a lot of kids."

Phillips also talked about the importance of having a strong spring practice period after the finish of last season.

"Leave no doubt. How good we want to be, we got to focus on our actions," Phillips said. "We gotta understand that how we react to certain situations, whether it's adversity and success, that ultimately dictates your outcome."

The football team will kick off its 2023 season at home Aug. 31 against Valparaiso University.

"Our brotherhood has been extraordinary, we were out here having fun today. We drafted teams, you have offensive guys drafting defensive guys and defensive guys drafting offensive guys."

— **Mitch Davidson**,  
Senior quarterback

