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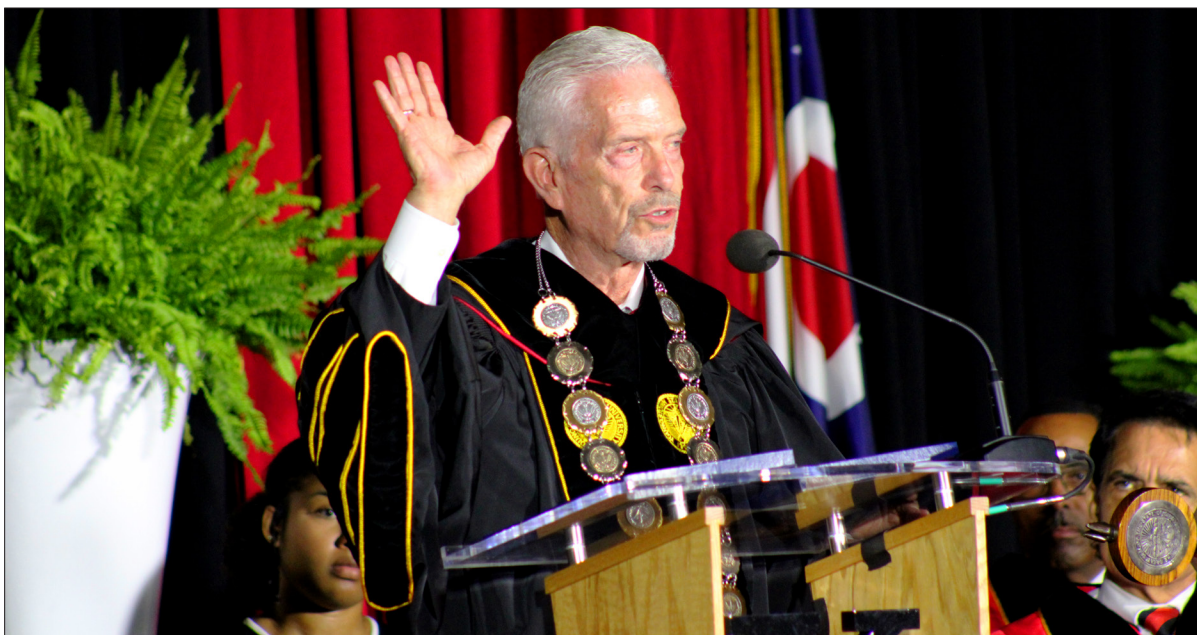


Thursday, September 26, 2024

THEJAMBAR.COM



PRESIDENTIAL PASS DOWN



Bill Johnson became the official YSU President Sept. 19.

Photo by John Ostapowicz / The Jambar

Leadership takes center stage

By Dylan Bigelow
Jambar Contributor

Bill Johnson officially became the 10th president of Youngstown State University during a ceremony at 2 p.m. Sept. 19 in Kilcawley Center.

The presidential installation was held in a packed Chestnut Room. Featured guests included various state officials, retired generals and YSU alumnus Bernie Kosar Sr., father of former Cleveland Browns quarterback, Bernie Kosar Jr.

Michael Peterson, chair of the board of trustees, and Charles George, vice chair, administered the oath of office and presented the presidential medalion to Johnson.

With the oath completed, a visibly emotional

Johnson addressed the audience.

"I am humbled, extremely humbled, that you've put your trust and confidence in me," Johnson said.

Throughout the ceremony, leadership became the recurring theme.

The keynote speaker was Philip Breedlove, a retired U.S. Air Force four-star general. He is also the former Supreme Allied Commander Europe, a position first held by former President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Breedlove spoke heavily on the subject of leadership during his 24-minute speech. He said the university is lucky to get a leader like Johnson.

President, Page 2

Airsoft assault

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

Youngstown State University Police Department responded to an alleged assault involving an airsoft gun at 10:39 p.m. Sept. 21 near the Daniel H. Becker Family Fountain Commons.

A group of several YSU students were fired upon by a male suspect, described to be in his early 20s. He was headed east on a bicycle and then proceeded to travel north towards Elm Street.

According to eye-witness accounts, the male pulled out an airsoft gun and opened fire at the group of students, shouting, "Go back to your country."

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Let the events begin

By Nicarllyle Hanchard
The Jambar

Youngstown State University officially began its Hispanic Heritage Month with an opening ceremony Sept. 12.

The ceremony was held at the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning Valley. It was attended by several city and state officials, among other stakeholders.

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“You’re getting a leader who understands the historical context of leadership in a way that very few do. But I would also tell you that he has the qualities that we’ve been talking about,” Breedlove said.

Some of the qualities mentioned included managing risks, making tough decisions, putting others first and being a team player. He cited a range of leadership examples, from Eisenhower to 22-year-old WNBA star Caitlin Clark.

“If you ever listen to [Clark] give a press conference, she talks about the team’s successes and her failures,” Breedlove said. “We have a lot to learn from people like that.”

While giving his speech, Johnson spoke about his leadership origins “on a small two-wheel wagon rut mule farm on the cotton and tobacco fields of North Carolina.”

He said that when he told his story years ago to an audience in Washington, D.C., someone asked why his family didn’t farm with a tractor. Johnson replied, “You don’t understand. Where I came from, we had to borrow the stinking mule.”

Johnson spoke of the lessons he learned while working on the farm with his grandfather.

“It’s where I learned my first lessons about hard work, service and sacrifice,” Johnson said.

Johnson said his grandfather was a

man of few words, but the example he set taught him a lot about leadership.

“My grandfather was teaching me that true leaders have a servant’s heart,” Johnson said. “They understand that the most important thing they can do in their lives is invest in the lives of others.”

Like Breedlove, Johnson referenced historical figures throughout his speech. He discussed the leadership roles Ohioans played in Abraham Lincoln’s administration and quoted leaders such as civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr., former Presidents John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan, as well as Founding Father Benjamin Franklin.

“Youngstown State did not just happen. We were divinely inspired,” Johnson said.

Johnson also spoke about the strength YSU has provided to the greater community following the collapse of the steel industry. He quoted a mural painted at Southern Park Mall in Boardman.

“You can’t break a city built from steel,” Johnson said. “My friends, in Youngstown, we bend, but we don’t break. We’re adaptable. We’re resilient. We’re

persistent. And we deliver.”

Johnson also mentioned areas where YSU has progressed since he began his presidency in January.

“Fortunately, for Youngstown State, I’m proud to tell you that we are on sound footing,” Johnson said. “Both financially and from an enrollment perspective.”

YSU recently reported an enrollment increase of 10.7% from last academic year to this year.

After all the initial controversy surrounding Johnson’s hire, both he and Breedlove ended their speeches with a sentiment everyone knows, “Go Penguins.”

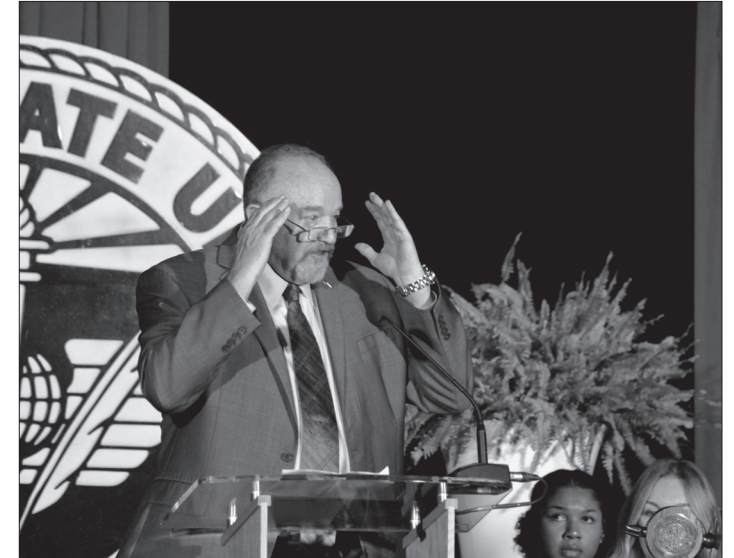


Photo by Dylan Bigelow / Jambar Contributor
Breedlove gives key note speech.

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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Thu. Fri. Sat. Sun. Mon. Tue. Wed.

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| High: 80°F | High: 77°F | High: 73°F | High: 72°F | High: 68°F | High: 66°F | High: 69°F |
| Low: 56°F | Low: 62°F | Low: 59°F | Low: 55°F | Low: 53°F | Low: 55°F | Low: 53°F |
| Chance of precip: 25% | Chance of precip: 14% | Chance of precip: 25% | Chance of precip: 25% | Chance of precip: 0% | Chance of precip: 1% | Chance of precip: 14% |



Overcast



Partly Cloudy



A Few Clouds



Partly Cloudy



Partly Cloudy



Mostly Cloudy



Overcast

Information courtesy of [accuweather.com](https://www.accuweather.com)

'Guins gaze at the stars again

By Molly Burke
Jambar Contributor

The Youngstown State University community has been without Ward Beecher Planetarium shows since its roof caught fire Jan. 8, 2023, but it's now preparing for its first show since then.

At noon, a class of 90 students was inside the planetarium when the fire broke out during a roofing installation. There was minimal fire and smoke damage, but Planetarium Engineer Curt Spivey said hundreds of gallons of water damaged lights, telescopes and the planetarium's dome.

"Domes are designed to [be] lighter weight. They have little holes in them, and basically, when the fire department hit that with water it turned the entire dome into a giant sprinkler," Spivey said.

It was the first day of the spring semester and the beginning of 20 months without shows or star talks.

"I've been in planetarium for 30 years, so not being able to do star talks was like somebody cut off my leg," Spivey said.

Repairs cost \$1.5 million and took over a year to begin, but Spivey said the planetarium is now back and better than ever. It has a new dome, Chronos star projector, sound system and lighting.

"This is a special powder-coated dome called a nano scene dome, and when you shoot video onto this, it looks exactly like a movie screen," Spivey said. "Now we have five matching theater-quality Martin speakers and a powered subwoofer in the back."

Students were able to begin fall semester astronomy classes back in the planetarium and the public can see its Grand Reopening shows, Oct. 4-5.

"The first show that's going to run the month of October is the 50th anniversary of our Halloween show [which] began in 1974 here at Ward Beecher Planetarium. It's called Night Lights," Spivey said. "We do full dome video, our cove light system is fully programmable, we make the land lights dance live to the music and we have a good time."

Patrick Durrell, the planetarium's director and a professor of physics and astronomy, said while it was hard to put a pause on teaching under the starlit dome, the good outweighs the bad.

"It was a rather devastating moment to see that

happen, but I look around now and I go, 'This is going to be one of the best college planetariums you're going to see,'" Durrell said. "It is one of the largest, most updated planetariums in a college university for hours away from here, including places that are much bigger than us."

Durrell said reconstructing a planetarium is no easy feat, as only two companies in the world make domes, and everything is custom made.

"It's not like you can just go to the big box stores and buy the parts you need. A lot of the parts were needed — both electrical, behind the scenes, for the Chronos, for the full dome projector — it's not off the shelf stuff," Durrell said.

According to YSU's Director of Planning and Construction Rich White, the dome itself cost \$500,000 alone. He said working on the planetarium was a first for him, but a large team made it possible.

"I've been here for 35 years almost, and I've been through quite a bit of construction here, but this one was certainly unique," White said. "There was a lot [of people involved], from health and safety down to our department. We have three or four people in our department just working on drawings and getting those things ready."

Throughout the last 20 months, Spivey and Durrell have been live streaming shows on Facebook to continue engaging with the community. Wim Steelant, dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, said the community has shown overwhelming support on social media.

"The community wants to do everything to give back in a very surprising matter. That's a thing called Youngstown grit, isn't it? You can burn it down but nobody said it's not going to come back up," Steelant said.

The planetarium is free but welcomes donations. Steelant said he and YSU President Bill Johnson want to host a show for those who have continuously donated over the years.

"It's not official yet, but we're trying to say a date where we can do like an alumni night, people that have been donating from small amounts to big amounts," Steelant said. "We want to do something for them."

The planetarium's full program schedule for 2024-2025 can be found at wbplanetarium.org.

A stellar career

By Molly Burke
Jambar Contributor

For most Youngstown State University students, the Ward Beecher Planetarium fire meant a temporary change of location for astronomy classes.

However, for senior Aubree Peterson-Spinard, it meant a disruption in career preparations.

When she became a planetarium student employee in August 2021, she was working with the star projector and helping with shows — unaware her job would drastically change.

"That was really really rough, especially as someone who wants to go into this field as a full-time profession," Peterson-Spinard said. "It was hard for me to have that outlet for the experience taken away completely at first."

Peterson-Spinard discovered her interest for the stars at a young age.

"Ever since I can remember, I've loved space and learning about what is beyond the sky," she said. "I actually have a vision impairment. So, this wasn't the best idea, but when I was a kid, I would look up at the sky and I would try to say, 'Oh, my vision must be getting better because I can see three more stars than three nights ago.'"

Throughout the 20 months without the planetarium, the staff live streamed shows on Facebook. While it wasn't a face-to-face experience, Peterson-Spinard was able to make some of her own presentations for the livestreams.

"I'm really glad that we were able to do our Facebook live shows because it still allowed the public to interact with us and for us to have that educational piece," Peterson-Spinard said. "I've been able to get experience actually presenting and being able to lecture for certain startalks."

She's now halfway through her last semester on campus, excited to work under the stars again.

"Having the planetarium open back up now, I can finally get that experience in person because it's so hard to connect with people when you're looking at a screen," Peterson-Spinard said. "It means truly everything to me. I cannot stop smiling talking about this place."

Hispanic Heritage

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Christopher Colon, executive director of Thrive Mahoning Valley, was the keynote speaker. He was joined by Angelica Diaz, executive director of Organización Cívica y Cultural Hispana Americana, Inc. and Jamael Tito Brown, mayor of Youngstown.

Other guests included YSU President Bill Johnson, State Senator Al Cutrona and William F. Maag Jr. Library Co-Director Ana Torres, among others.

Each speaker spoke of the significance of Hispanic Heritage Month and the mutualistic relationship between Hispanic Americans and the city of Youngstown.

In his opening remarks, Colon acknowledged the theme of this year's Hispanic Heritage Month "Latinos Settling in the Valley Through the Centuries: NUESTRO DESTINO." He said a person's destiny is not solely where they end up, but the journey that is had.

"Nuestro Destino, our destiny, is not just about where we end up but how we get there. The choices we make, the struggles we endure and the community we build along the way," Colon said.

He said his childhood experiences could have led him

down a different path. The lessons he learned while in Youngstown motivated him to persevere.

"It's the grit of Youngstown, the spirit of this community, the resilience of its people, the unwavering support of this community, that instilled in me a sense of pride and belonging," Colon said.

Cutrona spoke of Youngstown's influence on his upbringing, citing the examples his grandfather set for him.

"When I think about the valley, and how we got here, I think about mi abuelo, who instilled in us those moral and cultural values, the same things that I have been able to take down to our State House," Cutrona said.

YSU and the Youngstown Public Library were presented with commendations from Cutrona and Senator Matt Huffman, president of the Ohio Senate, for their recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Brown shared the importance of his grandmother and his community growing up in Youngstown.

"If you wanted to know where anything was or you wanted to find a recipe or you needed to get a message to somebody, just stop by grandmother, and by some time that day or the next day, they will get that information from grandmother," Brown said.

Commenting on the importance of social workers, Mayor Brown said he grew up in an era where social workers were his neighbors and the values those interactions instilled in him.

"We all come from that neighborhood where the social workers were your neighbors down the street. They help you figure out the value of work. They also taught you how to treat one another and the way they share," Brown said.

Mayor Brown presented a commendation to Ana Torres for the work YSU has done in organizing the events for Hispanic Heritage Month.

"On behalf of the citizens of the great city of Youngstown, as the mayor, I wanted to stop by, give you a proclamation just to recognize and reignite our advancements in Heritage Month in the city of Youngstown," Brown said.

The events on campus continued Sept. 13, with a dinner and panel discussion at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor and Sept. 18 with a movie night on the lawn between Maag Library and Ward Beecher Hall.

The city of Youngstown also celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with the ¡Hola Fest! on Sept. 21.



Hispanic Heritage Month festivities.



Photos by Hannah Werle / The Jambar



Photo by Aicha Sawaneh / The Jambar

Check out more from the ¡Hola Fest! and Summer Arts Festival on Page 8.

Got complaints? SGA says 'Share Your Voice!'

By **Jacqueline Arroyo**
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University students have a new way to voice their concerns. The Student Government Association has established a resource for students to directly contact it.

"Share Your Voice!" is a new option on the SGA website where students can submit complaints, both academic and non-academic.

SGA Vice President Sofie Myers said the idea grew out of concern for how students could communicate effectively with them.

"We really started playing around with the idea of a student suggestion box, or a student concern box," Myers said. "We figured out how we were going to make

that plan go into action, and we ended up putting a little box on our website called Share Your Voice!"

Most of the complaints are about YSU and vary from concerns about campus life to academics to grievances against professors.

"We're able to just move them in the right direction," Myers said, noting some complaints aren't necessarily issues SGA can handle.

Myers collaborated with SGA Vice President of Public Relations Alysa Oswald to market "Share Your Voice!" on campus and social media.

"I love it and I really want us to expand upon it this year," Oswald said.

In the past, Oswald said SGA marketed a suggestion box on Instagram, its most popular social media platform. SGA is

hoping the "Share Your Voice!" program will receive a greater response.

Oswald said that in addition to offering "Share Your Voice!" through its website, SGA will market the program through its Instagram stories to make it convenient for students to access.

She also manages the Instagram page and is responsible for maintaining SGA's presence on Facebook and X. Besides media management, Oswald is in charge of marketing SGA initiatives, which are resources for students and events.

"We also have the step-by-step guide on the website because we want to promote taking [complaints] to your professor or whoever you're having the grievance with first before submitting a full-fledged academic grievance," Oswald said.

The SGA meeting schedule can be

found on its website, along with the type of meeting it will be, body or financial affairs.

Body meetings are open to the public, while financial affairs committee meetings are invite only for organizations who fill out a Student Government appropriation application.

In addition to creating new resources for students, SGA spearheads numerous activities and events on campus.

Last fall, it hosted an academic advisory panel where students could speak to advisors from each college. After the panel, they posted students' questions and advisors' answers or guidance through its Instagram story.

To access "Share Your Voice!" students should visit the SGA website, click on the menu, then on resources.

Recruitment changes

By **Matthew Sotlar**
The Jambar

Youngstown State University recently changed the recruitment process for Panhellenic Council sororities. The Panhellenic Council consists of Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Zeta and Zeta Tau Alpha.

In the past month, multiple events were held for students to learn about Greek Life, including at least two events to meet the members and officials of YSU's Greek organizations.

Associate Director of Student Activities Carrie Anderson said that while the recruitment process has not changed, the events schedule has been expanded for accessibility.

"Our primary fall recruitment is usually the time we tend to have a lot more people go through recruitment," Anderson said. "What we've [changed is] how many activities and days that there are opportunities to go through the process so that it fits more with a student's schedule."

YSU's Panhellenic Council is a part of the National Panhellenic Conference, a 26-sorority organization across the United States and Canada.

Anderson said by adding more activities, students have the chance to explore their options.

"One of the main things that we want to make sure that everyone does is know all their options," Anderson said. "So meet each one of our chapters, get to know them a little bit better, and then that way they have more information about what they want to do from there."

The recruitment process is done through Greek Life. Students interested in joining a sorority were encouraged to attend three separate info sessions Aug. 28, Sept. 4 and 10. Following these sessions, three open houses were held for each Panhellenic Council sorority.

Anderson encouraged students in the recruitment process to meet each of the chapters before deciding on a specific sorority.

"What we're only asking of them is that they at least meet all three of our chapters once," Anderson said. "They could go to all events that they wanted to because sometimes that works for their schedule, and it's great."

Anderson added that each of the Panhellenic chapters held events for students in the recruitment process.

"Each one of our chapters has a meet event just to sit down and talk. They might do crafts during it for their philanthropy to donate, or they might just talk about what it means to be a sister, and what kind of time commitments come with that," Anderson said.

Delta Zeta held its meeting event Sept. 19 in the Training Room in Kilcawley Center, while Alpha Xi Delta on Sept. 24 in the Presidential Suite in Kilcawley and Zeta Tau Alpha rounded out the meeting events Sept. 25 in the Rossi Room.

With an expanded schedule, Anderson said students have more time to decide whether or not Greek Life is right for them.

"I think it's kind of neat and kind of just expands it to just focus on the student that's looking at whether membership is a good thing for them or not. But at the same time, they can go to as much or as little as possible," Anderson said.

The sorority recruitment open houses were held in the Chestnut Room on Sept. 17, 23 and 26. Students interested in learning more about the Panhellenic Council can visit ysu.edu/greek-life.

Editor's note: Managing Editor Raeghan Hilton is involved with Delta Zeta. She had no editorial input.

Three Open House and Chapter Rounds
You can choose to attend one Open House session, or two, or all of them. Additionally, each chapter has a night where you can spend quality time meeting more of their members. These sessions are not required, but beneficial for helping you get to know all of our chapters during any of these events held between September 17 and September 26 to be eligible for Preference.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 Sorority Recruitment Open House #1 Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center 11am-8pm</p> <p>Check out our first Open House round, where each sorority will have the opportunity to share their mission and values, and provide insight into the ideals they stand for. Everyone will have the chance to meet all of our chapters. Bring questions and be ready to learn about yourself as well. Before you leave, be sure to talk with your recruitment counselor to save your schedule to ensure you are ready for the rest of recruitment.</p> | <p>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 Meet the Ladies of Delta Zeta Sorority Training Room, Kilcawley Center 6pm-8pm</p> <p>Each of our chapters will be sponsoring a night for you to stop by and get to know them better. Drop by anytime during their session to have a more relaxed atmosphere to get to know more about their chapter and sisterhood. This specific session is sponsored by Delta Zeta Sorority.</p> | <p>MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 Sorority Recruitment Open House #2 Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center 2pm-4pm</p> <p>Another option to fit meeting our chapters into your schedule. During this event plan to come with questions about what Sorority Life is all about and be sure to share about yourself too. This casual setting will allow you to talk to each organization. We encourage you to take time to visit each group for the same amount of time to get the most out of your experience. Before you leave be sure to talk with your recruitment counselor.</p> |
| <p>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 Meet the Ladies of Alpha Xi Delta Sorority Presidential Suite, Kilcawley Center 8pm</p> <p>If our chapters will be sponsoring a night for you to stop by and get to know them better. Drop by anytime during their session to have a more relaxed atmosphere to get to know more about their chapter and sisterhood. This specific session is sponsored by Alpha Xi Delta Sorority.</p> | <p>WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 Meet the Ladies of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority Rossi Room, Kilcawley Center 6pm-8pm</p> <p>Each of our chapters will be sponsoring a night for you to stop by and get to know them better. Drop by anytime during their session to have a more relaxed atmosphere to get to know more about their chapter and sisterhood. This specific session is sponsored by Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority.</p> | <p>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 Sorority Recruitment Open House #3 Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center 5pm-8pm</p> <p>Here's one more chance to meet and greet with members from each of our chapters before Preference and Bid Day. During this event you'll continue to learn more about what each chapter has to offer and what each sorority's philanthropy and service projects mean to them. Just one last reminder that you MUST visit all chapters to be eligible to attend Preference Day and continue in the recruitment process. It will also be very important to check out with your Recruitment Counselor before you go to ensure all paperwork is ready for Saturday.</p> |

Preference & Bid Day You MUST attend this round to get placed in a chapter during this process.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center | 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Photo by Matthew Sotlar / The Jambar

YSU sororities' event calendar.

The club behind the teams

By Madison Fessler and Raeghan Hilton
Jambar Contributors

Since 2019, Penguin Club has provided over 220 student athletes with one-year scholarships.

Founded in 1974, the club is a resource for athletes of the 21 Division I sports at Youngstown State University and acts under the motto, “the team behind the teams.”

Austin Snodgrass, business manager of auxiliary income and events, talked

about how the Penguin Club raises money to give back to the athletes.

“[The club raises money] through different events that we run,” Snodgrass said. “Different memberships that we have for basketball and football games, as well as what we call Olympic Sport Membership, means there’s no tickets involved.”

There are two memberships for revenue sports. The Gridiron Club is for football fans and the Courtside Coaches Club is for fans of men’s and women’s basketball. Both memberships offer levels where the more money donated increases the benefits.

Snodgrass said the money from revenue-sport memberships doesn’t always go back to that sport, but into the main scholarship fund to help primarily non-revenue athletes. The club’s main focus is those non-revenue athletes as their events don’t generate ticket sales.

“[Non-revenue sports] would be volleyball, soccer, tennis, track, golf [and]

swimming,” Snodgrass said.

This year, Penguin Club gave out 58 scholarships at \$1,000 under the Joseph F. Malmisur Scholarship. Joseph Malmisur served as athletic director for almost 11 years and became a driving force behind the Penguin Club.

Senior bowler Ellie Drescher, talked about how she personally benefits from receiving the scholarship.

“I’m a very grateful person when it comes to these things and they impact me very heavily because as a person who’s in a sport that doesn’t get as much recognition as many other sports, it’s harder to receive scholarships or offers from school,” Drescher said.

Fifth-year senior Soma Albert, a member of the YSU swim and dive team, said the Penguin Club scholarship takes away some financial stress.

“It’s much easier to get by. I don’t have to work that much next to school and practices, which saves me a lot of time,” Albert said.

In addition to offering financial support, the Penguin Club acts as a liaison between the athletes and club members.

Rebecca Fink, senior associate athlet-

ic director for internal operations, elaborated on member’s involvement that reaches past the financial support.

“What I appreciate most outside of the financial contributions is really those connections that our student athletes have been able to make,” Fink said. “I [can’t] think of a Penguin Club member, especially from our board, that doesn’t love the opportunity to get to sit one on one or with a group of student athletes and just get to know them as people.”

Fink also said athletes have gained connections for mentoring, summer internships, student employment and jobs from Penguin Club members.

Snodgrass said the club has financially contributed to projects like the academic center and renovations to Beeghly Center, along with a new classroom in Stambaugh Stadium.

“We’re always trying to help with the capital projects that Ron Strollo is able to go out and raise money for, but he comes to the Penguin Club to help out as well,” Snodgrass said.

For more information on the Penguin Club, how to donate or to become a member, visit ysusports.com.

Academic advising tackles a new gameplan

By Nicholas Bianco and Dylan Lux
Jambar Contributors

Youngstown State University student athletes are encouraged to keep their focus in the classroom, as well as their athletics — which doubles their responsibilities.

Academic coordinators are meant to help keep student athletes on track throughout their time in college.

Becca King, a senior athletic academic coordinator, said the athletics department switched their names from academic advisors to athletic coordinators to avoid confusion among students and faculty regarding advising.

“Typically what we do is serve as a support person for students to liaison between their actual academic advisor,” King said. “Then we follow [National Collegiate Athletic Association] guidelines, policies, rules and benchmarks while making sure they’re academically eligible to apply.”

King said student athletes meet with their academic advisors prior to meeting with academic coordinators to receive advising for their major.

“They meet with us and we arrange their schedule with practice, making sure they’re meeting eligibility benchmarks so that they’re able to apply,” King said. “There are a ton of [benchmarks], so that’s where we come in, to make sure both of those worlds collide for

the student to be able to participate and be academically successful.”

One of the more challenging aspects for a student athlete is scheduling around practices, travel and games or meets.

Brian Welch, assistant athletic coordinator, said working around a student athlete’s schedule can prove difficult for coordinators.

“The demand for being a student athlete is tremendously hard and you’ve got to be very motivated and dedicated to it,” Welch said.

Taylor Blandine, a senior athletic academic coordinator, said the academic coordinators rely on the academic advisors since the coordinators specialize in a student athlete’s major.

“We mandate that our athletes have to see [advisors] first, just to make sure we’re not missing anything because we help advise for all majors,” Blandine said. “We’re backup to double check that. Our athletes have two people double checking their graduation track to make sure that they’re staying on track to graduate.”

Student athlete Ainsley Hamsher said both the advisors and the athletes have to work with professors to keep everyone up-to-date.

“So, our advisor sends out an email of all the kids that are on the travel roster for the week, and then it is our

responsibility to go up to the professor and make sure we’re not missing anything super important,” Hamsher said.

Welch explained the responsibilities students have when a game is scheduled during class time.

“The NCAA mandates that you can only miss class for competition,” Welch said. “[At the] beginning of the year, we send out travel letters through an automated system called Retain that we have. The professors of all the student athletes know what days that they’re missing.”

Blandine said the academic coordinators’ primary role is keeping eligibility for student athletes.

“Our main job is to make sure they’re meeting [standards] so they can be out on the field, court or track, competing,” Blandine said.

Hamsher said student athletes create their own preliminary schedule of classes and then get approval from their academic advisor.

“We take [our] schedule and go to our athletic advisor, and they tell us if it’ll fit in our practice schedule, and they’re in contact with our coaches,” Hamsher said.

As fall sports season gets into full swing, student athletes are reminded that “student” comes first.

Workin' and studying 9 to 5

By Sydney Fairbanks and Tala Alsharif
Jambar Contributors

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, around 41% of full-time university students are employed. With student employment and available internships, students at Youngstown State University have numerous opportunities to find work.

Senior finance major Madeline Saari works as a barista at Stone Fruit Coffee Co. and as a bartender at Bull & Bear Grille and Tavern. She works to support herself since she is financially independent.

"I work 50 to 55 hours between two jobs a week," Saari said. "I need to work to pay for things I need for school, but it's a lot of planning. I'm constantly planning my schedule and have set times for everything so I don't feel overwhelmed."

Junior information technology major, Edwin Patterson, also believes time management is important. He interns at FirstEnergy as a systems administrator.

"It can be tricky to balance the responsibilities between the two. The best method is time management, even if that includes writing out an entire daily schedule," Patterson said.

Patterson previously worked two jobs, one of them being over an hour drive away from campus.

"It was very difficult, especially with the very long distance drive," Patterson said, "I had to be very careful with the classes that I selected at the time, so I could have an entire day or two dedicated to driving all the way just to be able to work."

Patterson's current job allows him to do remote work within scheduled hours.

Patterson said he had to learn good time management skills to balance his work, school and personal time because in the past, he struggled to find time for extracurriculars such as marching band.

"I used to be a part of the YSU marching band but due to really heavy demands, I no longer have time to put towards marching band, but even without that I'm still able to find time to be a part of other organizations on campus," Patterson said.

Other students also mentioned having difficulties managing extracurricular activities.

Saari was previously the president of the Student Information and Supply Chain Association and part of the women's rugby club, but has since stepped down from these positions because of her workload.

Senior marketing major, Garrett Bailey, works at the Math Achievement Center and has an internship with the Ohio Export Internship Program where he works as a marketing and exporting intern.

Before starting his internship, Bailey served as president of the American Marketing Association.

"I just didn't have time with a full course load," Bailey said. "I was constantly running around, even more than I am now, and constantly trying to plan meetings, do both jobs and a full course load."

Bailey said if students want to participate in extracurricular activities, they need to learn strategies to stay organized.

His strategy is maintaining set times for work, school and free time to stay productive.

"I try to leave work at work. If I'm not at work, I don't want to be working. So [I just try to] keep things compartmentalized," Bailey said. "And then when I'm at

home, not working, I try to divide up my time between free time and school work."

Saari says her work and classes can be tiring and demanding, but is determined to make it work. She receives support from the employers at both of her jobs, which makes the workload easier.

"The owners at Stone Fruit are amazing, so supportive all the time, always making sure that [I'm] okay and they're very flexible with my schedule," Saari said. "Same with my manager at Bull & Bear, he's amazing. It's like family at both places, which is really awesome and not common."

Saari's jobs help her connect with others and gain customer service skills that benefit her future career.

"You get to know people, which is exactly what I'm going to have to do with my future career as a certified financial planner," Saari said.

Bailey's work allows him to gain experiences in multiple areas.

"I think for my future, I have a lot more experience and what it just looks like at face value. I wear so many different hats at work," Bailey said. "It's just a constant tornado of different things that you're doing."

Bailey advises students to communicate with their coworkers, managers and professors when things get overwhelming.

"Say something, don't just bottle it up. You have to communicate what's going on with you so they can help you, because they're more than willing to, you just have to say something," Bailey said.

YSU students searching for job opportunities can find more about campus jobs on Handshake.



YSU students can find job opportunities on Handshake.



Photos by Sydney Fairbanks / Jambar Contributor

A new overture for YSO

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

The search for a new conductor and music director of the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra concluded June 6, with the appointment of Maestro Sergey Bogza.

After the death of Randal Fleischer in 2020, the search for his successor lasted four years. Several guest conductors performed with YSO throughout the last two seasons, but Bogza's application proved to be the perfect fit.

Bogza was born in Russia, into a Russian-Ukrainian family and emigrated to the United States in 1995.

While in Ukraine, Bogza's access to instruments and music education was limited. When he moved to the U.S., Bogza's mother recommended him to begin piano lessons, which sparked his interest in music as a career path.

"My music education didn't start until I moved to the U.S.," Bogza said. "Thirty minutes into my first piano lesson, I knew that [music] was going to be my life, whether it was going to be easy, difficult or torturous, I was going to spend the rest of my life in this field."

Between the ages of 10 and 11-years-old, Bogza prac-

ticed piano three to four hours a day. The hours of music and work allowed him to put together a youth symphony orchestra, with the help of his father.

Bogza continued his music education with a bachelor's degree at Portland State University. He went on to receive a Master of Music degree from Central Washington University and his Doctorate of Musical Arts degree at the University of Minnesota.

Through his career, Bogza held several positions with symphony orchestras, such as a director at Millikin-Decatur Symphony, Wilmar Symphony and the Heartland Symphony Orchestra.

Bogza is under a three-year contract with YSO, but will still serve as the Music Director of the Panama City Symphony as he enters his third year in the role.

His resume also stretches decades with dozens of sold-out shows, several guest appearances as a music conductor and a collaboration with award-winning choreographer Roger Van Fleteren.

With a busy schedule and years of higher education, Bogza said staying busy is the key to success in the world of music.

"You're either busy or unemployed," Bogza said. "The

more you can stay active, the better it is not only for your resume, but the world of art is always changing. You have to be in it and active to adapt to the times."

Bogza has had a warm welcome to the Youngstown community. Most recently, he spent the weekend in the Mahoning Valley and interviewed with WKBN, The Business Journal and WYSU 88.5 FM via radio interview.

He also visited Youngstown State University, met with President Bill Johnson and attended the Sept. 7 football game against Valparaiso University.

Bogza said it is important to receive feedback as well as combine both modern and classical pieces to accommodate everyone.

"[Music] is representative of who we are as people, which is just a blend of all of our experiences. People are so much more enthusiastic about being a part of that world," Bogza said.

The 2024-25 symphony season will commence at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 5 at the DeYor Performing Arts Center with "Rhapsody Royale: The Music of Gershwin, Rachmaninoff and Queen."

For more information about the shows and events by YSO, visit its website at youngstownsymphony.com.



Sergey Bogza bows after a ballet performance.

Photo courtesy of Sergey Bogza's website

An advertisement for Pressed Coffee Bar & Eatery. The top section features the brand name "PRESSED" in a large, stylized font, with "COFFEE BAR & EATERY" underneath. The background is decorated with coffee beans and a coffee plant. Below this, a text box reads: "Welcome back YSU students and staff!! Pressed Coffee Bar & Eatery Missed you. We want to gift you a coupon to show you our appreciation." The bottom section has a dark background with a circular image of a latte with a leaf design. To the right of the image, it says "15% OFF ANY PURCHASE". At the very bottom, it states "VALID THROUGH: AUGUST 26, 2024 - OCTOBER 31, 2024" and includes a disclaimer: "** CANNOT BE USED WITH ANY OTHER COUPONS, VOUCHERS, AND SPECIALS**".

GROOVY BABY

Allow me to introduce...Austin and The Powers



Austin and The Powers's tour starts today at Half Baked Brew in Columbus.

Photo courtesy of Austin and the Powers on Facebook

By Sydney Fairbanks
The Jambar

Austin and The Powers is currently gearing up for “The Midwesterner Tour” beginning today at the Half Baked Brew in Columbus.

It will be supported by the Ravine, an emo indie pop-rock band from Nashville, Tennessee, and will also feature a variety of opening acts at each stop.

The band is formed of vocalist and guitarist Austin Eisner, bassist Colin Fausnaught and Nick Winter on the drums. Eisner describes the band’s music as “indie vibe rock.”

“We definitely have indie roots, with influence from the early 2000s and even a little bit of a new wave. Overall, just vibe-y,” Eisner said.

Austin and The Powers began playing in October 2021, but the members have been musically inclined since an early age.

Frontman Eisner said his affinity for music came from the environment he grew up in, while Fausnaught and Winter said they began to play music in grade school.

Both Fausnaught and Winter said music is their way of unwinding when times are tough.

“We started right at the tail end of the [COVID 19] pandemic, and, for me at least, the band was the creative outlet I had at the time to let loose and just have fun,” Fausnaught said.

Eisner said the most important parts about making music are being able to work with his closest friends and having an impact on his fans’ lives.

“I can’t even express how important our friendship has been and continues to be

in my life,” Eisner said. “I love that we’re able to reach people with our art. I think as an artist, you don’t care about popularity. You care that you’re making a difference — even on a scale as small as this — it’s the most fulfilling thing I’ve done with my life.”

Despite not striving for popularity, Austin and The Powers has made waves with its 2022 single, “Nexus (Is It Over),” which garnered over three-million streams on Spotify.

Fausnaught said Austin and The Powers’s rising popularity has allowed it to begin to take the next steps as a band. One of these steps is relocation, as the band is originally from Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

“The one thing [popularity] certainly has done is allow us to take music more seriously, which we are using to relocate to Nashville to grow even further,” Fausnaught said.

When it comes to making music, Winter said he tends to be inspired in the moment, and while hearing his bandmates play.

“[Eisner] will throw down a sick chord progression or riff, or [Fausnaught] will lay down a tasty bass line and I’ll feel a beat and play along with them. [I’ve] had the literal best times with that style of playing,” Winter said.

While Austin and The Powers is looking to play at Westside Bowl in Youngstown, nothing has been cemented yet. For now, those interested can see the band in its six-stop tour, which starts today.

For more information on Austin and The Powers, or to hear the band’s next release, follow its Instagram account, @austinandthepowers.

Say 'HOLA' to Youngstown

By Hannah Werle
The Jambar

The community gathered to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month on Sept. 21 in downtown Youngstown, signaling strong bonds after a demanding year.

Only in its second year, the iHola Fest! is an event celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. According to the iHola Fest! website, the event's name is an acronym for "Hispanic Or Latin American" and the festival is meant to highlight all of these cultures.

HOLA Fest's website states, "iHola Fest! is Youngstown's very own Hispanic parade and festival. It is a free, family-friendly event celebrating culture and community. Filled with lots of children's activities, music, food, fashion, art and dance, all from the heart of Hispanic [and] Latin America."

Lisette Encarnacion, the lead for Marketing and Branding and the emcee for the parade, said last year's festival garnered over 3,000 attendees of all cul-

tures and origins.

"HOLA Fest is a Hispanic or Latin American celebration — all walks of life, not just Puerto Rican and Mexican, but we have Panamanian, Peruvian, Honduran, Jamaican, Brazilian — Venezuelan is here too. We have many different walks of life from the Hispanic community," Encarnacion said.

Encarnacion said the festival takes months of planning, and seeing the end result can be emotional.

"Last year I teared up and this year I teared up," Encarnacion said. "It's just beautiful to see us all come together. It's 10 months of work in the making. Right after last HOLA Fest, we started right away and this is the outcome and right now, it's looking pretty amazing, so it brings tears to my eyes."

Held at Wean Park by the Covelli Center, the festival kicked-off with a parade at noon and continued until 9 p.m. with a pageant, dancing and live music. Food trucks, bounce houses and vendor booths were set up around the park.

Live music started at 3 p.m. with Conjunto Riquena, followed by Mambo Caliente, The Labra Brothers and headliner Tony Succar.

Caroline Picarro, who is Puerto Rican, attended the event to celebrate her heritage and as a representative of Chase Bank.

Picarro is an employee of the Chase Bank in downtown Youngstown, and was injured in the Realty Tower explosion.

"Recently I was in an accident — the explosion at Chase, so I just want to come see my people, [try] to enjoy after the horrific accident," Picarro said.

Picarro said going to the HOLA Fest gave her the opportunity to see her culture represented.

"Being in a place where you don't see your culture everyday, just being here you can see a little bit," Picarro said. "It's really nice to see people, faces that you know, things like that."

Candice Lemley was also at the event promoting Chase Bank, which had a car in the parade.

"It's really nice for the community, it's great for the culture and everything, and it just means a lot to see everyone enjoying themselves too," Lemley said.

According to the iHola Fest! Youngstown Facebook account, this year's event doubled the attendance from last year.



Photo by Hannah Werle / The Jambar
HOLA Fest attendees could take a picture with people wearing cultural attire.

Summer Festival of the Arts returns to YSU

By Syann Ellis
Jambar Contributor

An event that attracts more than 15,000 people a year is coming back to the Youngstown State University campus.

For the past three years, Summer Festival of the Arts has been held downtown at Wean Park. Shannon Tirone, associate vice president of University Relations, said YSU President Bill Johnson was looking for ways to bring people to campus, and the event meets that need.

"When President Johnson first started at YSU, he asked a few of us, 'What sort of community engagement and involvement can we increase to expand our footprint?'" Tirone said. "We mentioned [the festival] to him, told him about its past success on campus and he was all in."

Summer Festival of the Arts is an annual event held the second weekend in July. It features artists, both lo-

cal and out-of-state, from different mediums, such as sculpture, ceramics and photography. Artistic performances include music, dancing and acting. Children's activities, such as crafts, offer interactive experiences.

"Returning to the campus not only honors the festival's rich history but also enhances the experience for both artists and attendees from throughout our region," Johnson said. "We look forward to another year of celebrating creativity and community on our beautiful campus."

Tirone said university officials have hoped to bring the festival back to campus for some time.

"We want students who may be considering Youngstown State for higher education to get a taste of the university while they attend this community event," Tirone said.

Tirone also expressed hope that YSU will bring in different and recurring food vendors and community partners for the festival.

"We used to have a Food of the Nations event, and we hope to bring that back. We also want to engage a lot of our community partners, whether it's The Butler, the library or some of those different nonprofit organizations that make our community so special," Tirone said.

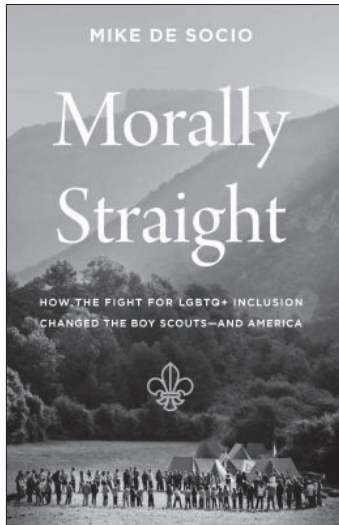
The festival plans to accept submissions not only from community members but also from students in various art programs.

Phyllis Paul, dean of the Cliffe College of Creative Arts, stated her support for the event returning to YSU.

"This festival is a testament to the Mahoning Valley's deep appreciation for the arts," Paul said. "We are delighted to continue this tradition at YSU and offer an inspiring and enriching experience for everyone involved."

The Summer Festival of the Arts will be held July 12-13, 2025. According to Tirone, registration to participate as an artist opens Jan. 1.

Penguin Book Nook with The Public Library

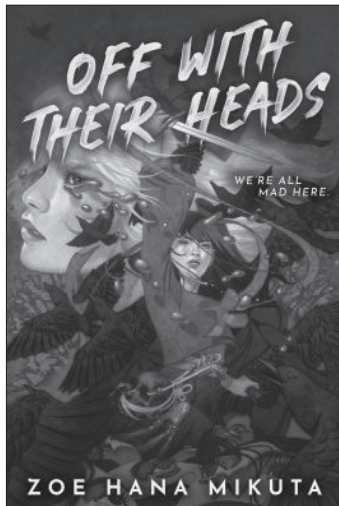


Nonfiction review

Morally Straight: How the Fight for LGBTQ+ Inclusion Changed the Boy Scouts – and America

by Mike De Socio

This collection shares the stories of librarians and booksellers from all walks of life including their passion for books and reading to those who enjoy them. A fascinating read for all who enjoy books, libraries, and bookstores.



Fiction review

Off With Their Heads

by Zoe Hana Mikuta

A Korean retelling of Lewis Carroll's classic "Alice in Wonderland", Zoe Hana Mikuta manages to bring the classic characters of Alice, The White Rabbit, and The Cheshire Cat into an alternate universe unlike any other. A fantastic read for horror fans as well as those of the original.

Upcoming programs

Thursday, Sept. 26

6 p.m.

Casual Scrabble

Thursday, Sept. 26

6 p.m.

Preparing for Artsy

October

Wednesday, Oct. 2

10 a.m.

Spanish 101

Visit libraryvisit.org to register, get more information or find other programs.

To find more information or to place a hold on a title, visit libraryvisit.org, meet us at 305 Wick Ave. or call the library at 330-744-8636.

Have something to say to The Jambar?

Write a Letter to the Editor!

Email The Jambar at

thejambar@gmail.com

The Jambar Column

Black bears hate me

Two weeks ago, I went on vacation with my family to the Great Smoky Mountains, an area famous for having nearly 1,900 bears within 526 square miles. That's two bears per square mile, which is great odds for seeing one.

However, I was wrong. I never saw one. This isn't even my first Dolly Parton's Stampede, I've been to the Smokies four times now and felt offended that I haven't seen a singular black bear roaming around. I've stayed in cabins high up in the mountains and in hotels closer to civilization so I don't think it's user error.

In fact, black bears have a personal vendetta against me. They've had a little bear council meeting and decided the Fessler family is never allowed near them. They know how much my mom and I love them and they want to see us suffer.

After the constant failures of previous trips, my family was determined that this one would be different. We researched the best area to go to see black bears — Cades Cove in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park — the best time to go is early morning or dusk.

We drove 45 minutes to Cades Cove and drove the 11-mile loop on Friday, Sept. 13. We saw some of the usual suspects, squirrels and turkeys, but the best scene was a herd of deer. We only saw deer, animals I could go into my backyard and see. Safe to say we wasted our time.

Though we didn't achieve our goal of seeing black bears, the trip wasn't a complete waste. It was nice to get out of Ohio and into other scenery for a few days. The mountains have always helped me clear my head.

We visited some fascinating places along the road, like the Tamarack in



Madison Fessler

Beckley, West Virginia. It's a marketplace that features vendors from around the state, their artisan crafts and an art gallery.

Obviously if you're going to the Great Smoky Mountains, you

have to go to Dollywood, and go to Dollywood I did. Wild Eagle has to be my number one ride, think GateKeeper and Rougarou at Cedar Point combined.

I have to say, I highly recommend going in the fall. I got on three rides within 10 minutes, which wasn't good for my stomach, but it was great for my serotonin production.

The food in Tennessee will always be better, there I said it. We went to a couple of new places and a few we frequent in that area.

I found Mel's Diner back in 2015, a little 50s-style diner that specializes in American comfort food. I highly recommend Alissa's Philly Chicken Cheese. It might be time to get a shirt from there seeing I have a favorite dish.

A new place we visited was the Sunliner Diner, again another 50s style diner but this one takes the cake for immersive experience. The menus imitate newspapers from the decade, some of the seats are classic cars and the servers are in full 50s garb.

If I had to rank this visit against the other visits to the Smokies, I'd place it second. Nothing rivals the magic of seeing the Great Smoky Mountains for the first time.

The Jambar Editorial

It's not that serious

Whether it's the opinion of a news pundit or the ramblings of grandma at dinner, politics is nearly unavoidable, especially if you've chosen to stay moderately up to date with current events.

With the upcoming election, media channels have been inundated with dire calls-to-action from candidates, celebrities and thought leaders alike. However, presidential elections are rarely as serious as they're made out to be.

While current contention points such as the economy, human rights and immigration are massively important, the federal politics highlighted in the media does not address these issues with thorough and proper care.

Presidential candidates will peacock on debate stages, but this politicking cannot be considered a promise for what they'll do in office. In fact, the importance placed on presidential elections in general is an example of politics being taken too seriously.

Presidents rarely affect the daily life of an average United States citizen. When it comes to the actions of a president, only two things have an instant impact for us. They can declare war, and they can appoint officials to federal departments and bureaus.

These actions are not as influential as they sound. After 60 days — kind of — any war-like military action must be approved by Congress. In addition, laws and rulings will influence the decisions of federal officials more than whoever appointed them.

The reality is, the president's power to affect you is less than that of Congress or the Supreme Court — not to mention local and state politicians, who have far

more effect on the overall movement of our daily lives.

Taxes, gun regulations, public school curriculums, LGBTQ+ rights, police brutality instances, abortion and other hot-button debate topics are often overseen by local and state politicians, not presidents.

However, politics becomes very serious when extremists take overstated political speech as reason to perpetuate bigotry or political violence.

According to the Global Terrorism Database, cases of terrorism and extremist violence in the U.S. rose from 10 reported incidents in 2011 to 100 in 2020.

Data is not available for 2020 to now, but there have been numerous acts of political violence since the last available data, including the 2021 attack at the U.S. Capitol, the 2022 assault of Paul Pelosi — husband of Rep. Nancy Pelosi — and the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump in July.

Extreme acts of political violence are not solely the product of politics and propaganda, however microaggressions and acts of bigotry and ignorance are propagated when caught in the echochamber of political rhetoric.

By refraining from rhetoric that overwhelms or misinforms us, we can begin to have more healthy and robust debates about politics without allowing further division.

Perform your civic duty, go out and vote. Keep in mind the importance of local elections, and remember the bubble you fill for a gubernatorial election is just as important as the one you fill for presidential elections. Plus, gubernatorial is just a fun word to say.

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.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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.

Airsoft Assault

Continued from page 1

Two individuals were reported to have been hit by airsoft BBs. One was hit on the right wrist and the other on the right shoulder, although there were no observable injuries.

YSU Police Chief Shawn Varso said the investigation is ongoing and has uploaded photos of the suspect on YSU Police's Facebook.

"It is currently an active investigation and is our priority right now. We've pretty much dropped everything else and we are investigating it to our fullest extent," Varso said.

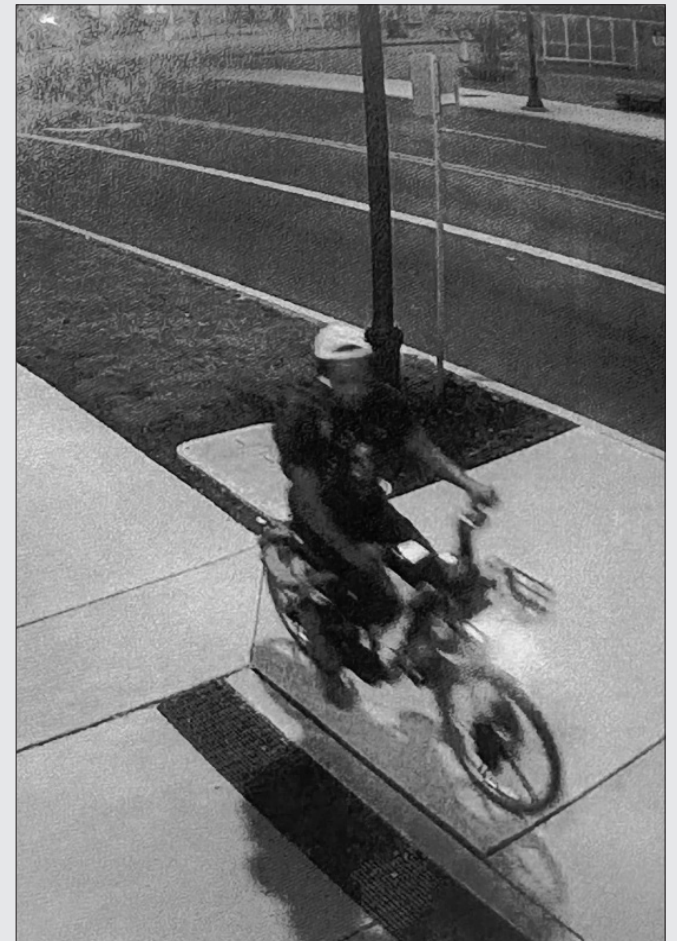
YSU President Bill Johnson made a statement in response to the community's concerns.

"I am extremely concerned about this senseless act of violence. There is no place for this anywhere, especially on our campus. Our students' safety is our number one priority, and no matter who they are, they deserve to feel safe when on our campus," Johnson stated. "Our YSU Police Department is conducting a full investigation, and I am monitoring the progress. I have every intention of holding the responsible person or persons accountable."

Anyone with more information is encouraged to contact the YSU Police Investigative Division at 330-941-7220.



Alleged suspect fired airsoft gun at YSU students.



Photos courtesy of YSU Police Department.

Slow start to conference play

By Kevin Skolny
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women's soccer team opened conference play Sept. 19 at the University of Detroit Mercy, followed by another match Sept. 22 at Oakland University.

The Penguins entered the first matchup with a record of 2-4-2 and left with back-to-back losses as both matchups ended in a score of 3-1. Overall, Detroit Mercy moved to 3-6 while Oakland improved to 2-7-2.

Redshirt freshman Maya Naimoli saw a lot of action at goalie against Detroit Mercy and matched her career-high with nine saves, matching her career-high she set Sept. 15 against Duquesne.

However, her efforts weren't enough, as in the 14th minute the Titans' fifth-year senior Joyelle Washington broke the tie, scoring her first goal of the year.

In the 27th minute, freshman Kyleen Bradow and fifth-year senior Erica Toupin of the Titans assisted freshman Sam Sickinger on her first goal of the season.

To finish out the first half for the 'Guins, junior captain Taylor Berry, along with sophomore Eva Sunje-

varic, assisted redshirt freshman Sara Felder on her second goal of the season, bringing the score to 2-1.

However, the Penguins would not score again as the Titans' Erica Toupin scored her fourth goal of the season in the 70th minute, bringing the game to its final of 3-1.

Looking at the game Sept. 22 against Oakland, the Penguins got off to a hot start, as fifth-year senior captain Lianna Van Sice scored in the 15th minute off an assist by Berry and fifth-year senior Justine Appolonia.

However, that was quickly matched by Oakland as junior Frankie Mudd scored in the 20th minute off of an assist by freshman Isabella Bierod.

The Penguins would not score again as Oakland's defense only allowed for 6 shots on goal the entire game.

The Golden Grizzlies saw freshman Brooke Blackstock score in the 48th minute to open the second half. A late goal by sophomore Lorelai Miller in the 86th minute brought the score to its final 3-1.

Following these two losses, the Penguins overall record drops to 2-6-2 and 0-2-0 in the Horizon League standings.

The Penguins look to get back to even in the confer-

ence, as they have back-to-back home games against Indiana University Indianapolis at 6 p.m. Sept. 26, followed by Purdue University Fort Wayne at 1 p.m. Sept. 29, both at Farmers National Bank Field.

Each game will be shown on ESPN+. There will also be giveaways at both games, with lanyards for IU Indy and T-shirts for Purdue Fort Wayne.



Photo by Dylan Lux / The Jambar
Sophomore Tatum Gretz assists on a goal.

YSU's cross-country takeover

By Joel Fuzo
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's and women's cross country teams finished its second event Sept. 20 at the Roy Griak Invitational in Minneapolis, placing seventh overall.

Reigning Horizon League champion and fifth-year senior Hunter Christopher, debuted his season with a time of 25:05.4 — the third fastest in the race.

Christopher explained the team's preparation before the race.

"We've been running a lot, new kinds of workouts that we have never done before. It's more of a difficult approach compared to last year just because the expectations are a lot higher this year so we're preparing to run better a lot later," Christopher said.

Three Penguins placed in the top 50,

as senior Thomas Caputo finished in 32nd, sophomore Owen Brady placed 36th overall and graduate student Ryan Meadows came in 44th place.

Meadows shared his views on the meet after the team's fourth place start in the 55th Annual Tommy Evans Invitational on Aug. 30.

"Cross country is all about how you perform in November at the regional meet and this being early on in September, we're just kinda looking to shake off the rust and just [get] back to competing and getting our season started," Meadows said.

Meadows also gave details on how the terrain could impact the race.

"It will definitely be a bit more challenging than what we have been running on. Roy Griak is a very hilly course, but our regional meet in Akron is very hilly, so that's kinda the whole point of going

to this meet, to get us prepared," Meadows said.

Head Coach Brian Gorby talked about some of his runners before the meet.

"We brought the whole entire championship team back from last year. They've won two in a row and again this group just keeps getting better," Gorby said. "We got incredible guys like Meadows, Caputo and of course Christopher. Those guys along with coach [Eric] Rupe are just locked in and pretty much understand the focus of this season," Gorby said.

YSU took first place at their Inaugural Alumni Cross Country Meet, winning the women's 5K race during their first event at their new home venue.

The charge was led by sophomore McKinley Fielding, finishing in second place individually with a time of 17:51.58.

Freshman Caleigh Richards finished in

third place individually with her time of 18:21.32.

Gorby shared some of his excitement about his runners before the meet.

"On the women's side McKinley Fielding was again one of our top runners, our number 1 runner at Akron and she's come on. Caleigh Richards of course as a freshman was pretty strong for us as well, Jenna Razavi, but then again those 3 looked good in practice and looked good again in the first meet," Gorby said.

In fifth place was junior Jenna Razavi, timed at 18:54.28.

Junior Molly Hopple landed in 17th, freshman Megan Stafford in 23rd, Caylee Mackey 32nd and Cecelia Chase 35th.

Youngstown State cross country will compete in the Joe Piane Notre Dame Cross Country Invitational in South Bend, Indiana on Oct. 4.

Ballin' back in Beeghly

By Teziah Howard
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women's volleyball team is back inside the brand new Beeghly Center as it debuted with a win.

The Penguins faced off against the Kent State University Golden Flashes, where they were victorious 3-0.

The 'Guins fell to Bucknell University and the University of Akron before suiting up for the 6 p.m. matchup at home against Kent State.

The season-opening win over Kent State marked the first sweep against the Golden Flashes in over forty years. YSU won the first set 25-20, won the second set 25-12 and won the third 25-13.

The win for YSU featured the Penguins hitting a season-best .284. The 'Guins only spent a few days practicing in the revamped arena.

Head Coach Riley Jarrett also recorded her first career win inside the Beeghly Center. Jarrett previously coached at the Division II level with the West Liberty University Hilltoppers.

Junior middle blocker Julia Sell praised her first-year head coach. Sell said the team knew exactly what they were getting from Jarrett after making a good first impression.

"I think [Jarrett] did a really good job of showing us what she was made of," Sell said. "She brings so much energy and so much new life to the team so I think she will continue to be an asset to the team and to the program."

Sell made a defensive statement in the home-opener against Kent State, posting a team-high in blocks with three. Sell said the energy of her teammates added momentum to her play.

"After getting a block, when I turn my back to my girls, there's always someone hyping me up and in my face screaming at me in a good way," Sell said. "It's always bringing positive energy and once I get one it leads me to getting more."

The Penguins led the Golden Flashes in kills through all three sets. The first set featured 15 Penguin kills to 10 Golden Flash kills. In set two, YSU only had nine kills, but Kent State mustered seven. In the third set, the Penguins rallied to double the amount of kills the Golden Flashes had.

Junior outside hitter Abbie Householder led the team in kills with 13. As a sophomore, Householder also led her team in kills on the season with 291 and was named to the Academic All-District volleyball team.

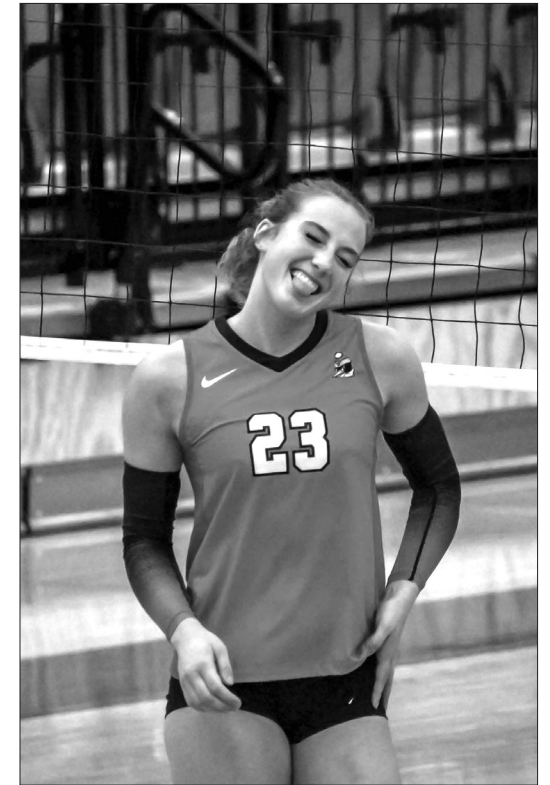
Senior right-side hitter Kiyah Franklin adds to the triple-threat. Sell, Householder and Franklin ranked top three in kills for YSU. Franklin posted seven kills in the matchup, she said playing alongside Householder and Sell brings confidence to the game.

"When [Householder], [Sell] and I are all at the net together, I just feel this burst of energy and feel super confident in what we're about to do," Franklin said. "[Householder] has been a key player for us since she was a freshman and I can really trust [Sell] to put the ball down."

Youngstown State returned home Sept. 24 to face Mercyhurst University and swept the Lakers over three sets. The win marked the first time since 2000 that the Penguins have accomplished back-to-back home sweeps.

The 'Guins continue their home streak against the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay at 6 p.m. Sept. 27 and 2 p.m. Sept. 28.

Both matches will be available to stream live on ESPN+.



YSU sweeps back-to-back home meets.

Photos by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

Panthers shred the Penguins

By Dylan Lux
The Jambar

When a team is playing a top-30 FBS opponent, inside a stadium often used by the National Football League, at the opponent's Homecoming game, against a team coming off a close win in a rivalry that dates back to 1895 — some would say the odds were stacked against the Penguins.

This was certainly the case for the Youngstown State University football team.

Youngstown State traveled to Acrisure Stadium in Pittsburgh for a match-up with the University of Pittsburgh Panthers to end each team's non-conference slate.

Duquesne University bested YSU in the team's previous match-up, while Pitt took care of business against West Virginia University in the "Backyard Brawl."

The 'Guins entered the Sept. 21 bout as 25-point underdogs, and it was quickly evident why.

Pittsburgh started the game with three unanswered touchdowns, as redshirt-freshman quarterback Eli Holstein was responsible for two of them — one in the air and one on the ground.

Holstein transferred from The University of Alabama in January 2024. Since his arrival at Pitt, he has accumulated over 1,000 passing yards to go along with 12 touchdowns over four games.

By halftime, the Panthers opened up a 42-10 lead, with Youngstown State's only touch-

down coming from a 25-yard screen pass from sophomore quarterback Beau Brungard to redshirt-freshman wide receiver Cyrus Traugh.

The final score ended with a Pittsburgh win 73-17, moving the Panthers to 4-0, and dropping the Penguins to 1-3 before conference play.

Holstein finished the game with 16 completions for 247 yards and three touchdowns through the air, as well as two rushing touchdowns and 93 yards on the ground.

Leading receiver for Pittsburgh was junior wideout Censere Lee, who had four catches for 106 yards and a touchdown.

As for Youngstown State, Brungard finished 18/28 passing, with two touchdowns and one interception. He saw his career high in passing yards with 233 for the game.

Youngstown State fumbled on its opening drive, but Brungard said he was happy with how the team responded to the tough start.

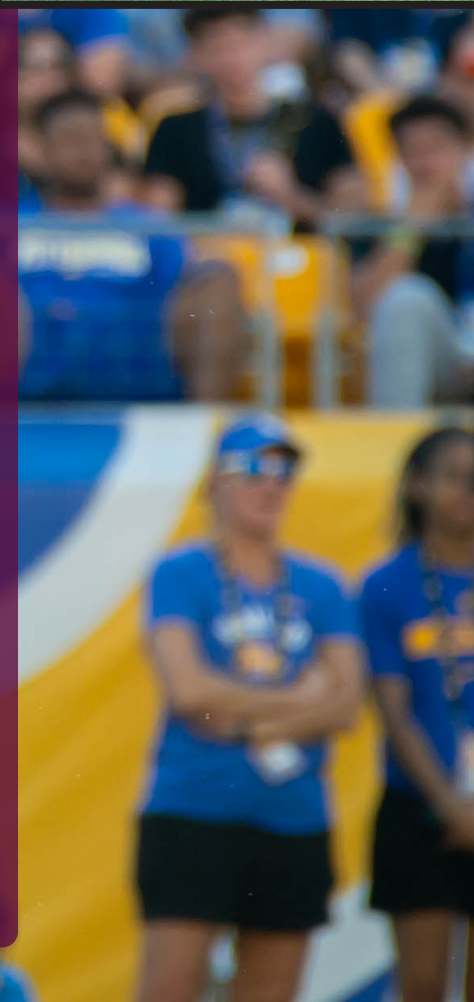
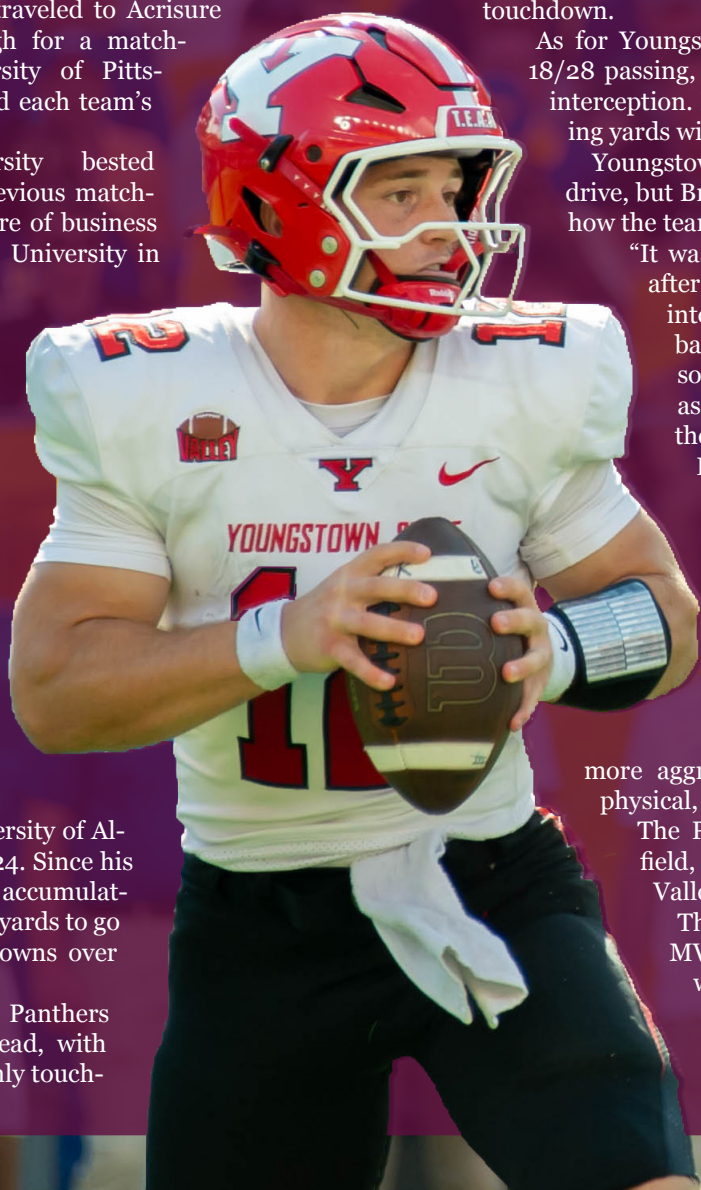
"It wasn't the start we expected, but after that I felt like our guys got back into it and we started to move the ball well," Brungard said. "We got some momentum and I feel that as an offense we started to move the ball."

Head Coach Doug Phillips said there's always going to be good and bad plays from a team, but he liked the effort he saw from his players.

"Like any game, there's going to be good plays, [but] it's the bad ones you really remember," Phillips said. "I thought our kids were more aggressive on defense, they were physical, especially early."

The Penguins will travel to Springfield, Missouri for their first Missouri Valley Football Conference game.

The game will be streamed as the MVFC "Game of the Week" and will air on ESPN+ at 3 p.m. Sept. 28 at Robert W. Plaster Stadium.



Brungard looks to pass against Pitt. INSET: Holstein rushes for a touchdown against YSU.