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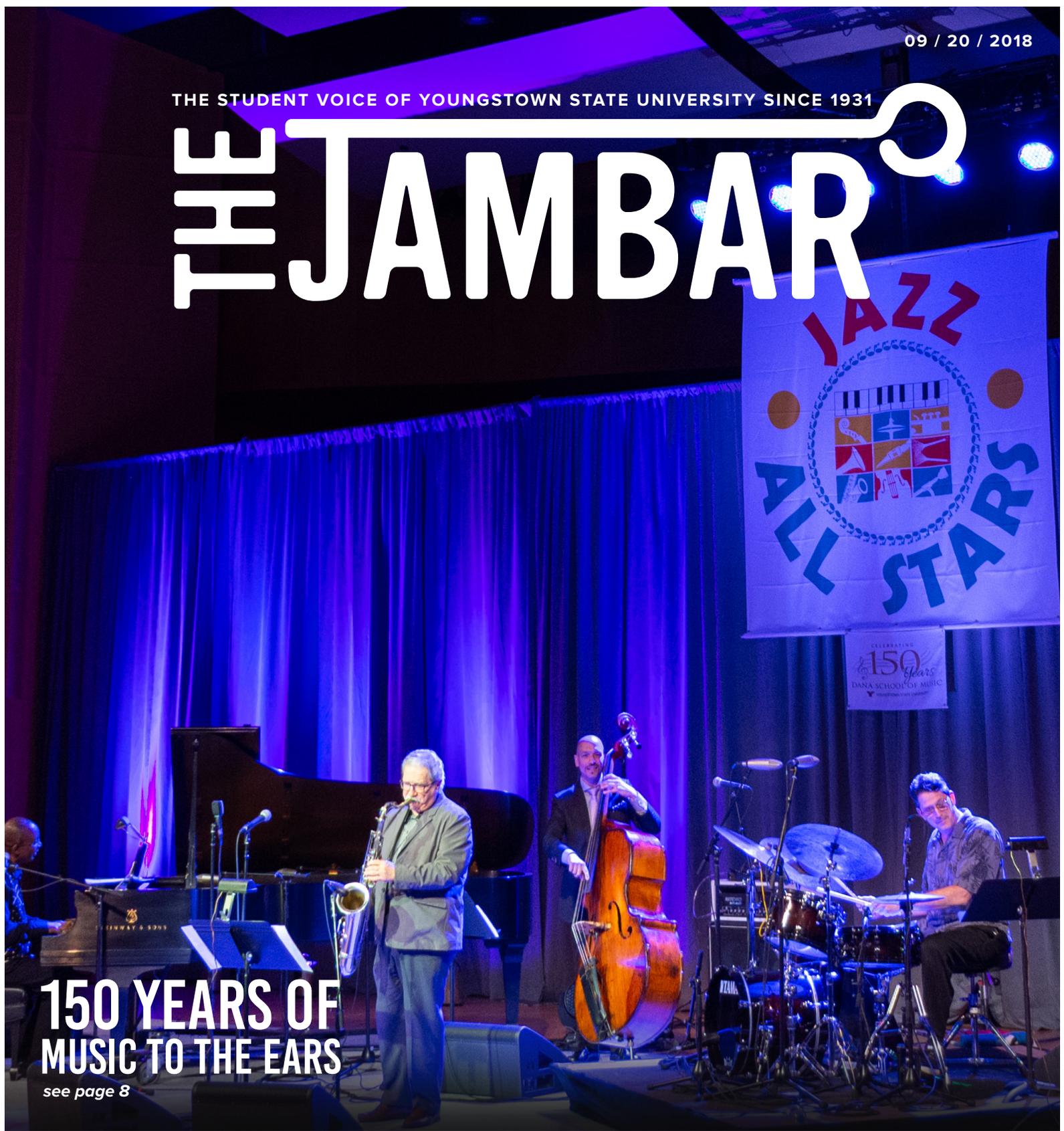
THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1931

THE JAMBAR



**150 YEARS OF
MUSIC TO THE EARS**

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Photo by Rachel Gobep / The Jambar

A NIGHT MARKET WITH A MISSION

ALYSSA WESTON

Mission Night Market's 2018 inaugural season aims to bring the Youngstown community together to benefit the Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley.

On Friday Sept. 14, Mission Night Market held their fourth night market, and the final night market of the season will be on Oct. 12 at the Huntington Woods Plaza in Boardman, Ohio.

Xiao Lin, Mission Night Market coordinator, said the market aims to bring diverse people together under the night sky in a celebration of culture, community and connection.

Lin said it's an opportunity for local producers, new businesses and musicians to share their craft and for the community to join together for a memorable and meaningful evening.

"We do have a core group of vendors and we are continually looking for unique vendors to add to the mix," she said. "We received so many applications, we have more than doubled in size in just our first two markets."

Kasey Hood, a junior dental hygiene major at Youngstown State University, visited the market for the third time on Sept. 14.

"I think the reason I keep coming back is to support the vendors and also try out some of the free samples and enjoy a nice night out. It gives people around here something to do," she said.

Manda Bees Headbands was Hood's favorite vendor, along with the different soap stands.

"I like seeing what all of the vendors have to offer, and I like walking around and enjoying the free samples. It's neat to try new things and to also find things there that you really like," Hood said.

Caitlin Hogarth, owner of The Prickly B-tch, was a vendor at the Sept. 14 market along with her friend Shannon, owner of Crescent Rose Craft. The two run Sheba Flora, an umbrella term for each of their craft businesses.

The Prickly B-tch currently sells vintage teacups repurposed into cacti planters and herb-infused soy candles, as well as other cactus-themed items such as pins, patches and T-shirts.

"The Prickly B-tch represents all women and all things aesthetically pleasing. My lovely partner at Crescent Rose Craft also shares a

love for nature and she creates nature inspired jewelry," Hogarth said.

Hogarth said the most challenging part of running a small business is realizing the balance.

"Setting aside enough time in your life to work on something you are truly passionate about becomes difficult in this day and age. Between work and lifestyle — you really have to prioritize what really matters," she said.

But to Hogarth, in the end it is worth it.

"I love the act of creating, and markets like Mission Night Market give us that platform to share our creativity and love for what we do."

Aubrey Gustovich, owner of Whipped By Aubrey, has a full-time job selling homemade baked goods at local markets and bakeries.

Whipped by Aubrey started nearly three years ago when Gustovich moved back to the Valley from being a pastry chef at a restaurant in downtown Pittsburgh.

Gustovich said her most popular item is the French macarons but she also make cakes, cookie sandwiches, decorated cookies, breakfast pastries and custom treats of all kinds.

"My target customers are really anyone who has a sweet tooth," she said. "My customers range from one to 90 years old and I always try

to have something for everyone even if you're gluten-free or vegan."

To Gustovich, the best thing about running a small business is that no matter what, at the end of the day, the community will still show up and support.

"It still blows my mind every single day that there are customers who come to every single market. It makes all the sleepless nights worth it when you hear someone say, 'I came here just for you' or 'this is the best macaron I have ever had,'" she said.

Gustovich said her customers have no idea how much their kind words mean to her.

"I know it sounds cliché, but it really does take a village. I have been given so many amazing opportunities just by coming to markets and I will always be so grateful for every single one of them," she said.

Lin said Mission Night Market is the only event of its type in the Mahoning Valley.

"Come out and enjoy a night of great music, unique shopping, delicious food and fun for the whole family all while supporting a great cause," she said.

NEWS BRIEF

YSU TOP RANKED IN AFFORDABLE UNIVERSITIES

Youngstown State University is ranked seventh in the nation in a recent list of the "100 Most Affordable Colleges and Universities."

College Consensus, an independent online resource dedicated to helping students find the right college, developed the list, according to the YSU News Center.

College Consensus combines the results of all of the most reputable college ranking publishers and thousands of real student reviews from around the web to provide an accurate and comprehensive ranking of a school's reputation and quality.

"In the age of rapidly rising tuition — college costs have risen far faster than the rate of inflation in the 21st century, and even faster than financial aid — affordability is no joke," the College Consensus said.

The College Consensus ranking reflects YSU's ongoing efforts to help curb the rising costs of higher education including the Penguin Tuition Promise, which provides that tuition will remain the same for all first-time undergraduate students for four years.



WRITER TIM WISE ON RACIAL INEQUALITIES IN THE U.S.

Photo by *John Stran/The Jambar*

JOHN STRAN

The dauntless voice of anti-racist writer, Tim Wise, spoke to students and citizens of Youngstown about racial disparities of the past and present on Sept. 14.

The event was hosted by the Centofanti Symposium at Youngstown State University, but the director of the organization, Joseph Mosca, interim provost and vice president of academic affairs, credits YSU's Black Student Union for selecting the speaker.

Jaylin Archie, president of the Black Student Union, said the group chose Wise because they believe his words would teach a valuable lesson to students and staff.

Wise's seven books include "White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son," and his latest "Under the Affluence: Shaming the Poor, Praising the Rich and Sacrificing the Future of America."

Wise is also part of the podcast "Speak Out."

Levi Antonosanti, a freshman engineering major, attended the

lecture and described Wise as an influential writer who tackles social issues at a great angle.

During the lecture, Wise touched on ever-present issues affecting all minorities but focused mostly on the white perception of the black struggle.

"Some white people think they know when racism is happening better than black people," Wise said. "This is like thinking you know something and never even taking a class on it."

Wise delved into black and white issues and pointed blame at blatant racists, those who believe racism doesn't exist and white liberals who claim they aren't racist saying accepting it is the best way to remove it.

Wise expressed concern about the level someone has to hurdle to prove they're not racist.

"As long as you're not a white nationalist, you're not racist," Wise said. "And some people have proven to have a hard time even crossing that threshold."

Wise said he believes that people who have a hard time proving they aren't racist are just a symptom of a disease that is the history of the U.S.

Disrespecting someone based on their skin tone is rooted in the country's past and reversing history is impossible; the solution may be a difficult one to reach. Wise said that's why it's important to understand we're living in history.

"We have to make sure the time we're living in doesn't become a part of misremembered history," he said. "What's happening now has happened in the past."

When the crowd had a chance to ask questions and voice their opinions, one woman questioned the usefulness of Wise's speech if action isn't taken.

"With all due respect, this event means nothing if nothing changes," said Valley resident Deandra Edgerson. "So what has to be done to bridge this gap?"

Although Wise was uncertain, he quoted Derrick Bell, the first African-American law professor at Harvard, saying racism would be permanent, never to be fully conquered and there's redemption in the struggle for justice.

Wise said a start to bridging the gap would be to question core ideologies that have conditioned white people to be racist and black people to have an inner racism toward themselves.

FLYING THE COOP

BRIAN BRENNAN

On the fifth floor of Maag Library, the Archives & Special Collections Department preserves many types of documents and publications relating to Youngstown State University.

Among these are student handbooks, with the oldest one issued in 1928. However, the most noteworthy of these was prepared for the 1971-72 academic year. It holds this distinction because it was suppressed by the YSU administration, due to its controversial content.

The official student handbook has served as a handy and compact guide to campus policies, activities, and services.

In 1969, a parallel publication with similar information was printed by the students themselves. It was called "The Penguin Coop" (or sometimes simply "The Coop").

While not specified in the booklet, the title probably was inspired by the quarters occupied by YSU's last live penguin mascot: a dog house surrounded by a chain-link fence adjacent to the University Library, which is now Tod Hall.

For Pete the Penguin, these accommodations surely failed to conform to the standards of his previous Antarctic abode.

While previous editions of "The Penguin Coop" closely mirrored the official university handbook, the editors of the 1971-72 steered the publication in a different direction. Readers were warned that this edition of "The Coop" would be unlike any other. Expressing opinions with utmost frankness, the editors came out swinging. Indeed, no punches were pulled.

Students are told it is easy to get a degree at Youngstown State, but much more difficult to obtain a real education or employment after graduation.

Obstacles, such as grades, the bell-shaped curve and lazy instructors block the way to true learning — and this is just on page one!

The editors freely vent their spleens at parking services ("Mud lots ... poorly-lit streets, thievery, rude gate attendants ..."), the faculty ("The Good last a very short while. The Bad last a little longer. The Mediocre last forever."), and housing ("There is only one dorm at YSU. No other housing facilities are planned ... Suitable off-campus housing is very difficult to find.").

The Board of Trustees is depicted as, "a tragic comedy of political patronage, puppetry, and procrastination." The bookstore is criticized for the being "impossible to keep ... in the black," despite its 15 percent markup on textbook prices. Other university operations receive similar criticism.

Yet, all is not darkness and gloom. Meriting editorial praise are the intramural program, Black Studies (now Africana Studies), the work of Campus Cooperative Ministry and the nurses at YSU, though student medical facilities are deemed inadequate.

Soon after it came off the press, most copies of "The Coop" were quietly seized by the university administration and destroyed. Publication would resume, but it returned to its previous, inoffensive style. As the 1970s drew to a close, "The Penguin Coop" ceased publication.

Three surviving copies of "The Coop" from 1971-72 remain and are part of the YSU Archives collection. The ultimate motivation of the three editors remains unclear. The fate of two is unknown to this writer; however, the third — Cynthia Anderson — would become YSU's seventh and first female president in 2010.

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR FORMER FOSTER KIDS AT YSU

Photo by **Tanner Mondok /The Jambar**

AMANDA JOERNDT

Bridges to Success is a program that gives former foster kids a chance to attend college with several benefits and start their career on the right path.

The program was founded through Homes For Kids Inc. to provide a sense of belonging and stability to kids who have been emancipated at the age of 18 and are in custody of the state.

Bridges to Success provides housing, education, employment and well-being resources for all students who have been through the foster care system.

Senate Bill 50, which gives funding for Ohio's youth who are aging out of foster care, was proposed into law in July 2017 and became active in February 2018 for students attending Youngstown State University.

The bill was created for the Bridges' program and increases the age that people must leave foster care from 18 to 21 years old.

Jeff Orbin, counselor at Homes for Kids and a Bridges to Success liaison, helps kids get in contact with YSU resources to start their college education through the program.

Orbin said the program gives students several benefits while

attending YSU.

"It provides stability, any additional supports they may need in the community and on campus and insurance as well," Orbin said.

Bridges to Success has connections through YSU to help any former foster kid who is seeking guidance to a better future.

Orbin said building a group on campus that can help these students is an important part of the program.

"Our main goal is to have a support team at YSU and if the word gets out that there are students who qualify, then YSU can become a destination," Orbin said. "They know that there is a lot of support and we were excited that YSU was willing to work with us."

The program is active on campus and two students who have been through the foster care system are starting their college education through it.

Serena Marshall, a freshman emergency medical technician major, said she heard about the program through her case worker and was eager to start her experience in the EMT program.

Marshall said the program has helped her pursue her goals while attending YSU.

"The Bridges to Success program helped me take my education to the next level here at YSU," Marshall said. "They basically just

keep in touch with us and they give us everything we would need."

The program will pay for her entire college education while providing housing, as well.

Zachary Robinson-Hunley, a freshman civil and industrial engineering major, said the program has helped him adjust to being in college.

"They've been very helpful and have helped me with my books and everything. They help me out with money, so I can get through the courses," Robinson-Hunley said.

Robinson-Hunley said he also got involved with student employment on campus to help him guide his college experience in the right direction.

He said he knew the program would be a good opportunity for him to get involved on campus and help other students go through the program.

"I had an interview with Students for Success and they wanted to learn more about the foster care system and how the transition is so far," Robinson-Hunley said.

The students said Bridges to Success provided new opportunities and a sense of security on campus.

RECURRING INCIDENTS MAKING YSU STUDENTS FEEL UNSAFE

COURTNEY HIBLER

Some female students at Youngstown State University have said they felt unsafe on campus because of a recurring issue.

Mara McCloud, a senior political science and history major, was in Meshel Hall when she noticed a man following her to the restroom on Sept. 5. When she turned to look at him, she said he fumbled for the water fountain beside the door.

"I really thought nothing of it," McCloud said. "I believed he just may have been zoned out since it was so early in the morning."

McCloud waited in the women's restroom for a few minutes to see if the man would leave.

"As soon as I opened the door I saw him," McCloud said. "I pretended I was on the phone, so he wouldn't bother me."

McCloud said the man followed her around the corner and down the hall. When McCloud entered the staircase, she said she quickly walked down the stairs and made it to her classroom safely.

Jensen McCue, a sophomore political science major, said she also had man wait for her outside of a restroom in DeBartolo Hall.

McCue said during her class she felt uncomfortable for the entirety of the lecture because of another student staring at her.

"When we were dismissed from class I immediately got up and he followed me," McCue said.

Similar to McCloud, McCue said she decided to wait in the women's restroom for five minutes to see if the man would leave.

"He was still there and when I walked into the elevator, he immediately followed me inside," McCue said.

One week later, McCue noticed the man attending another class she is in. She said she now feels as if she is being watched in both of her classes.

YSU Chief of Police Shawn Varso said the YSU Police Department was made aware of the reports through Twitter when McCloud and McCue posted about the incidents.

Varso said he quickly reached out to both students and asked for them to come into the station to provide more information about what happened.

"If anyone encounters a situation like this, the first thing to do is go somewhere safe," Varso said. "The next thing you should do is call us immediately."

Shelby Rupert, a junior French major, said she saw the tweets about what occurred and offered to help anyone feeling unsafe on campus.

"When I read this happened to two young ladies, I took it to a personal level," Rupert said. "It makes me sad to see these occurrences happening increasingly more often around our campus."

Rupert said she doesn't want any student to feel unsafe walking around campus and is more than willing to walk students to their classes or cars to make sure they arrive to their destination safely.

"Report what happens, carry pepper spray and anything else that can help you in the long run," McCue said. "I never felt like I needed anything to protect me until now."

On Tuesday, Hannah Garner, a junior sports broadcasting major, tweeted that she was followed to her car by a man wearing all black in the Wick parking deck.

"When I realized [someone was following me], I called someone to feel safer and he backed off," she wrote. "Watch your surroundings and don't walk alone."

YSU Student Security Services offers escorts to and from classes for those who may feel unsafe or unsettled on campus. An advanced schedule is able to be arranged at any time by contacting student security services at (330) 941-1515.

McCloud said YSU needs a comforting environment for victims that will encourage those victims to come forward and report their experiences.

"It is a recurring solution deriving in its most basic form of the respect of men and women and their right to not fear for their safety while receiving an education," McCloud said.

The YSU Police Department can be reached at (330) 941-3527.



Photo courtesy of Ian Tanner



Photo by Tanner Mondok/The Jambar

DOWN OVER 100 POUNDS: IAN TANNER'S WEIGHT LOSS STORY

RACHEL GOBEP

Ian Tanner has lost over 100 pounds in eight months through the Weight Watchers at Work Program at Youngstown State University.

He said when he got on the scale at his first Weight Watchers meeting, he weighed 375 pounds.

"That was kind of a shock because as a bigger guy, I tried to stay off the scale. I tried to not see that and face that everyday," he said.

Tanner, the associate director of residence life, has lost 118 pounds since January. He said he began his weight loss journey because he was not in a good place health-wise.

He said there were multiple people in the Office of Housing and Residence Life that encouraged him to attend a meeting and he said he is glad that he decided to go.

"I realized my weight was ballooning. I wasn't taking the proper precautions. I wasn't being active," Tanner said.

He said his original plan was to start small and lose 70 to 75 pounds by the end of the year

to make weight loss manageable and enjoyable.

He said people around campus have been complimenting him on his weight loss and it will "never get old."

Tanner said he feels healthy and has energy, but there are many "non-scale" victories.

"My mental health is in a much better place because I'm just committing myself to [have] a healthier lifestyle. Weight Watchers hasn't been a diet for me, I have made lifestyle changes," Tanner said.

He said he is now able to shop anywhere for clothes and does not have to go to the big and tall section or a specialty store.

"It's a fantastic feeling, and it's nothing that's necessarily going to be shown when I get on the scale, but it's not all about that weight ... It's the little things that are making my life better," Tanner said.

He said his biggest victory so far is that he is running and ran his first mile in a while over the summer. Tanner added there would be days that he would be out of breath or in a "full sweat" after walking from the parking lot to his office or on campus.

"It amazes me that I am able to run and not be winded after climbing a flight of stairs," Tanner said.

He said what keeps him going is weighing in at the Weight Watchers meeting each week because it forces it him to get on the scale and there are about 20 other people in the room going through the journey with him.

"I may have the largest amount of weight lost, but there's some pretty badass people in that room who are focused on improving their lives, making healthier choices, and they're the ones who motivate me," Tanner said.

He said that although he was the one that got himself through the door, the other people participating in Weight Watchers at Work are the ones that keep him there.

Tanner said he is also eating more food than he did in the past, but he is eating the correct portion sizes and healthier foods.

He said there are also some struggles he has faced throughout his weight loss journey including stress because he is a stress eater. To combat his stress eating, he said he likes to keep healthy snacks around or indulge in Halo Top

ice cream.

Tanner also said his ability to walk and run has given him time to focus on himself and reduce stress.

Carrie Clyde, wellness coordinator at YSU, said Tanner is having wonderful success through the program and she wants to cry everytime she talks to him.

"He looks so healthy, vibrant and full of energy. He's beaming, you can tell he's very happy with where he is right now. I know he still has goals to continue on with his weight loss, but he has the confidence to do it," Clyde said.

She said to date there are 21 participants in the program who have lost a cumulative amount of 432.8 pounds. She said the group encourages each other and is a great support system.

Tanner said if a person is considering weight loss to just go for it and make the changes.

For more information on Weight Watchers at Work, contact Carrie Clyde at (330) 941-3360 or crclyde@ysu.edu.



BEATING THE STIGMA

Photo by *Frances Clause/The Jambar*

FRANCES CLAUSE

After the unexpected death of a beloved Youngstown tattoo artist, the community is making a difference. A free mental health support group met on Sept. 12 at Westside Bowl to beat the stigma of mental illness.

Angi Westhead, the group's organizer, said the purpose of creating it was to relate to others, discuss feelings and find positive coping skills.

"When I couldn't find a support group around Youngstown, I knew it was time to form one," she said. "After all that has happened recently, especially with losing a regular at Westside Bowl who took his own life, change needs to happen quickly."

Zech Whitby, a tattoo artist at Bitter Hearts Tattoo and Westside Bowl customer, passed away on Sept. 6. He left behind a Facebook post minutes before his death, reminding people why opening up about their mental health is important.

Westhead said she hopes to build a positive

community for people who are struggling internally like Whitby did.

"There are a lot of people affected by mental illness," she said. "I decided to hold the first support group meeting here because Westside Bowl is an uplifting environment with supportive staff."

Nate Offerdahl, one of the owners of Westside Bowl, said he was honored to be approached by Westhead about hosting the group.

"[Westside Bowl] has always believed that being good citizens and caring neighbors of the community is important," he said. "These qualities are key to creating a space where everyone feels welcome, and people can come together."

Elliot Kwolek, a graduate student at Youngstown State University and a member of the group, said he felt the welcoming environment immediately.

"Angi is a very open person, and it helped others open up during the group discussion, too," he said. "Her attitude and understanding toward everyone's specific issues was very

genuine and inviting."

Kwolek said mental health support groups would benefit other students who are struggling and need a push in the right direction.

"As a college student, it is easy to have feelings of depression and anxiety from a difficult semester or life obstacles in general," he said. "Instead of holding these feelings inside, people will be able to have a judgement-free zone where they can express themselves."

Kwolek said he believes all students struggling with a mental illness should try to attend a meeting with the support group at Westside Bowl in the future.

"Everyone has a different way of managing their mental health and a support group may be the best method," he said. "For others, one-on-one counseling may work best. Regardless, students should not be intimidated by either of these options."

Anne Lally, the assistant director of counseling services at YSU, said students should utilize counseling services to address issues that need to be changed in their lives for improvement of

life and relationships.

"Counseling provides an objective, safe and confidential environment for students," she said. "If a student is struggling with an issue that has become overwhelming, they are able to explore the issue and receive quality help from YSU's counseling services."

Lally said if a student knows a person with a mental illness, it is important to give them support to seek professional assistance.

"One should listen carefully and not judge when someone is talking about their struggles," she said. "Reaching out and telling them there is professional help right on campus is the best action to take."

Lally said mental health support groups like Westside Bowl's is also effective for students, as long as they are making informed decisions.

"Students should ask what the group's goal is and what they hope to achieve within it," she said. "It's also important for students to look into how the group is structured and if it has access to professionals, if needed."

A JAMBAR EDITORIAL: INCLUSIVITY IN THE PUPPET WORLD

You may have heard a tiny rumor through the grapevine over the past few decades that two legendary "Sesame Street" characters, Bert and Ernie, are gay.

The striped-sweater duo have stuck by each others' sides since 1974, first appearing in a pilot episode for "The Muppets Show."

Recently this debate has sparked quite a bit of conversation between two "Sesame Street" creators on whether or not the character duo were in a homosexual relationship.

In an interview with Queerty on Sunday, Mark Saltzman, writer for "Sesame Street," revealed that he based his writing for Bert and Ernie off of his own 20-year relationship with film editor Arnold Glassman.

"That's what I had in my life, a Bert-and-Ernie relationship. How could it not permeate?"

Saltzman said.

Frank Oz, creator of Bert and Ernie, denied Saltzman's claims on Twitter on Tuesday.

"It seems Mr. Mark Saltzman was asked if Bert and Ernie are gay. It's fine that he feels they are. They're not, of course," Oz tweeted. "But why that question? Does it really matter? Why the need to define people as only gay? There's much more to a human being than just straightness or gayness."

Over the years, there has been a push on the entertainment industry to become more inclusive to all persons. Whether it's race, ethnicity, religion or disability, the need for the creation of real-life and fictional role models that don't follow the white, cisgender able-bodied norm is quickly gaining traction.

One such groundbreaking role model for young children is Julia, the first autistic character on "Sesame Street" as a part of the "Sesame Street and Autism: See Amazing in All Children" initiative. The character is performed by puppeteer Stacey Gordon, whose own son

has autism.

What this boils down to is should the entertainment industry feel responsible to cater to every demographic to make them feel included? To be perfectly blunt - yes.

So many different demographics of children have grown up with one common image/idea of the ideal role model in their lives. This can possibly cause dissociation from themselves and drive them away from embracing the unique individual they are.

By introducing characters with traits outside of the "societal norm," children are able to connect to those role models and find acceptance within themselves.

Characters like Julia, or Doc McStuffins, a young black girl who dreams of being a medical doctor, can change the way children view themselves and urge them to see that no dream has a specific image of who can and cannot accomplish it.

Sesame Workshop issued a statement in regards to Saltzman's comment about Bert and

Ernie's relationship.

"Sesame Street has always stood for inclusion and acceptance," Sesame Workshop wrote on Twitter. "It's a place where all people of all cultures and backgrounds are welcome. Bert and Ernie were created to be best friends, and to teach young children that people can get along with those who are different from themselves."

So what if Bert and Ernie were written to be gay? Sure they're made up of felt and buttons, but to a child they are much more than that. They are best friends, counselors and role models to kids who might lack some of those people in their lives.

And to the young LGBTQ+ community, Bert and Ernie shine as a beacon of hope to show that they shouldn't be ashamed of who they love.

Sesame Workshop already gives the muppets genders and ages, so why not sexual orientation?

At the end of the day - love is love.

Photo by *Tanner Mondok/The Jambar*

150 YEARS OF MUSIC TO THE EARS

FRANCES CLAUSE

Founded in 1869, the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University is one of the oldest music schools in America. This year, the school celebrates its 150th anniversary with a focus on its growth, guest artists, lectures and performances.

Bill Byo, professor of bassoon and music studies since 1957, said Dana went through multiple hardships before becoming recognized for the musical excellence and education it currently embodies.

"The Great Depression of the 1930s brought financial difficulties to Dana and its students," Byo said. "Unemployment was at a record high, homes were lost and enrollment at the school suffered."

Byo said as a result of Dana's financial hardships, Lynn Dana Jr. and the Board of Governors of Youngstown College discussed making the institute an integral part of the campus.

"After 72 years in Warren, the Dana School of Music moved to YSU in 1941," he said. "People were upset because they thought the school would remain a permanent part of Warren, but moving was the only way Dana could continue its growth."

Byo said the growth and strength of the musical community has been a pleasure to experience throughout his years of teaching. He said he has seen a lot of changes, including the faculty and

staff growing from nine to over 50.

"The school also went from one band and a brass ensemble to the many ensembles people see and enjoy today," Byo said.

Stephen Gage, director of bands and orchestra, said it feels extraordinary to celebrate Dana's impact on its students and the Youngstown community for its 150th anniversary.

"I'm always told by people that the Dana School of Music is the gem of YSU's campus," he said. "This is because [Dana's] students and music has the capacity to make our community and world a better place."

Gage said the world-class faculty of Dana also gives the school international flavor and diversity. He said each of the faculty shares gifts with the students every day and the cumulative effect of that is extraordinary.

"Byo has been working here for 60 years and when he works with students, he's sharing so much knowledge and artistic experiences from his life," Gage said.

Gage said the Jazz All Stars concert at the DeYor Performing Arts Center Sept. 16 was the perfect way to kick off the 150th anniversary celebration.

The concert featured Phil Palombi on bass, James Weidman on piano, Daryll Pellegrini on drums, Ralph Lalama on the saxophone and Sean Jones on the trumpet. They are Dana graduates and five of the best musicians in the country.

The musicians opened their performance with originals by Ralph Lalama, including "Da-Lama's Da-Lemma" and "Eric

Avenue," and the second half of the concert focused on Jones' pieces.

Gage said he remembers when Jones was just a sophomore in high school. He said one of the coolest things about his job is to see students grow up to be amazing musicians.

"The first time I saw Sean was when he was playing in the Warren Harding High School marching band. He came out in the middle of the band playing 'St. Louis Blues,'" he said. "I knew I had to have him at Dana."

The idea for the Jazz All Stars concert came from Bill Bodine, a Grammy award-winning composer and Dana graduate.

"I've stayed in touch with Youngstown because it really means a lot to me," Gage said. "I was going to do this concert last year, but Dean Phyllis Paul told me to wait since this year is Dana's 150th anniversary."

All proceeds of the concert went to the Tony Leonardi Scholarship Fund, named in honor of the late professor who built Dana's jazz program.

"All of us owe it to Tony Leonardi because he was such an inspiration," Bodine said. "[Tony] taught that it wasn't OK to be just an OK musician."

The Dana School of Music will continue its celebration throughout the year with collaborations between YSU's Department of Theatre & Dance and Ballet Western Reserve.

Photo courtesy of *The Safest Ledge*

RUNNING AWAY WITH A NEW SINGLE

MARAH J. MORRISON

A hard rock and alternative band based out of Youngstown, The Safest Ledge, will be releasing their new single “Runaway” in two weeks, and it will also be featured on their new EP.

Joey Koval, drummer, said the band has been working together for the past four years. He said within that time, the band has released two EPs. One is on Bandcamp and the other is on other music platforms including Apple Music and Spotify.

Koval said the new single is about someone trying to save somebody from themselves. He said the single was produced by Steve Perrino at Compass Audio Recordings.

“It started off really heavy and the vibe of the song completely changed by the time we recorded it,” Koval said. “It was different for us because we were watching how much this song was evolving instrumentally.”

Koval said being a part of this band justifies a lot of personal emotions. He said when they hear people sing the lyrics back, it gives them the satisfaction of what they created and what they sacrificed having an impact on someone.

Kennedy Conti, vocalist, said “Runaway” is probably one of their favorite pieces they have ever done. He said the band is learning they can’t predict where a song is going to go and they just have to ride it out.

“The fact that our music touched someone enough to remember the lyrics means so much to me,” Conti said. “That’s something that I never dreamed of.”

Conti said vocally, “Runaway” is different because Koval took a huge part in collabing with him to change the lyrics. He said it got a different perspective and light on the subject.

“I feel like that was crucial to get another voice in the band,” he said. “Especially with how much this song means to me personally and it’s the one that hits home the most to me.”

Conti said as long as the band is kicking and moving forward, he is moving forward with it. He said there is no way to predict where the band is going to go.

“I want to shoot for the stars, and I’d love to see us get to mainstream. But even if it’s not that place and time, I can respect that and as large as we can get is as large as we can get,” Conti said.

Mason Boano, guitarist, said being a part of this band is a therapeutic way to release emotions, feelings or a memory he’s had from the past. He said it is more or less a feeling he needs to get out for others to hear.

“I used to feel like I would never be satisfied,” Boano said. “I used to set the highest expectations, but I’m at the point now where I want this so much.”

The Safest Ledge will be shooting their music video for “Runaway” on Saturday. The song itself will be available on Apple Music and Spotify on Oct. 5.

SHORT FILMS ON THE REFUGEE CRISIS DISPLACEMENT BY IMMIGRANTS

VICTORIA REMLEY

The new short films by the Immigrant and Refugee Vision sheds light on the refugee crisis displacement in Boston, Massachusetts.

Claudia Berlinski, the McDonough Museum of Art's program director, said immigrants created each film and Community Supported Film produced each one.

"The founder of Community Supported Film, Michael Sheridan, worked with them to teach them some documentary filmmaking techniques and helped them to produce their short films," Berlinski said.

The films give audience members a glimpse of immigrant and refugee experiences in America. Berlinski said she thinks the films will be enlightening. She said the topic is relevant and important politically and socially.

"I think it's important for people to see some of the realities of the situation," Berlinski said.

She said the films compliment the exhibit, so she contacted

Community Supported Film and purchased some of the films.

Berlinski set up a schedule for multiple screenings, collected the films from Sheridan and emailed several academic departments she thought might be interested in the films. She also sent an email about McDonough's programming to all Youngstown State University faculty and staff.

Susanne Slavick, the RESORT exhibit artist, said the films show similarities between refugees and Americans.

"The more we know about each other the less we fear each other. It's an important project because this particular series related to the show," Slavick said.

The films show audience members why immigrants came to America and what they hope to do here.

Slavick and Andrew Ellis Johnson, RESORT exhibit artists, suggested showing the films at the McDonough Museum of Art to Sheridan.

Slavick said she thought the films would be a great supplementary program to accompany the exhibit at McDonough.

"McDonough was very gracious to host some of them [the art] and hold repeated screenings," she said.

Slavick learned about the films through Sheridan's mailing list. She thought the film would work well with the exhibit, so she wrote to the gallery staff and they approved hosting the videos.

Sarah Herb, a junior early childhood intervention specialist major, did not have high expectations of the film. She related to an English as a second language teacher in the film because ESL is her major.

"I really like the girl in the beginning, Dimple Rana. She was cool," Herb said. "The guy at the end from Haiti, I don't get how he can go back and forth so easily if immigration is a huge deal, but it was awesome."

Herb heard about the event through her Teaching English as a Second Language Methods class. She said the film related to the class.

"I didn't know what that was going to have to do with it [TSAW], but it actually really tied into what we talked about in class," she said.

The remaining screenings are 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25, Friday, Sept. 28, Tuesday, Oct. 9, Friday, Oct. 12, Tuesday, Oct. 23 and Friday, Oct. 26 at the McDonough Museum of Art.

MARIO'S MOVIES: LEGION M, THE FUTURE AND MANDY

MARIO RICCIARDI

Jeff Scanlan has a vision. Not for a movie, not for a TV series. Jeff Scanlan's vision is for the future of the entertainment industry itself. If this is coming across as heavy-handed, it's because it is. Scanlan, along with co-founder Jeff Annison, started the entertainment company Legion M, and it could very well be a total game changer.

Said best by Scanlan himself, who was generous enough to set time aside for a phone interview, described Legion M as, "The world's first fan-owned entertainment company. Individually we're fans, but when banned together, Legion M becomes the most powerful fan/creator base."

With that mission in mind, Scanlan looks to forgo replicating mega-franchises like Star Wars or the Marvel Universe for Legion's own original franchises.

Legion M is the first entertainment studio that allows fans to personally invest in the creation of new media. Since its inception in March of 2016, Legion M has grown to become the second company to earn over \$1,000,000 under crowdfunding regulations. Scanlan discussed that the company currently has over 10,000 investors and with the third round of regulation CF

investing closed, growth is still accelerating.

Scanlan described the process as a snowball at the top of the hill. He says the company still has a long way to go, but he couldn't be happier with the traction they are picking up. Legion M's ultimate goal? One million investors. An objective illustrated by their logo, an M with a bar over it — a fun fact for any of you roman numeral fans out there.

The perks of investing include not only exclusive access to the films, but input in the creative decisions as well. Scanlan is clear in his resolution to host a place where the most financially invested hold as much weight as the least. "Legion M does not discriminate, hold any preference. It's a community of equilibrium," he said.

Legion M's financed projects include the Anne Hathaway/Jason Sudeikis sci-fi film "Colossal," the David Tennant suspense thriller "The Bad Samaritan," the Kevin Smith/Stam Lee VR experience "Icons" and the Sundance Midnight hit "Mandy," starring Nicholas Cage. Although most of these films come from the science fiction/suspense genre, Scanlan says he loves original films and creative ideas and would love to seek more genres.

Thanks to Legion M, I was fortunate enough to catch their latest film, "Mandy," on opening night — and what a film it was. Nicolas Cage stars as lumberjack Red Miller, whose girlfriend Mandy is kidnapped by a bohemian religious cult. His mission:

hunt down the cult and fight some "crazy evil." The film is an independent film in the best of ways. Directed by Panos Cosmatos, "Mandy" is a wild visual experience void of creative compromise. Things get weird, things get rough, but not once does the film suggest anything but Cosmatos' vision.

"Mandy" was an experience but it's not for everyone. In Scanlan's own words, "watch the trailer and let that be your black diamond warning before proceeding." The film is bloody, intense and full of Nicolas Cage on his A-game. I personally enjoyed the film, but can recognize the resistance from those with less experience with midnight films. For those intrigued, you can catch "Mandy" in theaters or on VOD.

Overall, "Mandy" speaks for Legion M's love for the creative process. It is very clear that Legion M is a company of fans for the fans. As with all investments, only time will tell, but with the growing trend of consumer customization, Scanlan believes Legion M will one day have access to any project thanks to their support.

True visionaries are often realized after the fact, but with the passion Scanlan has, there appears to be little room to miss his mark. As primarily a visual experience, "Mandy" represents Legion M's passion for the creative vision.

🐧🐧🐧🐧 4/5 Penguins

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OTHER

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Photo by Tanner Mondok / The Jambar

Emily Lowry, a freshman biology student, gives her dog, Coco, water outside of Hot Head Burritos on Tuesday.



Photo by Tanner Mondok / The Jambar

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown takes a selfie with a supporter at a canvass kickoff on Friday at the Campaign For Ohio Office in Youngstown.

Brown was joined by Ohio Sen. Joe Schiavoni, who is currently running for Ohio governor, to thank volunteers and discuss the upcoming November election.

Speaking about students and the federal government, Brown said students understand the government is not on their side

when it comes to high student loans and interest rates.

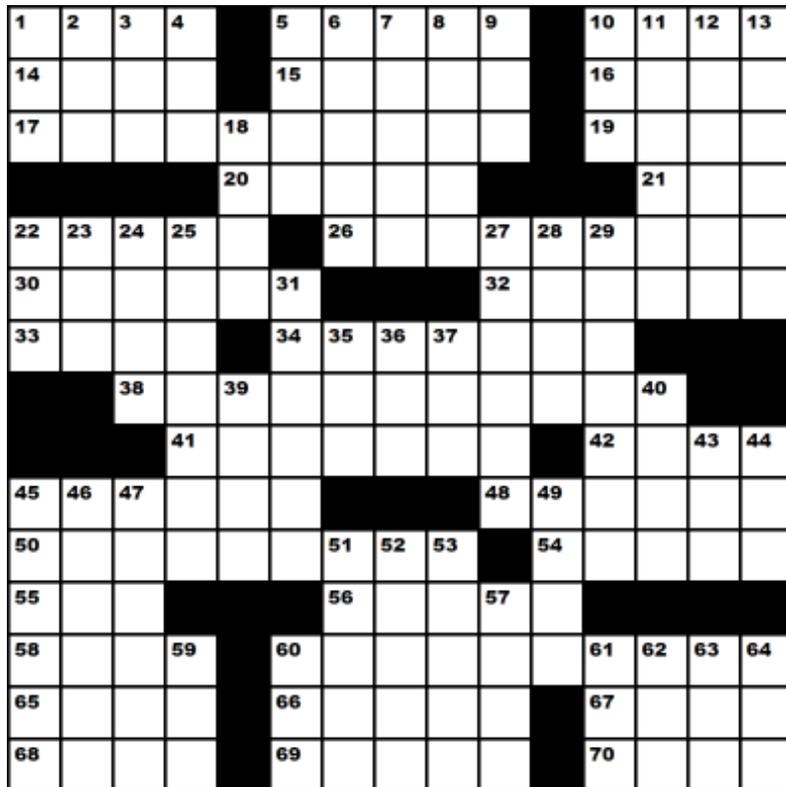
"Students understand that they have a federal government in Washington that denies climate change, that's in the pocket of the NRA and the gun lobby, that opposes marriage equality, that opposes civil rights, and I think YSU students understand that this government right now in this country is hostile to their interest," he said.

Brown added that students should want a House and Senate

that will fight for them.

"All the things students are faced with when they come out of YSU or they come out of Eastern Gateway and they need a Senate and a House that'll fight back against a White House that doesn't seem to care," he said.

The Jambar has reached out to Brown's opponent, Rep. Jim Renacci, and he has yet to respond.



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YSU COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Across

1. Long for
5. Madison Square Garden, e.g.
10. Large butte
14. Transports, as in "Charmed"
15. Inmate who's never getting out
16. "___ for the poor"
17. Event that happens at 6:30 a.m. at the Fountain to start 60 Across (2 wds.)
19. "Vaya con ___"
20. Procrastinator's word
21. Classic Jaguar model driven by Austin Powers
22. Cordial flavoring
26. Treats that are \$3 all day at the B&N cafe for 60 Across
30. In a way
32. Gets on a plane
33. Punxsutawney groundhog
34. YSU's time zone
38. Rec Center morning event for 60 Across (6:45 a.m.) (2 wds.)

41. Purplish-red shade sometimes called animal rouge
42. ___ Major (constellation)
45. Look up to
48. Rely (on)
50. "Make the Healthy Choice ... ___!" (2 wds.)
54. One of a Biblical 150
55. "Unbelievable" rock band
56. Trunk
58. Word that's an example of itself
60. Sept. 26 at YSU, "National Women's Health and ___" (2 wds.)
65. ___ vu
66. Melissa who plays Two on "Dark Matter"
67. Man Friday
68. Situation favoring the server in tennis
69. Painter's prop
70. June honorees

Down

1. Moo goo gai pan pan
2. Millen on "Orphan Black" and "11.22.63"

3. Peacock network
4. "For shame!"
5. ___ Romeo
6. Fissures
7. Zimbalist Jr. who voiced Alfred in "Justice League" and "Superman"
8. Surgical opening?
9. Prince Valiant's son
10. "What, me worry?" magazine
11. Magical drink
12. Like bacon or ham
13. Take stock
18. Margarine
22. Nile slitherer
23. Drama in Kyoto
24. Donnie ___ and the Cruisers
25. Island near Martinique (2 wds.)
27. Followed the rules
28. Maker of the Power Max HD snow blower
29. Abrupt finishes to phone conversations
31. Polecat cousin often kept as a pet
35. Goal
36. Money source for the disabled (Abbr.)
37. Hour when the YSU police offer a distracted driving simulator at 60 Across (Kilcawley Arcade)
39. DEA agent
40. Length times width, for a rectangle
43. "Mad TV" rival, for short
44. Halsey or Ackbar
45. "To do" list
46. Showed the use of
47. Peak near Tokyo (2 wds.)
49. "Beowulf" or "Odyssey"
51. Singer Turner's autobiography
52. Changes the government on Nov. 6
53. Bert's "Sesame Street" pal
57. Auction off
59. Allison Tolman's role in "Downward Dog"
60. Antagonist
61. Feeling like Eeyore
62. A day in Spanish class
63. Solve a kakuro puzzle
64. "___, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus"

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Human trafficking has become a repulsive crime in the Youngstown community. There has been an increase in the amount of trafficking, placing our children in grave danger. Human trafficking is defined as, “modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.” Currently, Ohio is ranked fifth in the entire nation for human trafficking, with the second largest group of children being between 16 and 17 years old, and the third largest group being adolescents between 13 and 15 years old. With these startling statistics, keeping our children safe should be our number one priority.

We have children in our community walking three to four blocks to neighborhoods that they are not familiar with for their bus stops. If we as parents (and guardians) don't permit our children to go to unfamiliar areas, why should they be expected to go to strange areas to catch the bus? They should be picked up at the end of their own street. With the increase in activity with human trafficking, we are putting our children at risk for abduction, prostitution and being sold into the black market on backpage websites.

According to the Polaris Project, children have a one in six chance of being abducted as a sex

trafficking victim. As fall approaches, our children will be standing in the dark waiting for their bus to arrive and should be protected and feel safe. Some parents are unable to be at the bus stop until the bus arrives because of work schedules, college schedules and may be single parents. Having the children picked up on their own street brings familiarity to their surroundings with neighbors that keep an eye on them, and a general sense of trust knowing who is coming and going down the street and they can recognize neighborhood vehicles.

When a child is familiar with their surroundings, they have a sense of calm, less stress and some self-independence with such a huge responsibility of getting themselves on the bus. Although most children have cell phones to keep in touch with their parents, the first thing a predator will do is take the phone and turn it off so they are unable to be tracked. This takes away the child's only chance to let anyone know they are in danger. By keeping busing in a child's familiar neighborhood surroundings, they will be more likely to notice any unusual person or activity and will be more likely to reach out to someone.

Tracey Kaufman
 YSU Nursing Student
 takaufman@student.ysu.edu



Photo by *Tanner Mondak / The Jambar*

Brian Murphy, a mechanical engineering student, gives tips on European longsword fencing to Erik Glasgow, a political science and communication student, outside of Kilcawley Center on Tuesday.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

R	A	T	I	O	R	I	G	G	S	T	A	S
E	L	E	N	A	A	N	N	A	K	I	N	G
B	L	A	C	K	G	N	A	T	E	M	I	T
	B	L	U	E	S	R	E	N	E	W		
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H	O	L	D	T	D	S	U	N	E	S	C	O
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H	E	A	R	E	L	A	N	S	E	N	S	E
Y	E	N	S	D	E	B	T	E	R	G	O	T

CHECK NEXT WEEK'S PAPER FOR THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE



Photo by *Rachel Gobep/The Jambar*

Four members of the nationally-ranked Moot Court team at Youngstown State University presented oral arguments on this year's case problem in the YSU Board of Trustees Meeting Room in Tod Hall to celebrate Constitution Day on Monday.

The team is ranked sixth in the nation and is preparing for competition in early November.



YSU CROSS COUNTRY STARTS OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT

Photo courtesy of **YSU Sports Information**

Raquel Markulin (left) runs in the Horizon League Championships as a freshman. As a sophomore, she looks to be a big part of Youngstown State's success.

JOSHUA FITCH

After three strong meets to begin the 2018 season, the Youngstown State University men's and women's cross country teams are ready to compete.

The Penguins opened the season at the Duquesne Duals. After that, they ran in the Tommy Evans Invitational and then the Auto Owners Cross Country Spartan Invitational in Boardman.

The men finished first at the Tommy Evans Invitational, while the women also finished in the top-5, placing fourth.

The men's team had a very strong showing at the Spartan Invitational, despite being without Dylan Dombi, a senior who is missing time due to an ankle injury suffered prior to the season.

Seniors Ryan Sullivan and Alan Burns have led the way for the men's team so far this season, each finishing in the top-10 for the second straight meet.

"Finishing in the top-10 at our first two meets was a huge confidence booster for me," Burns said. "Over the summer and the start of the season I put in a lot of hard working through high mileage, summer workouts and really trying to do the little things."

While Burns and Sullivan are expected to

produce throughout the season, their leadership comes in handy to the rest of the squad.

"Those two are the hardest workers and biggest leaders on the team," CJ Schumacher, a senior majoring in environmental science, said.

"They just go out there every day," he said. "Coming here and running with them now, I want to make sure these guys go out strong because it's their senior year."

Despite this season being the last for the seniors, one goal for the team remains.

"The most challenging aspect this senior year is going to be chasing another conference championship," Burns said. "IUPUI is a very strong team this year. It is going to take everything and everyone to be at their best to take them down."

To take down a strong team, having a strong coach is crucial. That's where Brian Gorby, head coach of both cross country teams at YSU, comes into play. Gorby is now in his 19th season as head coach of the cross country as well as the track and field teams.

"He's honestly one of the best coaches I've ever had," Schumacher said. "He's able to spread his knowledge to guys and girls. He knows exactly what to do in situations, training-wise. It doesn't change on the women's side either."

"He knows what he's doing, for sure," Raquel Markulin, a sophomore in the nursing program, said. "He wants to make sure we're all

on the same page. It's still individual, but it's definitely including the entire group to work as one unit."

As a freshman, Markulin competed in six events and earned her first letter. So far this season, she placed 30th in the Duquesne Duals with a time of 20:30.49, and a time of 24:53.7 in the Spartan Invitational.

While the men and women run separately, they remain united as a team during practice, workouts and throughout the season.

Respect cycles through this team regardless of gender. Members of this team aren't afraid to show off how hard each side works.

"We're constantly around each other," Markulin said. "We're definitely like a family. The guys team is definitely stacked this year. Both sides I think have an incredible team this year."

"The women's team is made up of extremely hard workers," Burns said. "They're led by all freshmen and sophomores, and still continue to work hard. It will be exciting to see how well they do this year. In a year or two, they're going to be an unbelievable team and really hard to beat."

Being hard to beat is the name of the game. Just like in any other sport, improving is a major factor in cross country as well. Backed by mental preparation, there's always room for improvement.

"I like to mentally prepare for a meet by sticking to my routine," Burns said. "That way I don't stress about it and second guess it. Once the gun goes off, it's go time and it's all about knowing where you need to be. There is very little room for slack for us. If we continue to work hard for another month and a half, I think our team can do some great things."

"If I go out a little harder, then maybe that forces other guys to go out harder, that bumps us up twenty points. That's huge," Schumacher said.

For the Penguins, it's about chasing a championship as the team beams with confidence in 2018.

"Be on the lookout for conference, because I think so many things are going to happen," Markulin said.

"I look forward to getting to Nationals with these boys, and I look forward to winning another conference title with these boys," Schumacher said.

"It's my last year at YSU and I want it to be my best one," Burns said. "I'm really excited to see everything working out right now, and I hope to carry this through the entire season to perform my best at conference."

YSU will be in action after a week off at the Joe Piane Notre Dame Invitational in Indiana on Sept. 28.



A LOOK AHEAD FOR YSU FOOTBALL AS CONFERENCE PLAY LOOMS

Photo by Brent Bigelow/The Jambor

JOSHUA FITCH

After ending the non-conference portion of the 2018 schedule with a 42-7 win over Valparaiso University, the Youngstown State University football team looks to gear up for Missouri Valley Football Conference.

First Three Games

Through three games, the Penguins have a 1-2 record after dropping the first two games of the season to Butler University, 23-21, and West Virginia University, 52-17.

Tevin McCaster eclipsed the 2,000-yard mark for his YSU career in the win against Valpo. In the matchup, McCaster rushed for 141 yards and three touchdowns.

Montgomery VanGorder has done a nice job leading this offense. Through three games, VanGorder has 593 yards, seven touchdowns and one interception. He has a 58.1 completion percentage.

Let's look ahead at MVFC schedule for the Penguins with previews of the teams.

Sept. 29 at 4 p.m.

The Penguins first matchup is on the road against Western Illinois University. The Leathernecks are currently 1-2.

After losses to Montana State University and the University of Illinois, the Leathernecks bounced back in week three, beating the University of Montana, 31-27.

YSU beat WIU, 23-21, in the team's last meeting in 2015.

Steve McShane, senior running back, was named MVFC special teams player of the week after a 58-yard punt return for a touchdown in the win against Montana.

Oct. 6 at 6 p.m.

The Penguins welcome the Southern Illinois University Salukis, who currently have a record of 1-2. After beating Murray State University in week one, the Salukis dropped back-to-back games against the University of Mississippi and Southeast Missouri State University.

YSU beat SIU, 28-20, in 2017 as the Penguins recorded four takeaways.

Oct. 13 at 3 p.m.

YSU will hit the road to face South Dakota State. The Jackrabbits are undefeated in 2018 after wins against Montana State University, 45-14, and the University of Arkansas Pine-Bluff, 90-6.

The Jackrabbits are averaging 67.5 points per game, while only giving up 10 points per game. SDSU's offense scored a whopping 19 touchdowns through two games.

In 2017, the Penguins beat the Jackrabbits, 19-7.

Oct. 20 at 6 p.m.

After returning home from SDSU, the Penguins face off against the University of South Dakota at home.

The Coyotes also have a record of 1-2 so far in 2018. After losing, 27-24, to Kansas State University, the Coyotes beat the University of Northern Colorado, 43-28, before losing in week three, 27-10, to Weber State University.

The Coyotes are averaging 402 yards of total offense while allowing 370. Fourth quarters have been the Achilles heel for the Coyotes, getting outscored by opponents, 35-16, after three weeks of play.

The Penguins will try to do its work in the third quarter as the Coyotes haven't scored a single point in third quarters so far during the 2018 campaign.

Oct. 27 at 2 p.m.

For the second consecutive week, the Penguins will play at the Ice Castle, this time with a matchup against Indiana State University, currently sporting a 2-1 record.

After beating Quincy University, 49-0, they lost to the University of Louisville, 31-7, before returning home to beat Eastern Illinois University, 55-41.

In the EIU win, the Sycamores had 326 yards on the ground and 209 yards through the air.

Running back Ja'Quan Keys was named MVFC offensive player of the week after rushing for a career-high 232 yards on 34 carries while scoring four times.

YSU beat ISU, 66-24, in 2017.

Nov. 3 at 3:30 p.m.

With just three games left in the 2018 regular season, YSU travels to North Dakota State University.

The Bison are 2-0 thus far. NDSU beat California Polytechnic State University, 49-3, to open the season and handled the University of North Alabama, 38-7, in week two.

Last season, NDSU beat YSU in an overtime

affair, 27-24. In that game, McCaster tied the game with just over a minute left in regulation, capping a 90-yard drive for the Penguins. In overtime, Cam Pedersen hit a 36-yard field goal that proved to be the difference maker.

Nov. 10 at 12 p.m.

In YSU's final home game of 2018, the Penguins welcome the University of Northern Iowa.

The Panthers are the only team in the conference without a win in 2018 after losing to Montana, 26-23, and the University of Iowa, 34-18.

The Panthers beat the Penguins, 19-14, in 2017.

Nov. 17 at 1 p.m.

In the final regular season game, the Penguins finish on the road, this time with a matchup against Illinois State University. Following wins against Saint Xavier and EIU, the Redbirds sit without a loss so far this season.

Under head coach Brock Spack, ISU is scoring 47 points per game, which is top-4 in the FCS. The Redbirds are currently second in scoring defense, allowing just five points per game.

Quarterback Brady Davis was named MVFC newcomer for the second consecutive week according to the league office. Through two weeks, Davis is 29-for-42 passing, including five touchdown throws, 440 yards and no interceptions.

In 2017, the Penguins fell to the Redbirds, 35-0.

YSU WOMEN'S TENNIS LOOKING TO REPEAT WITH YOUNG SQUAD

BRIAN YAUGER

The Youngstown State University women's tennis team is back for another season, fresh off claiming their fifth straight Horizon League title last year. Penguins head coach Mickael Sopol returns for his sixth season with the program and aims to continue his past success.

"The girls did a really good job, practiced really hard, and they got what they deserved," Sopol said on YSU's fifth-straight Horizon League title. "The goal was to keep that championship home, and we were able to do that. We went on to the NCAA tournament again and played Florida [in the] first round, which is a tough program, but we held our own and we did a good job. I'm very happy with how we played last season."

The Penguins enter this season returning five of the eight players from last year, losing three to graduation. Top performers, Imaan Hassim and Cassandra Moraleja, return to the program and are the two most experienced members as juniors. New to the program is Elvira Esteo, a freshman coming in from Spain.

When a team wins a conference title five straight years, the expectations are understandably high. Sopol is notably impressed with how well his teams have played under such pressure.

"Expectations are quite high," Sopol said. "Every year you have to stay on top which is a hard thing to do. Pretty impressive to be able to do it the last five years, I'm really impressed with those girls. It's

really hard to play with a target on your back."

Last year, the Penguins finished the season with a 16-11 record. That included an 0-7 start before winning five-straight matches. YSU dominated in conference play to the tune of an 8-1 Horizon League record and 10 overall wins in the conference after beating Cleveland State University and the University of Illinois-Chicago in the HL tournament.

"We're the team to beat every year, and for us to be able to keep that going, and to stay strong and to keep the championship home is pretty impressive I think," Sopol said. "The goal is to keep the championship home, and to get ready for the tournaments in April."

Breakout performances aren't on Sopol's mind because he says all of them are capable of breaking out.

"It's the one that works the hardest," Sopol said. "We have a lot of talent on this team. All of them can do great things. They all have great tennis skill. The one who puts the time in, the one who works the hardest in practice, the ones who really want it, those are the ones that break through. It's always been the case with this team."

Just as last season, the Penguins may have to withstand an early season struggle in order to be successful. With just six girls and no seniors, Sopol doesn't seem all that worried about his team this year.

Their season kicks off on Sept. 21 with the Akron Shootout followed by the Rocket Invitational that goes on Oct. 12 to 13. Conference play starts in the spring.



Cassandra Moraleja celebrates winning a point in a match against Northern Kentucky on April 13. Moraleja is one of two upperclassmen on the team.



Photos courtesy of YSU Sports Information