

THE JAMBAR

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Thursday, October 19, 2023



DESTIGMATIZING MENTAL HEALTH



Terin Frodyma advocates for men's mental health.

Photo by Jillian McIntosh / The Jambar

Men's mental health on campus

By Jillian McIntosh
The Jambar

In honor of World Mental Health Day on Oct. 10, resources for men's mental health at Youngstown State University have come to the limelight.

Francine Packard, director of Student Counseling Services, said men are taught to internalize their emotions because of societal stigmas.

"Men don't outwardly express emotion, or they internalize things," Packard said. "Sometimes men's mental health comes out not in vulnerable emotions like women — fear, sadness and hopelessness. We might see violence, aggression, high-risk behaviors [and] substance use."

According to Packard, physical issues such as fatigue or restlessness stemming from bottled-up emotions can do more harm than someone may think.

"We see those [physical issues] with men but

again, they internalize these emotions. So, it has to go somewhere. It's like shaking up a pop bottle — it's going to explode," Packard said.

Packard also said men are less likely to reach out for resources.

"That's the biggest difference that I normally see. Men won't seek out services as frequently as women," Packard said. "Women will posture suicidal behavior more than men, but men will complete more frequently."

Jake Sylak, a junior business administration major, said he has been making efforts to take care of his mental health.

"One of the biggest things that I do is try to stay in the moment," Sylak said. "Sometimes you get caught up in looking too far ahead and I think it can get stressful on you."

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AIM for greatness

By Matt Sotlar
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion sponsors AIM, a program that provides mentorships for first-year, first-generation students that are underrepresented at YSU.

AIM stands for 'Achieve, Impact, Motivate.' The program is under the Penguin Ally Collective, which is designed to support students on their four year tracks.

The office of DEI began AIM in 2020. Social work graduate student Donquail Mims is the mentoring and transition program coordinator. He described the mentorship pairing process.

"We pair students based off their major and interests with faculty members and staff members to guide them for the four years they're pursuing a bachelor's degree," Mims said.

The AIM program focuses mostly on its mentorship programs for students. Mims said mentors are trained to help students feel welcomed at YSU.

"They provide a sense of belonging to our students. They don't just come and talk about personal stuff, they talk about educational stuff," Mims said. "They're more like a big brother or sister."

Another AIM initiative is Ally Circle Sessions, where mentors and students meet once a month to socialize. Previous guest speakers at the sessions have included Youngstown Mayor Jamael Tito Brown and a number of YSU professors.

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Mental health

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Sylak said there are warning signs to look out for when someone is struggling with mental health.

“It’s easy to get irritated at little things you normally wouldn’t. Being tired and lethargic kind of plays into that and not sleeping well,” Sylak said.

Terin Frodyma, a junior telecommunications major and a YSU men’s swimmer, said mental health can be affected by anything.

“As you kind of go through just your day-to-day life, there are those challenges that come up within academics and athletics. With that comes a lot of challenges both mentally and physically where they are interconnected,” Frodyma said.

Frodyma said staying in contact with his family has helped him stay positive while being away from his home state of

Iowa.

“Being away from home, the biggest thing that I do is to frequently be in touch with my family and my friends back home,” Frodyma said.

Frodyma said he recommends anyone struggling with mental health to learn how to manage emotions in a healthy way.

“When it comes to coping for mental health personally, I’ve just learned to be okay with my emotions. I learned that it’s okay to cry,” Frodyma said. “I was understanding of myself that my emotions are valid, they are something that needs to be expressed.”

Frodyma said he uses journaling as a strategy to balance and better understand his emotions.

“Sometimes, journaling is what we believe to do because putting words on paper and seeing [your] emotions and feeling heard is a gateway to recovery and to

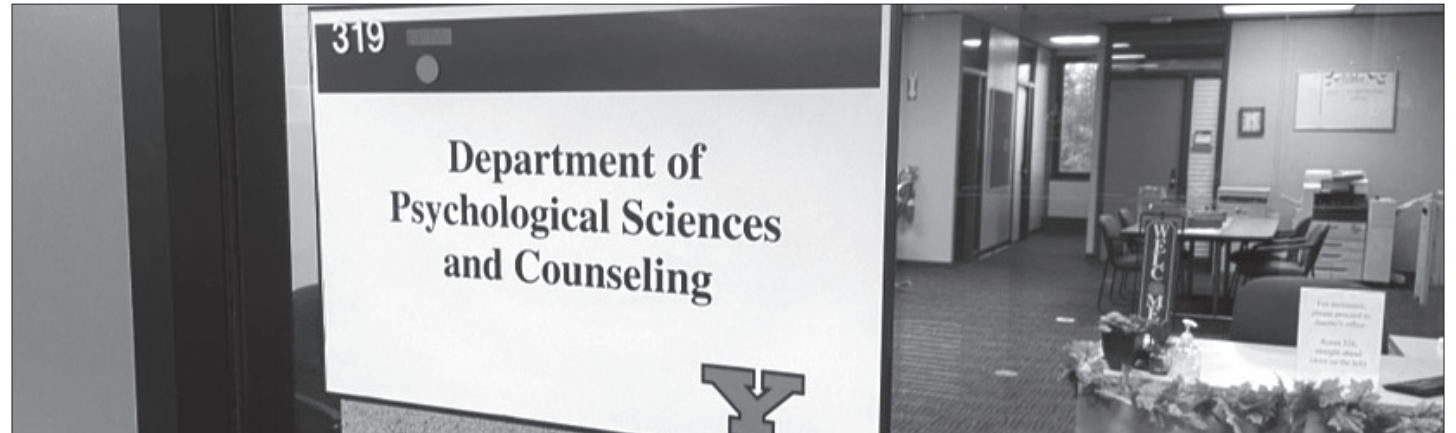
being happy,” Frodyma said.

Student Counseling Services are expanding its program by relocating to the third floor of DeBartolo Hall.

“We are going to diagnose and then provide treatment options for students struggling with depression and anxiety, and a multitude of other types of issues,” Packard said. “It’s also going to provide us some extra space where we will have nap pods, red-light therapy and meditation space.”

Students who contact counseling services outside of office hours will be contacted the following day.

“If somebody calls, we have an answering service that will answer and you press one, you’ll be connected to a live therapist that will help talk you through whatever you’re experiencing,” Packard said. “We’ll follow up in the morning with that individual.”



Student Counseling Services will be relocating to the third floor of DeBartolo Hall.

Photo by Madison Fessler / The Jambar

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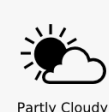


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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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

Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.
High: 68°F	High: 60°F	High: 54°F	High: 50°F	High: 56°F	High: 62°F	High: 63°F
Low: 53°F	Low: 45°F	Low: 44°F	Low: 36°F	Low: 36°F	Low: 46°F	Low: 49°F
Chance of precip: 55%	Chance of precip: 91%	Chance of precip: 84%	Chance of precip: 71%	Chance of precip: 14%	Chance of precip: 12%	Chance of precip: 10%



Information courtesy of accuweather.com

Bertie Ahern visits YSU

By Christopher Gillett
The Jambar

Former Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern visited Youngstown State University and received the Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award on Oct. 14 in the DeBartolo Stadium Club for his work negotiating the Good Friday Agreement.

Ahern's visit was part of the midterm national board meeting for the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a national Irish American organization — whose national president is also director of Support Services at YSU, Danny O'Connell.

Ahern and O'Connell met with YSU Interim President Helen Lafferty on Oct. 12 at Tod Hall. After their meeting with Lafferty, the pair went to Cassese's MVR to play bocce and have dinner.

Ahern went to the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor the next day to be interviewed by David Simonelli, a YSU professor of contemporary history who teaches Irish history this semester.

Simonelli said the interview was a fantastic opportunity

at a personal view of history.

"It's really fantastic to be teaching history — have it fly into town, and have it come and choose to meet with you, and discuss what actually happened," Simonelli said. "It was dramatic — I felt. Mr. Ahern had personal stories that he brought forward about his life growing up, his life in politics, especially around the negotiations for the Good Friday Agreement."

Bill Clinton, during his administration, wanted to end the Troubles, and reached out to Tony Blair in the U.K., Northern Ireland's political parties and Ahern in the Republic of Ireland. U.S. Sen. George Mitchell mediated negotiations and the GFA was signed in 1998.

Ahern gave a personal side to the GFA and its negotiations, generating audience applause and laughter when reflecting on his legacy.

"The biggest thing is that when I want to go support my Gaelic football team in Dublin, I can now drive to Cork in two and a half hours, Limerick in an hour and a half [and] Belfast in an hour and a half, because I put the road structure in place," Ahern said.

Later in the day, Ahern attended a dinner in the

Coach's Court in Beeghly Center where he and other presenters spoke to AOH members.

Ahern's awardment on the night of Oct. 14 included speeches by him, Lafferty, O'Connell, AOH Vice President Sean Pender and Consul General of Ireland to New York Helena Nolan.

Ahern spoke about the award's namesake, Sean MacBride, saying it was an honor to receive an award in his name.

"It is especially a particular honor to receive an award in the name of Ireland's first Nobel Peace Prize winner, Sean MacBride," Ahern said. "I met Sean MacBride a few times in his old age. I never formally crossed paths with him as a [Teachta Dála] ... because he left in 1957 — 20 years before I arrived."

Bertie Ahern also hosted a podcast, "As I Remember It: Bertie Ahern & The Good Friday Agreement," available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts, where he talked with parties about the GFA.

To learn more about the Ancient Order of Hibernians, visit its website.

Wild Geese fly at the Steel Museum

By Christopher Gillett
The Jambar

Loïc Guyon, the Honorary French Consul to Limerick, Ireland, and head of the Department of French studies at Mary Immaculate College, gave a lecture at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor on Oct. 13 about the exile of an Irish mercenary group, known as the Flight of the Wild Geese.

Guyon was traveling with Bertie Ahern, the former Taoiseach of Ireland, as part of Ahern's visit to Youngstown State University. The talk was hosted at the YHCIL by David Simonelli, a YSU history professor.

Guyon's lecture focused on his work locating and returning the remains of Patrick Sarsfield to Ireland. Sarsfield was the leader of the Wild Geese, a band of around 20,000 Irish soldiers exiled by England.

England first invaded Ireland during the 1100s, but became more interested in colonizing the island after the Protestant Reformation when Ireland stayed Catholic. England, over years of warfare and repression, turned the Catholic population into an underclass.

When English King James II repromoted Catholicism, he was overthrown in favor of his son-in-law and

daughter, William and Mary, in the Glorious Revolution of 1689. James landed in Ireland, raised an army and lost to the more militarily-experienced William.

When James retreated, many of his soldiers, led by Sarsfield, were given the option of exile, becoming the Wild Geese.

Many Wild Geese and their descendants went on to fight in several conflicts over the next century, including the American Revolution. However, most went to fight in the French army to continue fighting against England.

Sarsfield's exact death and burial circumstances were uncertain for hundreds of years. Guyon said he became interested in Sarsfield after his appointment as consul.

"When I was appointed [as consul] back in 2019, immediately I tried to look at what in the history of Limerick would connect it to France, and that's when I came across the history of the Flight of the Wild Geese," Guyon said.

Guyon found secondary sources on Sarsfield's death fictional, so he had to search through death records. Guyon said researching was difficult during the pandemic, but was grateful historical records were available online.

"The hardest part [of the project] was to work during the pandemic without being able to travel at the time," Guyon said. "Thankfully most of [the death records] were digitized, were available online, but I spent hours and hours and hours reading through thousands of pages of documents."

Guyon has tracked down Sarsfield's burial to St. Martin's Church in Huy, Belgium. The property was by then the backyard of a house. Guyon said he was happy upon learning who owned the house.

"I contacted the mayor of Huy — and asked, 'Who is the owner of that house?' and I was actually told that the city council was purchasing the site, and once the purchase would be completed, it would give me access to the site ... For me, it's like a sign of destiny," Guyon said.

Guyon also tracked down living distant male relatives of Sarsfield, and found they had unique genetic markers that could be matched to whichever remains are Sarsfield's body.

Guyon is raising money for excavation on GoFundMe. The project can also be found through #Sarsfield-Homecoming on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

AIM

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“We have stress free wellness activities, lots of food, lots of opportunities to hear about different resources. It’s just a time for everyone to celebrate and feel welcomed,” Mims said.

The Office of DEI also offers a summer fellowship program. This includes Navarro Executive Fellows, a two year summer fellowship for underrepresented and marginalized students to learn leadership skills on campus.

“We pair those students off with a top-level executive within their major or field of interest,” Mims said.

Another program sponsored by the Office of DEI is the YESS Institute, which is the Youngstown State University Enrichment Summer Scholastic Institute. For three weeks each summer, the YESS Institute offers a readiness program for first-generation or underrepresented students.

Mims said he is most focused on supporting the students in the AIM program.

“You always need somebody you can run to,” Mims said. “You can’t always go to your parents. Everybody doesn’t have a family back home or someone they feel

they can confide in. I want to provide that sense of belonging and comfort.”

Applications for the AIM Program, Navarro’s Executive Fellows and YESS Institute are sent out via email towards the end of the school year. Mims said the Office of DEI usually begins to select and pair students at the beginning of the year.

“I’m placing these students and mentors. Most of the time I get it right, but it’s a long grueling process. This year we have a lot of students,” Mims said.

Students interested in learning more about DEI programs can visit the website for the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.



The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion sponsors the AIM Program.

Photo by Matt Sotlar / The Jambar

News Brief

Internet outage resolved

Over the weekend, University Courtyards Apartments residents lost access to their main internet connection provided by Single Digit.

Erin Driscoll, executive director of Student Experience and Residence Life, said there was an error over the weekend but the issue has been resolved.

“This weekend was a glitch with the current provider, but we have connected with them to make sure that there’s not any more interruptions to students for the rest of the term,” Driscoll said.

At the beginning of October, Youngstown State University took over management at the Courtyards but Single Digit will remain the internet provider until the current leasing contract is done July 31, 2024.

“We’re working with the university [Information Technology] to buy new equipment and upgrade the current system,” Driscoll said. “That way we’ll start using the YSU internet at the start of the next leasing period.”

Celebrate with cinders and cider

By **Shianna Gibbons**
The Jambar

Penguin Productions is hosting its 10th annual Fall Fire Fest on Oct. 19 from 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the M71 lot with live performances from CPA Jake and Sedona.

Fall Fire Fest combines a bonfire, a student organization fair, a pep rally and a live music entertainment venue to raise school spirit.

Penguin Productions is a Youngstown State University student organization that hosts two large live-music events throughout the academic year. Fall Fire Fest is the fall semester event coordinated with Homecoming Week activities.

Erin Driscoll, executive director of Student Experience and Residence Life, said Fall Fire Fest is a great social event.

“It’s really a chance to kick off our homecoming celebration. Each year, we usually have over 1,000 students that come out,” Driscoll said. “It’s a really great time for students to connect, hang out, bundle up in their favorite fall attire [with] some apple cider and to just have a good time.”

Driscoll said anyone is welcome to attend Fall Fire Fest.

“[Fall Fire Fest] is actually open to the community, too. If [students] have friends that go to another school or live in the area, they’re welcome to bring them along,” Driscoll said.

Fourteen student organizations will be present and some will have free games, snacks or swag for students. Aside from local artists CPA Jake and Sedona, YSU’s Marching Pride will also perform.

YSU student-athletes and the 2023 homecoming court will be at the event.

Fall Fire Fest will also have food trucks for the public and students.

Penguin Productions is also in charge of choosing local artists to attend the event. Abigail Gutowski, a senior telecommunications major, is a talent coordinator. She chooses the bands and assists them with stage layout.

“I heard a lot of good things about CPA Jake, and I’ve heard a lot of great things about Sedona,” Gutowski said. “I [also] make playlists for Fall Fire Fest. I listened to a little bit of [CPA Jake and Sedona’s] music when I was making the playlist, and they’re really good.”

CPA Jake will perform first, followed by the Marching Pride and pep rally, and Sedona will end the night.

Penguin Productions has worked on Fall Fire Fest since the beginning of the semester. Lydia Brownlee, a freshman forensic science major, said the organization has weekly meetings and different responsibilities.

“[Penguin Productions] has a weekly meeting where we break down what we did for the past week. Then each team has their separate meetings where we’re given assignments for the upcoming week,” Brownlee said. “A lot of work went into this, but it’s also really fun.”

Brownlee is a part of the hospitality team, which is in charge of putting together different accommodations for the artists.

“I specifically am dealing with the green rooms. That’s where our artists go before and after they perform on stage,” Brownlee said. “I get to hang out with the artists and make them feel comfortable, which is really cool.”

Driscoll said if students are interested in joining Penguin Productions, there will be applications in spring for the Federal Frenzy event, which is April 27.

Fall Fire Fest is free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to bring cash for the food trucks.

Q: What are students’ plans for Halloween this year?



Trinity Johnson, psychology major:

“Probably working, since I make tips that day.”



Leah Frankie, studio arts major:

“I’m going to the Westside Bowl, they’re having an EMO-ween night.”



Byron Lett, business administration major:

He’s dressing up as “Erosion Bird.”



Harshini Goud, computer science major:

“This is my first Halloween, I would really like to experience how things are,” Goud said. “Our university has so many fall activities ... that [I] would like to [go to].”

Maag Library celebrates Banned Books Week

By Molly Burke
The Jambar

William F. Maag Jr. Library celebrated Banned Books Week from Oct. 1 to Oct. 7 to commemorate books banned and challenged across the U.S.

Along with having a banned books scavenger hunt throughout the week, the library hosted a discussion with author and Youngstown State University English professor Christopher Barzak on Oct. 2. His book, “Wonders of the Invisible World,” was challenged by Texas state legislatures and was banned statewide in 2021.

Colleen Duchon, a reference librarian for health and human services at Maag Library, interviewed Barzak during the discussion. Duchon said the American Library Association pioneered Banned Books Week.

“It’s a celebration that the American Library Association has been doing for a little over 20 years to bring awareness to books that are challenged and banned in mostly public and more recently school libraries ... around the country,” Duchon said. “More often now, it’s not just books. It’s also events and different programming [libraries] have going on as well.”

The library displayed banned books in its windows with flames painted around them to symbolize the burning of books.

Anyone walking into the library could see statements written on the library’s glass doors listing the number of banned books in several states, including Ohio, which has 127.

According to the window statements, book bans and challenges have been increasing since 2020, with nearly 4,000 across the U.S. in 2023, more than triple the amount banned in 2022 and 25 times the amount banned in 2020. Texas currently has more book bans than any other state with 1,150.

Cassie Nespor, curator of University Archives and The Rose Melnick Medical Museum, said book

banning has been used throughout history for many reasons, but today books are mostly targeted for topics of sexuality, gender, race, religion, sex and more.

“There are many examples over history of entire cultures banning certain books because they deal with [certain] subjects. Of course, there was during the Holocaust, any book written by a Jewish author was burned,” Nespor said. “Now, we see it more with the LGBTQ community, minorities [and] race issues.”

Senior psychology major Tilisia Williams said she thinks book banning is harmful, especially for young people.

“I feel bad for people like my younger sister who are going to have to grow up and not experience the different education of the LGBTQ+ community and racial problems,” Williams said. “[Book banning advocates] feel like they’re trying to protect people from something. They’re really creating more problems for themselves in the future.”

Duchon said it’s important to celebrate Banned Books Week at YSU and people should always have the right to access information.

“It’s always important for people to understand that their right to read is a constitutional freedom,” Duchon said. “Everybody grows by learning about other people, other cultures [and] other people’s experiences.”

Nespor said there are many ways to combat book banning for those that are interested.

“If you want to do something about book banning you can certainly read a banned book,” Nespor said. “You can also write to your state representatives and tell them that it’s an important topic and that they should not support anything that constricts people’s quest for information like that.”

Nespor said to check out challenged books from libraries so circulation is documented and to report book bans to the American Library Association.

For more information on Banned Books Week, go to the American Library Association’s website.

Wonders of a banned book

By Molly Burke
The Jambar

Youngstown State University English professor, Christopher Barzak, is the author of several fiction novels, including one banned in Texas.

In 2021, Barzak’s “Wonders of the Invisible World” was banned statewide after being placed on a list of 850 books challenged by Texas Republican State Rep. Matt Krause.

Along with other authors placed on the challenge list, Barzak is part of the LGBTQ community. “Wonders of the Invisible World” was included in the 62% of the 850 books that mention LGBTQ people.

Barzak said while the book discusses the LGBTQ identity of its main character, “Wonders of the Invisible World” is about much more than the main character’s sexuality.

“It’s about a 17-year-old in rural Ohio who is caught up in unraveling a mystery about his family’s history which he doesn’t quite understand,” Barzak said. “Along the way, he discovers that he’s in love with his best friend who’s also a boy ... that’s kind of the side narrative. The real core of the story is about discovering who your family is and what your place is in it.”

Barzak talked about his experience with book banning during a discussion hosted by the William F. Maag Jr. Library on Oct. 2 for its celebration of Banned Books Week. He said challenges and bans target marginalized communities.

“The goal is to silence various groups of people,” Barzak said. “When you signal to people through things like bans that you’re not worthy of public life or public existence by removing this book which represents you ... you’re also signaling to all these young people that there’s something wrong with them.”

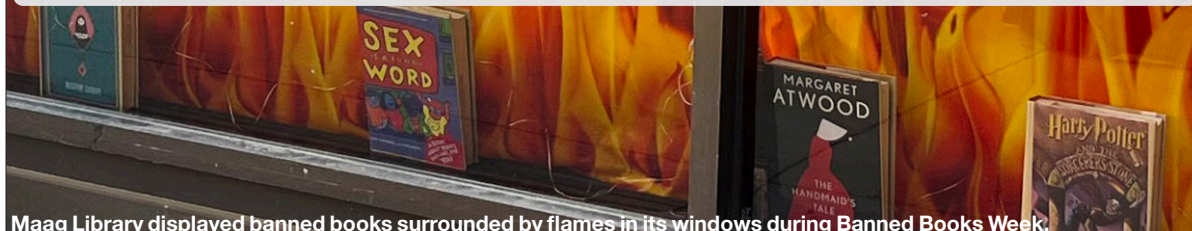
Despite the ban, sales for “Wonders of the Invisible World” have increased since 2021. Barzak has also received awards for the novel, including the Stonewall Honor from the American Library Association in 2015. The book was also placed on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s LGBTQ+ Affirming Booklist.

Barzak said he has spent the last two years navigating the juxtaposition of taking pride in the ban and feeling discriminated against.

“It can be something entirely different than ... feeling like you’re wearing a badge of honor ... It sort of contextualized and mapped onto my life experience like somebody who wanted you to just go away and not exist,” Barzak said. “Sometimes it fires me up in order to get me to work harder ... and other times it puts me in a dark place.”

After reflecting on his experiences, Barzak said he wants to speak out against book banning.

“It reaffirms to me that I can’t be complacent on the progress that’s been made. I need to continue to remain visible and to speak about these things because that’s what they want us to not do, so I have to now,” Barzak said.

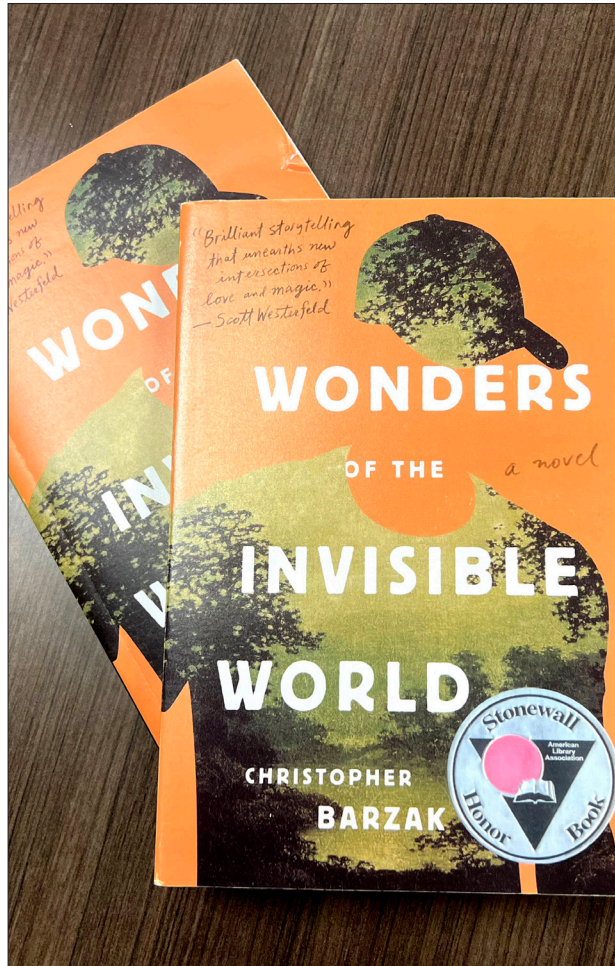


Maag Library displayed banned books surrounded by flames in its windows during Banned Books Week.

Photo by Molly Burke / The Jambar



Christopher Barzak (left) and Colleen Duchon (right) after the banned book discussion Oct. 2.



"Wonders of the Invisible World" by Christopher Barzak was banned in Texas in 2021.



"Let Freedom Read" was written on the library's doors.



A crowd of YSU community members listen as Barzak and Duchon discuss book banning at Maag Library.

The Jambar Column

Hungry for AI

Artificial Intelligence has become quite scary in light of the latest trend on social media, where AI can create made up scenarios of whatever you tell it to do. For example, I could theoretically ask AI to produce an image of Tom Hanks dressed in a chicken costume eating a hot dog.

Recently, Instagram introduced an ability to chat with AI using celebrities' likeness. For example, you can see Kylie Jenner's face speaking under the name of "Billie." Snapchat is also doing something with AI, where you can have conversations with "My AI."

But AI can be useful, I could even ask ChatGPT to produce a list of dishes that I could bring to a potluck, which I did. It gave me a list of 20 appetizer dishes, even with a reminder to take into consideration dietary restrictions or allergies. Some of these appetizers I have never even heard of and others are general potluck items.

Taking it a step further, I asked ChatGPT to create a recipe for a dish I make frequently, potato soup. The AI-created recipe is super fancy with the use of a dutch oven and garnishes. There could be a new Gordan Ramsey reality show where he uses the recipes that AI generates.

I think it's worthwhile to be using AI to find recipes based on items you have at home already. It could even be for the times when you just don't know what to make, or even just a meal plan for the week.

AI can be scarily accurate with recipes and all, but when it comes to using it for writing papers, that's when the discrepancies can show up. Sure, it can get the base facts down, but when you start ask-



Alison Butz

ing it for very specific dates or times, it'll start to show inaccuracy.

My professors always say their warnings about AI use throughout the semester saying that we could technically use

AI in our papers, but it has to be sourced correctly. However, the use of AI with the proper sourcings is questionable because it would only be considered as a secondary source.

In my honest opinion, I believe Wikipedia is more reliable than ChatGPT when it comes to "researching" events or people. When it comes to finding recipes or even costume ideas, AI can be very resourceful because it gives answers minus the tedious research process.

If you're into comedy, you can even ask AI to tell you a joke about any subject at all, even about itself. Granted, the jokes are not good at all, peak dad humor at best.

People obviously have their concerns with AI, especially with it being used by major social media apps and the whole conversation about stealing data comes into view. I do not see the problem with using it for harmless things like finding recipes and joke telling.

However, I do see the concern when it comes to people using it for actual friendships, relationships, and spreading misinformation. Just like when Snapchat's "My AI" posted to its story earlier of a generic ceiling, and everyone freaked out thinking it took a picture through their own phone.

The Jambar Editorial

Hungry for AI Taylor Swift



Taylor Swift released her concert film "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" in theaters worldwide Oct. 12, and the 12-time Grammy award-winning artist continues to break more records.

The concert film was shot during the first three shows at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California. While at Sofi Stadium, Swift performed six times for nearly 500,000 fans at the Los Angeles venue.

According to Time magazine, on the day of Swift's concert film announcement, she broke the record for single-day advance ticket sales of \$26 million in tickets sold. The previous record holder was the highly anticipated "Spider-Man: No Way Home," which sold \$16.9 million in a single day — a complete blowout.

The official release date for the concert film was Oct. 13, but because of the unprecedented demand, Swift announced in an Instagram post that showings would start Oct. 12, along with additional showtimes throughout the weekend.

Aside from her record-breaking advance ticket sales, "The Eras Tour" has put other concert film records to shame, according to the LA Times.

In its first four days, the concert film brought in \$96 million at the domestic box office, easily surpassing previous records and setting the bar high for future concert films. "The Eras Tour" concert film more than tripled the previous opening day record, \$31 million, held by Miley Cyrus' "Best of Both Worlds" in 2008.

The LA Times also reported that "The Eras Tour" concert film has, "in its first weekend exceeded the total box office of any concert film in the last 50 years, handily beating the \$73 million earned by 'Justin Bieber: Never Say Never' in 2011."

However, the 1970's "Woodstock" remains the most commercially successful concert film — after inflation adjustments — of all time ... for now.

On top of these impressive feats, there are a few factors to consider that make

these accomplishments that much more monumental.

First, Swift's tour isn't even over. With nearly 150 shows worldwide, the tour is currently scheduled to end Nov. 23, 2024, in Toronto. Swift is currently in the Latin America stretch of her tour, with her next show Nov. 9 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

However, Swift announced Aug. 3 that nine more shows for a second U.S. stretch in Miami, New Orleans and Indianapolis, plus six dates in Toronto to complete "The Eras Tour." With Swift's style of surprise announcements, many are wondering if she'll announce more tour dates soon — not to mention how momentous the stadium tour is and all the records it has broken.

The second impressive feat is "The Eras Tour" concert film was only announced Sept. 26, not even a full month before it hit theaters and set records. Swift's demand and influence is undeniably unprecedented and impressive.

The third factor to consider is that Swift has recently announced two album rerecordings — "Speak Now (Taylor's Version)," released July 7 and "1989 (Taylor's Version)," scheduled for release Oct. 27 — on top of the ongoing tour and concert film. Her hustle is unmatched.

A clever little detail is that the tickets are priced at \$19.89 for adults and \$13.13 for children and seniors — if you know, you know.

If you're a Swiftie who attended a show in person, the concert film will add even more magic to your experience. If you're a Swiftie who couldn't attend in person, get your tickets, make the friendship bracelets and enjoy your night.

If you're someone who doesn't support or appreciate Taylor Swift — womp womp! She stays winning.

In the wise words of Barbara Walters in 2014, "Taylor Swift is the music industry."

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Penguins cool off the Panthers

By Cameron Niemi
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women's soccer team hosted Horizon League's first place University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Oct 12. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.

The Panthers came into the match with a 6-0 record in the Horizon League, while the Penguins came in with a 2-4-1 record following a loss to Oakland University.

The first 45 minutes of play went without a score. Both teams went into the half with just 10 total shots on goal in the first period.

Milwaukee had eight shots on goal and Youngstown State had two. Senior Brooklynn Kirkpatrick had four saves in the first period and one save in the second.

The first goal of the game came at the 47:43 mark of the match. A corner kick from senior Justine Appolonia was sent into the box and sophomore Emma Rigone scored off a header, which gave the Penguins a 1-0 lead

early in the second period.

The Panthers responded at the 55-minute mark with a penalty kick which resulted in a goal and tied the match 1-1.

The Penguins played tough for the next 35 minutes as they tried to take another lead in the game. When the final buzzer sounded, the Penguins celebrated the hard-fought draw that took place.

Head coach Brian Shrum spoke about the confidence he has in his team for its last two games.

"All coaches are confident in their team. I would not be any less confident with this team playing against any team in the conference, [or] any team in the country," Shrum said. "Just go out and play the way we want to play and hopefully carry it out. It's tough on the road but we can get it done."

Despite not winning the match, Youngstown State needed this game to stay alive in the Horizon League playoff race. The final two games of the season will be crucial for the Penguins in determining the top six

teams who will make playoffs.

Appolonia spoke highly about the team with two must win games on the horizon and getting the job done.

"I know we will," Appolonia said. "We have said it the entire season. We all have confidence that we can win the entire thing. That's how we are going into the next two games."

YSU moved to 6-6-3 on the season and 2-4-2 in the conference. The Penguins will need to take care of business in the final two games, and they will also need certain teams in the conference to lose, win or draw if they want a spot in the Horizon League Tournament.

The Penguins currently have eight conference points and they would need to win out to make the conference tournament. The conference takes the top six teams for the tournament and YSU sits in 9th place.

YSU will travel to Wisconsin to take on the last place University of Wisconsin Green-Bay at 2 p.m. on Oct. 21. For more information, go to ysusports.com. To watch the match go to ESPN+.

Record breakers thrive in cross-country

By Marissa Masano
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's and women's cross country teams competed in the Texas A&M Arturo Barrios Invitational at the WATTS Cross Country Course in College Station, Texas on Oct. 13.

The men's squad ran the 8K with 15 athletes. All of the runners that competed in the Slippery Rock Invitational returned for the 'Guins.

Heading into the invitational, the men ranked 12th in the Great Lakes Region and competed against other regionally-ranked teams.

The lady 'Guins competed in the 6K with eight athletes. Graduate student Morgan Cole returned for the Penguins after being absent from the Slippery Rock Invitational.

Freshman Grace Rhoades returned after placing 11th out of 150 runners in the Slippery Rock Invitational. The last time out, the freshman finished with a personal-best 6K time of 23:22 and was named the women's runner and freshman runner of the week.

The men's side took 6th place, averaging an 8K time of 24:04. The team accumulated 244 total points but Tulane University won the invitational with 103 points.

Five Penguins finished in the top 90, including senior Hunter Christopher, whose time of 23:17.5 broke his previous school record. He finished sixth out of 365 runners to lead the Penguins across the finish line.

Senior Ryan Meadows was next to cross the line beating the previous 8K school record, clocking in at 23:43.3 to finish 17th.

Two redshirt freshmen were next to finish for the Penguins. Owen Brady placed 58th with a time of 24:19.0, and Blaze Fichter crossed the line at 24:29.8 to finish 74th.

After being named freshman runner of the week in his Penguin debut and becoming a top finisher for the men's side, Brady said being a redshirt has made a difference for his collegiate experience.

"Not having the pressure of racing definitely helped me transition from being in high school to college and it also helped me reach a whole new level of fitness," Brady said.

The last runner to score for the Penguins was senior Tyler Coon who ran a time of 24:33.9 to finish 90th.

In the history of YSU's cross country program, only nine Penguins finished under 25 minutes in the 8K. The program matched that statistic as Christopher, Meadows, Brady, Fichter, Coon, seniors Thomas Caputo, Luke Baun and Tyler Clark and redshirt freshman Sage Vavro all ran under 25 minutes at the invitational.

The 'Guins finished 29th out of 41 teams, averaging a time of 22:14.26. Utah Valley University finished first with an average time of 20:10.60.

Cole finished first for the women's side, finishing 54th out of 385 runners. Her 6K time of 20:41 tied the record set by Penguin alum Samantha Hamilton in 2013.

Senior Alyssa Deeds placed 212th as the 'Guins second finisher. Her time of 22:16.0 ties for the eighth-fastest time in school history.

Rhoades finished 268th clocking in at 22:47.3, and senior Hannah Wagner wasn't far behind with a time of 22:49.0 for 271st place. Junior Alayna Cuevas closed out the 'Guins scoring effort finishing 284th at 22:58.2.

Youngstown State's Christopher, Cole and Brady all earned honors from their performances at the Texas A&M Arturo Barrios Invitational.

Christopher was named the men's runner of the week for the second time this season. His sixth place finish out of a Power 5 national field of 365 runners was highlighted by the Horizon League.

For the third time this season Cole was named the women's runner of the week. The graduate student improved her previous-best 6K time of 21:11 by 30 seconds, running under-21 minutes for the first time in her career.

Brady was named the men's freshman of the week for the second time this season. The Horizon League highlighted the redshirt freshman's fourth-fastest 8K time in YSU cross country history.

The YSU cross country program will now set its focus on the Horizon League Championships on Oct. 28 in Fairborn, Ohio. The men will compete in the 8K, followed by the women's 6K.

Moore nabs tournament MVP

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

To kick off the eighth season in program history, the sixth-ranked Youngstown State University bowling team hit the lanes for the yearly Penguin Classic from Oct. 13 through Oct. 15.

With the team's departure from the Southland Bowling League to join Conference USA to start the 2023-24 season, it faces new opponents as well as eight former teams from the previous conference.

Over the three-day tournament, the Penguins welcomed 12 universities to the home lanes at Holiday Bowl in Struthers.

The Penguins started out Day One undefeated after they posted the second-best Baker set in program history.

As a team, it averaged a score of 204.2 a game and 1,021 pins per set in Baker play. The combined total of 5,105 total pin fall was the second-highest in the lanes.

The five-bowler lineup of graduate student Megan Gram, juniors Lyndsay Ennis and Madison Doseck and seniors Kirsten Moore and Madyson Marx all combined

for 1,170 total pins against Wright State University.

The feat earned the lineup its second-highest Baker set in school history. With a score of 278 in game two, the Penguins tied for the fourth-best Baker game to add another notch to the record book.

Despite a pivotal first day, the Penguins sat 70 pins behind first place Arkansas State University.

Youngstown State followed up its dominant performance on Day Two with three Baker pinfall matches to remain in contention for the qualifying round and remained in second place by one pin.

The accolades for the team continued as Moore was the third Penguin in program history to win tournament MVP honors as the highest individual finisher. Through two days, Moore bowled a five-game set of 1,099 and helped the team combine for 4,997 total pins.

In response to earning tournament MVP, Moore credited the team and head coach Doug Kuberski for contributing to her break-out performance.

"It was a very big accomplishment for me. I've put in a lot of work up to this point in the season to try and accomplish something like that," Moore said.

Moore's impressive day continued as she averaged

241.7 pins over three games and bowled above 185 through five games.

With the momentum from the previous days, Youngstown State set its sights on the top spot in the championship round but fell short to Arkansas State.

The Red Wolves swept the Penguins in a best-of-seven Baker match, 4-0, to claim the tournament victory for the second time in Arkansas' program history.

For YSU, it claims its third-straight runner up finish at the Penguin Classic since 2021.

Although it was the first tournament of the season, Kuberski felt that the team "checked all the right boxes" heading into a busy schedule.

"I feel really good about where we are at as a team heading forward, we are really deep and we are really excited about the season," Kuberski said. "Overall, great start to our season."

The bowling team is back in action Oct. 27 through Oct. 29 at the Sunshine State Classic hosted by Sacred Heart University in Orlando, Florida.

To watch the bowling team live, check out the YSU athletics' YouTube page. For stats, tournament dates and times, visit ysusports.com.

Softball finishes fall ball

By Madeline Hippeard
The Jambar

After playing eight games over the course of September and October, the Youngstown State University softball team concluded its fall campaign Oct. 13.

The 'Guins faced teams from northeast Ohio and around the Pittsburgh area.

Head coach Brain Campbell said the softball team hosts fall games so players can get used to game-like environments before the season starts in spring.

"During the fall we just mix things up, we look and see different things," Campbell said. "It's just about letting them play and getting into these situations in the fall because the more they're in that situation come spring, it'll help them."

During fall ball, the team practices two days a week, with a heavy focus on weight room and conditioning activities. Then on Fridays, the lady 'Guins gear up to play.

Campbell said he believes fall games are a part of building the team.

"We're here to get these young ladies playing and putting them in situations, seeing different pitchers compared to our pitchers against them the whole time, we get to see somebody different," Campbell said. "We want them to correct the mistakes and little things and that's what fall is for."

Over the course of the short fall season, the Penguins competed against Cuyahoga Community College, Mercyhurst University, Slippery Rock University, Walsh University, Notre Dame College and Gannon University.

The team also competed in a double-header against Pennsylvania Western University Clarion for the final game of the fall season.

Fall ball also helps with team building by showing players what their strengths are. Senior pitcher Sophie Howell said one of the team's biggest strengths this year is the players' chemistry together.

"It's something that might get overlooked, but it's really important for everybody to be together to be successful," said Howell. "Our defense is very strong and our hitting seems to be very good throughout the fall, so

I think that everything looks pretty good."

The 'Guins will return to the field in the spring when their regular season play begins. To find updates on the team over their break, visit ysusports.com.



Photo by Dylan Lux / The Jambar
Graduate student Sara Fessler.

Heartbreak in the DakotaDome

By Dylan Lux
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University football team was on the road as it took part in a closely-contested matchup against the University of South Dakota on Oct. 14.

The first quarter of the game started with each team trading a field goal as the Coyotes sank a 41-yard kick. Redshirt freshman Andrew Lastovka buried a 26-yard kick to tie the game at 3-3 before the end of the first period.

The USD offense took control of the game in the second quarter as two touchdowns were scored. Heading into the locker room, YSU trailed 17-3.

Head coach Doug Phillips took responsibility for the team's deficit in the first and second quarters.

"You go on the road, you go down 17-3 [and] 24-3 ... that's my responsibility," Phillips said. "There's a lot of things that happen [that] people don't see."

The third quarter saw an explosion of scoring for each team, with four touchdowns scored within the first six minutes, and three scores in a two-minute span.

The score was 24-3 when the Penguins retaliated with a 65-yard pass from senior quarterback Mitch Davidson to redshirt freshman tight end Joey Farthing to give them their first touchdown of the game.

The quick three-play, 76-yard drive was matched 45 seconds later by a long USD pass as quarterback Aidan Bouman connected with wide receiver Carter Bell for a 65-yard score.

With the score at 31-10, the Penguins needed to find an answer, which came at the 6:13 mark of the third quarter, with another long-pass play. Davidson connected with sophomore receiver Max Tomczak for a 66-yard pass, which made the score 17-31.

The Penguins would go on to score two more touchdowns as part of their 21-0 scoring run in the third and fourth quarters.

Senior running back Dra Rushton scored on a dive play from one yard out, which moved YSU within one score.

Around the 12:30 mark of the fourth quarter, senior linebacker Greg Benton Jr. forced a fumble on the Coyotes' tight end J.J. Galbreath, which was recovered by YSU junior defensive back Jordan Trowers at the team's own 34-yard line.

To tie the game with 5:38 remaining, Davidson found senior wide-out Bryce Oliver in the right half of the endzone for a diving catch.

Phillips said it's tough to compete in hostile territory, and was proud of the team's comeback and how it equalized the score.

"I give them all the credit for getting back in the game that just shows you the character [the team] has," Phillips said.

The Penguins received the ball off a punt from the Coyotes with 2:27 left in the fourth but had to punt the ball away with 19 seconds remaining.

USD managed to get into field goal range with three seconds to go, and kicker Will Leyland of the Coyotes buried a 41-yard kick to seal the game and send the Penguins home with their third loss of the season.

The football team moves to 3-3 overall and 1-2 in conference play. It will return to action inside Stambaugh Stadium for the homecoming game against Illinois State University at 2 p.m. Oct. 21.

Tomczak said the team is not letting its 3-3 record distract them, as its matchup with Illinois State is just as important as its previous game.

"You got to give Illinois State props, they're a good team," Tomczak said. "It's going to be a battle, we know that with every Missouri Valley Conference team. We're not worried about [our record], we're not going to have that affect our mindset."

Tickets can be purchased at mpv.tickets.com and to watch the game live, visit ESPN+.

