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## PLANS FOR PRESIDENCY



Johnson in the Office of the President.

Photo by Molly Burke / The Jambar

# Sitting down with Johnson

By Molly Burke and Christopher Gillett  
The Jambar

The Jambar sat down with Youngstown State University President William “Bill” Johnson to ask about his plans for the future of the university.

Johnson said his first priority is to get undergraduate student enrollment up.

“We’ve got to cast a wider net because we’re fishing in a smaller pond with fewer fish,” Johnson said. “We’ve got to go to where the students are, whether that’s increasing our online presence and online offering, finding where those homeschoolers are.”

To boost enrollment, Johnson will work with the YSU Foundation on fundraising. Johnson said he will build off the groundwork established by former president Jim Tressel.

“Under Jim Tressel and the [YSU] Foundation, they raised — over seven years — a significant amount of money, and we’re just going to build on that. There’s about 131,000 YSU alumni around the world,” Johnson said. “Trying to cultivate that group of worldwide ambassadors, that’s part of the formula.”

As one of his first initiatives, Johnson established the Government Affairs Office and hired two staff members — Special Assistant of Government Affairs Sarah Keeler and Associate Director of Government Affairs Maria Bova.

While he was a U.S. congressman, Johnson was frequently visited by other universities to discuss government affairs but never worked with YSU.

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## Johnson meets with SGA, addresses cuts

By Molly Burke  
The Jambar

Youngstown State University President William “Bill” Johnson was the guest speaker at a Student Government Association meeting Jan. 29

During his speech in the Rossi Room of Kilcawley Center, Johnson spoke about goals for his presidency, including increasing enrollment, fundraising and working with the Government Affairs Office. Johnson said his highest non-academic priority is to complete construction of a new student center.

“We’ve got about a \$41 million project to renovate this place, to make it state of the art. For me? No. For the faculty? No. This is yours,” Johnson said to students at the meeting.

Johnson announced Jan. 31 that he and first lady Lee Ann Johnson will donate \$100,000 to the construction of the student center, according to a press release from the YSU News Center.

After Johnson’s speech, SGA executive members and representatives had the opportunity to ask the president questions.

Jordan Pintar, SGA’s executive vice president, asked Johnson if he would aid SGA in combating food insecurity on YSU’s campus with the Penguin Pantry. Johnson said he visited the pantry and wants to help expand it.

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“Youngstown State is kind of behind the power curve, behind the eight ball, at the end of the food chain on policy issues that affect the university,” Johnson said. “If we don’t have something like [the Government Affairs Office], we’re always going to be in the slow lane to the right, and everybody else is going to be going around us.”

Johnson said the Government Affairs Office will allow YSU to work with legislatures on finance and funding issues.

“One of my messages is going to be going back to Columbus to talk to our legislature and to talk to our administration there,” Johnson said. “When you’re only getting \$10.5 million in capital budget every two years ... and you’ve got \$400 million worth of facilities, maintenance and operations stuff to do, that’s a self fulfilling prophecy.”

According to Johnson, first lady Lee-Ann Johnson will be involved with the YSU community. Johnson said she plans to work with the dental hygiene program.

“[LeeAnn is] a dental hygienist by trade, so she’s already spoken to the folks in the dental hygiene school to make sure that she can go over there to help out,” Johnson said. “We have a lot of students that start the dental hygiene program, but the attrition rate is pretty high. We’re looking at how we fix that.”

In order to evaluate progress of his initiatives, Johnson said teamwork will be required.

“It takes a team to support a university like this. So, working in collaboration with our administration leadership team, with the faculty, with the staff, finding out where our shortcomings are,” Johnson said.

On Johnson’s first day as president, Jan. 22, several students protested out-

fairly easy to define. I think you give somebody a chance,” Johnson said.

While he was saddened to see the protest, Johnson explained he recognizes all students have the right to free speech and said he will listen to those opposing him.

“Everybody has a right to share their thoughts, to express their beliefs. That’s fundamental to the rights guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States — as long as it’s not violent, as long as it doesn’t distract and prohibit other students from forwarding their education,” Johnson said. “I’ll meet with anybody that wants to have a productive conversation about how to move YSU forward. I’m not here to fight.”

Johnson said those who are interested in meeting with him can contact the Office of the President.

Some of Johnson’s opponents have connected his appointment to Ohio Senate Bill 83. According to Ohio Capital Journal, if passed, Senate Bill 83 “would allow universities to fire tenured professors for a broad list of reasons,” and “prohibits mandatory diversity, equity and inclusion training.”

Johnson said he was not asked about Senate Bill 83 during the hiring process and he’s unfamiliar with the bill’s contents.

“Nobody in the search process asked me anything about Senate Bill 83,” Johnson said. “I don’t know anything about Senate Bill 83. I don’t serve in the State House or the State Senate.”

An inauguration for Johnson has not yet been planned or scheduled.

“I’ll meet with anybody that wants to have a productive conversation about how to move YSU forward. I’m not here to fight.”

— William “Bill” Johnson,  
YSU President

side of Tod Hall and Johnson’s university residence, the Pollock House. Johnson said he believes the protesters didn’t give him a chance.

“I’m saddened that they thought that they had to do that. My principles are

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**7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

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

High: 49°F	High: 40°F	High: 45°F	High: 50°F	High: 49°F	High: 47°F	High: 48°F
Low: 35°F	Low: 24°F	Low: 23°F	Low: 26°F	Low: 27°F	Low: 30°F	Low: 35°F
Chance of precip: 6%	Chance of precip: 0%	Chance of precip: 1%	Chance of precip: 0%	Chance of precip: 6%	Chance of precip: 13%	Chance of precip: 1%



Partly Cloudy



A Few Clouds



A Few Clouds



Fair



Fair



A Few Clouds



A Few Clouds

Information courtesy of [accuweather.com](#)

# Honors and graduate colleges see substantial enrollment growth

By **Nicholas Bianco**  
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University's honors and graduate programs have seen an increase in student populations despite an overall decline in student enrollment.

Enrollment for the Sokolov Honors College has more than tripled in the last 10 years. Amy Cossentino, dean of Sokolov Honors College, said only 350 students were enrolled in 2014, but in fall 2022, the college had over 1,240 students.

Cossentino said the college has also seen an enrollment increase in specific areas.

"Where we might have a flat in domestic student enrollment, we're seeing an increase in our international student enrollment," Cossentino said. "We've had an increase in the number of students who have come from outside of the five-county area."

While the overall decline in enrollment may negatively affect some programs, Cossentino said the function of the honors college will not be disrupted.

"We have operated with serving 350 students, we're now operating with serving 1,300 students," Cossentino said. "What will change is we would have more time to invest with fewer student. The quality that we offer to

students will not be impacted."

According to Cossentino, Sokolov Honors College plans to work with its advisory board, students, faculty and community partners to ensure quality experiences for students.

"It's a daily strategy to pull together our group so we can brainstorm and then plan out our actions," Cossentino said. "One of the things we're looking at as a college is how do we maintain the quality of experience for the students if we maintain this enrollment level."

Similar to the Sokolov Honors College, enrollment for the College of Graduate Studies has also been on the rise.

Sal Sanders, dean of the College of Graduate Studies, said enrollment has been up over the past five years, especially with online programs.

"[We had] 1,100 students in the fall of 2019, now 1,220 students in fall of 2023," Sanders said. "Our [online Masters of Business Administration] program has seen a significant increase."

The college is ensuring enrollment continues to increase with several initiatives, including improving the application process.

"Some of the things that we plan to do in the future is working on making our admissions process applicant focused," Sanders said.

Sanders said the college plans to minimize the process of accepting applicants through streamlining, which is the separating of students into different classes based on their intellectual or academic ability.

"We've done a lot of work in that area already and changed a lot of policies and procedures along those lines of work," Sanders said.

According to Sanders, the college is also working to make programs more accessible.

Sanders said the college will collaborate with program directors to establish additional and combined master's and bachelor's programs to allow undergraduate students to take graduate courses for dual credit.

"That's a huge recruiting tool in some cases to recruit some of your better students while they're undergraduates," Sanders said. "Students [can] have nine hours out of a 30-hour degree done if they decide to go for master's."

Because of competition with other universities, the college is also making efforts to minimize the requirements needed for graduate programs.

"We still want to make sure that we have the appropriate requirements in place that are necessary but eliminating anything that's not necessary," Sanders said. "If we don't admit students quickly, someone else offers them an acceptance."



The Sokolov Honors College and College of Graduate Studies are located on Tressel Way.

Photos by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

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“I visited [the Penguin Pantry] last week. I was really surprised at the scarcity and the size of the offering that we have in there. So yes, I do. I’m not going to lay it out for you today, but yes that’s on our radar,” Johnson said.

Pintar also asked Johnson if he would aid SGA in expanding its budget to help fund student organizations. Johnson said he would look into it as he settles into his presidency.

SGA Rep. Zayda Stromer asked Johnson if he believes it’s necessary to include “things like racism in history and sexism in history” in school curriculum. Johnson said the topics are important to teach.

“If we work together and we learn from the mistakes of our past, we can become more perfect in the future — if we’re willing to learn those mistakes too. So, absolutely I think we need to learn from the mistakes that we made,” Johnson said. “Diversity, inclusion — that’s all part of it.”

Several students attended the meeting wearing all black in support of the Dana School of Music. At the start of the semester, four degrees in Dana were announced to be sunset. The cuts prompted a “Save Dana” petition that garnered over 20,000 signatures followed by community protests.

Johnson said he doesn’t want to see programs sunset,

but he explained the university has to make decisions to continue earning a profit.

“Those decisions were made before I was even in the pipeline to come here,” Johnson said. “Nobody wants to see a program cut. I don’t want to see a program cut ... at the same time this is an educational institute, it is a business.”

According to Johnson, enrollment needs to improve to combat cuts. However, Johnson said he promises to advocate for the arts.

“I’m going to do everything that I can to emphasize the validity and the necessity of our music and arts programs,” Johnson said. “People will not always remember what you say, they will not necessarily always remember what you do, but they will never forget how you make them feel. Music, the arts, the humanities, that’s the ‘how’ that glues us together.”

Johnson left before public comments were heard by the executive board.

During public remarks, several attendees expressed their concerns for the Dana School of Music and potential faculty retrenchments.

“As Mr. Johnson said, we want an institution where our students and our faculty are excited to come to school and to work, and I can tell you that none of our professors are excited to come to work. They are scared, they are stressed,” said Sami Weinkoetz, a graduate student in the Dana School of Music.

Following public comments, Stromer addressed at-

tendees in support of Dana and said they should understand cuts are happening to other programs, but SGA can help their voices be heard.

“Other departments make a huge difference when it comes to making your voice heard — especially in SGA, we can better represent you now. No matter what side of this you are on, please understand that this is not something central to Dana,” Stromer said.

According to Pintar, Johnson met with SGA’s executive committee Jan. 23 to discuss student government’s initiatives. Pintar said SGA is looking forward to working with Johnson and the Government Affairs Office.

“Some of our plans that we discussed were how a relationship between student government and the Government Affairs [Office] would look for the students. I really want to see a student role in that,” Pintar said.

At the meeting, SGA informed Johnson of its goals to expand its Aunt Flow initiative and add solar-powered tables to the M60 Parking Lot on Lincoln Avenue. Pintar said Johnson also proposed ideas to improve student mental health on campus.

“We’re going to sit down in a couple weeks and really start to talk about the little projects on campus that we want. I know that he has discussed a lot of initiatives that he has for student mental health on campus and a lot of our things that we do align within that,” Pintar said.

SGA President Alexander Papa is on a leave of absence and was not at SGA’s meetings.



President Johnson answers questions from members of Student Government Association.

Photos by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

# East Palestine: One year later

By Christopher Gillett  
The Jambar

Nearly one year after a Norfolk Southern train derailed in East Palestine, residents still face environmental, economic and legal implications.

The Norfolk Southern train derailed Feb. 3, 2023 and spilled toxic chemicals such as vinyl chloride. Following the derailment, a controlled burn was done to stem the effects of the chemicals.

Misti Allison, a resident of East Palestine, became involved in activism following the derailment. Allison said while the derailment has had its negative effects, residents can move past it.

“The train derailment has definitely put a scarlet letter on our town. At the very beginning, sports teams didn’t want to come and play here. People didn’t want to come to the businesses here. Everybody was really scared about their home values,” Allison said. “We don’t want to be remembered solely for the train derailment. I think that the residents of East Palestine are very strong and resilient people, and hopefully that shines through.”

Brian Bonhomme, a professor of Russian and environmental history at Youngstown State University, said while the train derailment was significant for East Palestine, it doesn’t compare to a global event such as Chernobyl.

“[The derailment is] hugely significant for people in the area — but it doesn’t seem to have become really a global or a national event. Chernobyl is kind of the opposite. The reach of the disaster is much greater because the radiation cloud went global essentially,” Bonhomme said.

Allison testified to the U.S. Senate following the derailment. Allison said she tried to communicate the suffering following the derailment.

“I just really tried to really have a lot of emotional appeal in my testimony to really make sure people understand that this isn’t a political issue, this is a people issue, and this is not a sound byte in our lives. This truly is our lives,” Allison said.

Allison said adequate laws have not been passed since the derailment.

“East Palestine does serve as a cautionary tale of the dangers of some of this railroad transportation and the petrochemical industry in general, but there hasn’t been a lot of action that’s been taken yet,” Allison said. “The Railway Safety Act was introduced very quickly after the train derailment, but that still hasn’t went to a vote in the Senate. It still hasn’t went to a vote in the House. It has not been passed, and so, that’s very disheartening.”

The Railway Safety Act of 2023 was introduced in May 2023 by U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell. If passed, the bill would “improve freight rail safety [and] prevent future train derailment disasters like East Palestine,” according to a press release by the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

While East Palestine suffered economic repercussions from the derailment, property values increased. A.J. Sumell, an economics professor at YSU, said he thinks national news coverage led to the increase in value.

“A surprising fact is that there’s been a 25% increase in property values [on average] in East Palestine since the train derailment,” Sumell said. “The only explanation I can come up with for that is the fact that there was so much coverage of East Palestine across the nation. So, it just put it in people’s minds, and maybe some people who are just moving to the area are actually more inclined to locate in East Palestine.”

The East Palestine Memorial Public Library archives local history, including cataloging historical documents surrounding the derailment.

While Allison isn’t involved directly with the archives, she sits on the library’s board of trustees. Allison said the library has documented and collected as much as it can on the event’s growing history.

“From the very beginning [the librarians] realized this was going to be a huge part of East Palestine history, and they’ve done a great job collecting anything and everything,” Allison said. “Especially in a small town like East Palestine, a library is one of the public hubs and like the heart of the community.”

Photo courtesy of Misti Allison

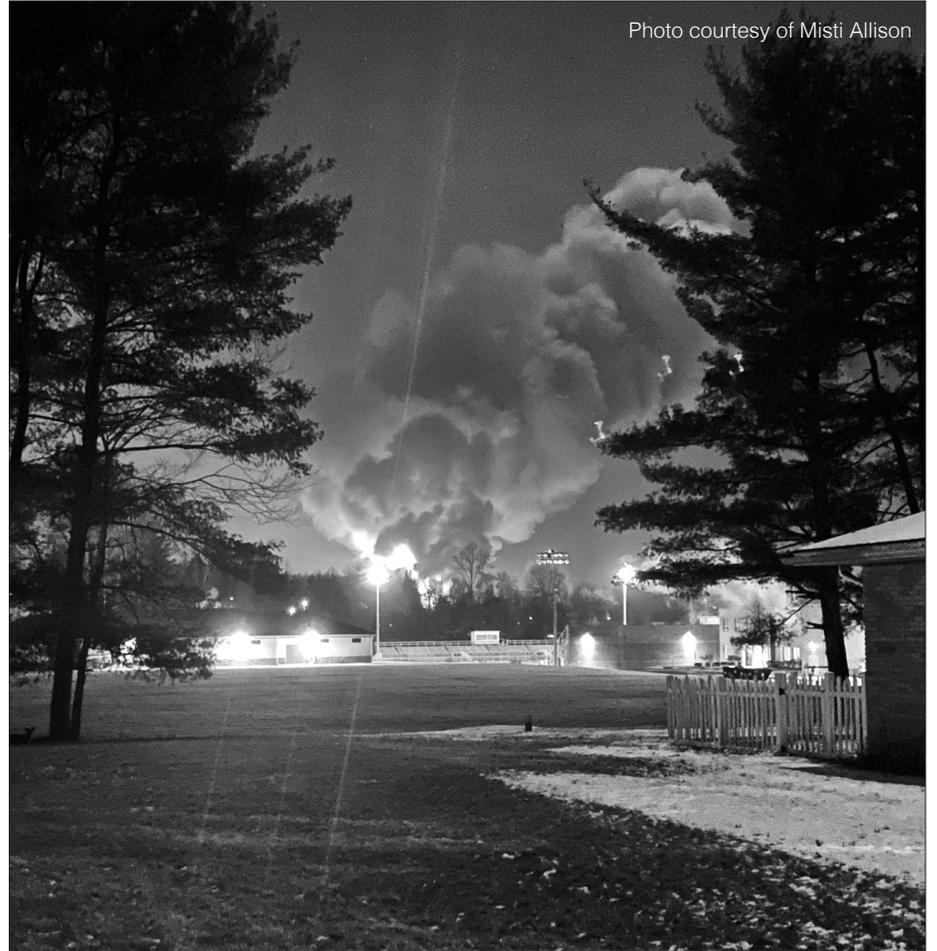


Photo courtesy of R.J. Bobin



Photos of the fallout from the derailment (top) and controlled release (bottom).

# SJP promotes solidarity with Palestine

By Elizabeth Coss and Christopher Gillett  
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine hosted an event to share Palestinian history, personal experiences and the evolution of the Israeli-Palestine conflict in the Rossi Room of Kilcawley Center on Jan. 26.

Batool Alkarain, a junior international business major and vice president of SJP, said there's significance in listening to personal stories to understand the conflict and people affected.

"It means a lot to me to be a part of this organization because I want to help educate people about [Palestine]," Alkarain said. "We're here tonight to tell people about what's been happening for 75-plus years, and now we're sharing our personal stories ... we're all going to share history about Palestine that's related to personal family and personal lives."

Eric Resnick, an active member of the Cleveland chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace, was a speaker at the event. Resnick said he believes it's important for the public to condemn Israel's actions.

"What we are witnessing today is a world event that is unprecedented in our lifetime, and hopefully, we will never see another like this again. This is genocide. This

is as big as it gets," Resnick said. "This isn't something where there's a gray area. Everybody needs to be on one side or the other of this. Either you're on the side of genocide or you're on the side of justice."

Resnick explained Jewish Voice for Peace stands in solidarity with SJP and said not all Jewish Americans support Israel.

"As a Jewish person, it is very important that we do as many of these types of events as possible. I have never turned down an invitation to do one of these," Resnick said. "Not all Jews are Zionist. Not all Jews stand with Israel while genocide is going on."

Lauren Burgess, a senior political science and philosophy major and board member of SJP, said the organization wanted to promote education so attendees could leave the event knowing more about Palestine and its history.

"I would say our intention — what we wanted to be significant — was educating people. Having people that didn't know the entirety [about Palestine], maybe had some questions coming in, leaving with a better understanding," Burgess said.

Burgess traveled to Washington D.C. in November 2023 for a national pro-Palestine protest. Burgess said the event's energy was invigorating.

"There were so many people there, but I wasn't there

on behalf of any organization or as a part of any organization. It was more so my own will. I wanted to go, and I found a way," Burgess said. "[The protest] was invigorating. It was powerful to be around so many people from all different parts of the world, all different ages, religions, races, and to feel like we had a collective journey."

SJP collaborated with the Mahoning Valley chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America to invite speakers from various national and local organizations.

Glenn Hall, a membership coordinator in the Mahoning Valley DSA, said he believes the community at large should be a part of events supporting Palestine.

"This event is to inform our community — our local Mahoning Valley and Youngstown State community — about their neighbors and their community members. Youngstown has a large Arab American and Palestinian population. So, these are people that we live next to, that we work with," Hall said.

**Editor's Note:** Tala Alsharif, president of SJP's YSU chapter, is a contributor to The Jambar. Alsharif has no involvement in the editorial process.



Students for Justice in Palestine offered educational materials and spoke with attendees following the event.



Photos by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

# Get job ready with WCBA

By Sydney Fairbanks  
The Jambar

Williamson College of Business Administration will host its Meet the Employers Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Feb. 7 in the Weir Atrium in Williamson Hall.

Meet the Employers Day is a biannual career fair that allows students to connect with employers.

Throughout the event, students can get to know what companies offer and seek interviews for prospective positions and internships. Students can also discuss their career goals with employers and provide them with resumes.

Upon arrival, attendees will check in and receive a name tag. At each table, students can scan a QR code to connect with an employer.

All students are encouraged to attend, but the event is primarily focused on those with business, accounting, finance, administration and marketing majors and minors.

According to Christina O'Connell, director for WCBA's Center For Career Management, Meet the Employers Day began in conjunction with the annual STEM

Expo.

"It was right around 2015 that the WCBA decided to break away and have their own Meet the Employers Day because there was a need for more employers and to stay here in the college," O'Connell said.

O'Connell and the organizing committee began preparing for the event three to four months in advance. The process began with reaching out to employers, informing students and faculty of the event and updating Handshake with the current list of employers.

A week before the event, the committee prepares questions for students to ask employers and creates a booklet with the employers listed. The committee also provides students with tips for interacting with employers.

O'Connell said she encourages students to research the employers and companies they are interested in before the event.

"It's important that they look in Handshake to see all of the employers that are coming and to do some research on the companies — especially the ones that they want to speak with and have a potential internship with or a full time job," O'Connell said. "Employers don't ex-

pect you to know everything about them, but they also don't want to be asked 'can you tell me about your company?' or 'what does your company do?'"

According to Judin Balella, a graduate assistant in WCBA, students can find information about the employers on Handshake.

"If you go to the events tab [on the WCBA Handshake] there's the Meet the Employers Day 2024. You'll find all the lists of employers. We have about 50 coming this semester, and then if you click on each of the companies, you can learn about the company," Balella said.

Balella said he has seen success come out of Meet the Employers Day from personal experience.

"I was a student attending the event, and then — with the company I was with — I was on the other side of the table as a recruiter," Balella said. "Now, I get the 360 experience of being part of the organizing committee for that event,"

WCBA also offers mock interviews and resume reviews to any student looking to prepare for the job application process. Appointments can be scheduled through Handshake.

# Help at the push of a button

By Sydney Fairbanks  
The Jambar

Youngstown State University has an emergency system in place for students, staff and faculty in need of help on campus.

The system uses emergency buttons that connect users to the YSU Police Department Dispatch Center with one push.

The buttons are located around campus as either towers with blue lights or brightly colored wall units that act as emergency phones.

Shawn Varso, chief of the YSU Police Department, said a button shares the user's location with a dispatcher.

"When you push the button, that location is automatically given to the dispatcher," Varso said. "While you're conversing with the dispatcher, an officer is being dispatched to that scene."

Users can push the buttons for help from the police, fire department or Emergency Medical Services.

While the system is effective, the technology is outdated. Varso said the emergency button system is used less frequently now as most students, faculty and staff own cellphones.

"We're taking a look at how many times someone uses it for an emergency purpose," Varso said. "What we've seen so far — not a lot. For emergency purposes, people are using their cellphones."

The YSU Police Department works with Information Technology Services to ensure the phone system is up-to-date and operational. The police department and IT services are working on a multi-year project to improve the system and update the technology.

The current system is hardwired into

the university phone system and relies on a power supply. Varso said the new system might run on solar power.

"[There are] call boxes now that are marketed that work off of cellular systems instead of having it hardwired into the university phone system. It's all self-contained. There's no power that needs to run to it. It runs off of cellular," Varso said.

Varso explained the future emergency system may also be a combination of emergency phones and cellphones to allow instantaneous contact. The goal is to help students as fast as possible.

"We want to be able to expedite, we want to be able to get fast reaction, fast response to anyone who does need help when you're on campus," Varso said.

Varso said he hopes the system will be completed within the next two years.

Students with non-emergency concerns can call the YSU Police Department at 330-941-3527.

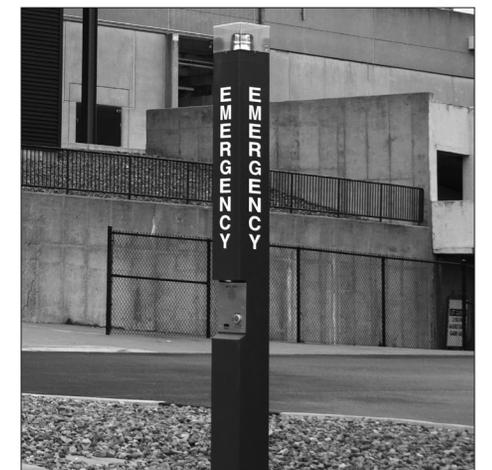


Photo by Sydney Fairbanks / The Jambar  
An emergency button on campus.

ROCKING WITH THE BLUES

# Sweet like Honey Hounds



Photo courtesy of @cattorriciphotography on Instagram

By John Ostapowicz  
The Jambar

With over 40,000 streams on Spotify and a track with 2.4 million streams, the Jacksonville, Florida band Honey Hounds incorporates funk, rock, pop and soul into traditional delta blues.

Comprised of guitarist and lead vocalist Nick Izzard, drummer Tyler Watts, bassist Nathan Ranew and keyboardist Max Zargon, Honey Hounds has released two LPs, an EP and 12 singles, with the song “Spinach” being the band’s most streamed track across all music platforms.

From living on a sailboat in Key West, Florida to busking on city streets, the musical duo of Izzard and Watts released the band’s debut album “No Sleep” in 2016.

The band originally started as N.W. Izzard, which combined reggae and blues rock, but the band’s repertoire expanded and prompted a fresh start.

The addition of Ranew in 2018 sparked the official name change to Honey Hounds. Izzard said the change is credited to the band’s increased interest in rock and roll.

“Being blues fans, we wanted something that sounded bluesy that was still playful,” Izzard said. “We settled on the Honey Hounds because it described the vibe and the band’s energy.”

In 2021, Honey Hounds added Zargon, which completed the band’s current lineup.

The creative partnership between Izzard and Watts began in 2014 when the pair started to write music and build a network for the band to gain traction.

The collaboration led to international shows, an opportunity to perform on the cruise line Virgin Voyages and a television appearance on News4JAX.

The band’s fan base has spread beyond Florida, with Texas and Colorado as some of Honey Hounds’s biggest markets. Watts said he looks forward to hitting new venues as the band consistently draws in new fans.

“There’s always a little bit of anticipation when you get to a new market, never playing there before and to see who shows out and supports us,” Watts said. “It’s refreshing and a nod that you are on the right path.”

While songwriting, Izzard takes inspiration from Albert King, Amy Winehouse, Chris Isaak and Josh Homme. Izzard said he is constantly listening to new music that inspires him to experiment with Honey Hounds’s sound.

“With rock and roll in general, there are not many rules to it, you can get a little weird and experiment here and there with tonality,” Izzard said.

The band’s discography features several different genres that can be heard on tracks such as “Going Down Tonight,” “I Got What You Need” and “Shine On.” Watts credits the bands broadening musical horizons for its diverse sound.

“It’s hard to put your finger on [it], our catalog is all over the place, but there is still a common thread of Honey Hounds running through it,” Watts said.

With the start of 2024, Honey Hounds is currently working on a third full-length album and gearing up to host its annual Honey Island Music Festival on Feb. 24 at the Dutton Island Preserve in Atlantic Beach, Florida.

The band’s new single “Casanovacaine” is available on all streaming platforms. New tour dates will be available on Honey Hounds’s website.



Photo courtesy of @djqinthemix on Instagram

Honey Hounds is a Florida-based band.



Photo courtesy of @honeyhoundmusic on Instagram



Photo courtesy of @yvonnegougelet on Instagram



Photo courtesy of @kicklighter\_photography on Instagram

**Honey Hounds is working on its third album and planning new tour dates.**



Photo courtesy of @fracturesinmymind on Instagram



Photo courtesy of @npiproductions on Instagram



Photo courtesy of @npiproductions on Instagram



Photo courtesy of @settlehem\_ on Instagram



Carol Bennett speaking at the 2023 DEI Gala.

Photo by Molly Burke / The Jambar

# Get glamorous 'One Moment In Time'

By Matt Sotlar  
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will host its second YESS Gala at 6 p.m. on Feb. 10 at Mr. Anthony's Banquet Hall in Boardman.

The YESS Institute, also known as the YSU Enrichment Summer Scholastic Institute, hosts a three-week readiness program every summer for first-generation, low-income and underrepresented students. The YESS Gala fundraises for the program.

Susan Moorer, assistant director for the Office of DEI, said YESS helps incoming students get used to their new surroundings at YSU.

"Incoming freshmen are housed here on campus. They stay in one of the dorms. They have the opportunity to learn about the university. To become acclimated to the university, we introduce them to faculty members, they get to learn about different curriculums," Moorer said.

In addition to providing a readiness program, YESS holds various events geared toward student interaction.

"We incorporate all kinds of cultural and experiential learning experiences for the students. We've taken them on various field trips. We've taken them to the National Museum of African American History ... bowling ... the movies, we've done all types of wonderful trips and experiences with the students," Moorer said.

The YESS Gala was previously known as the DEI Gala. Moorer said the name was changed to focus more on the YESS

Institute.

"We're trying to raise funds just to offset the cost of the [YESS] program because it's expensive to have students stay on campus for three weeks to be able to take them on wonderful experiences, engaging them throughout the community and Youngstown State," Moorer said.

This year's gala theme is One Moment In Time. Before it starts, a social hour will begin at 5 p.m. Moorer said there will be a basket raffle and music provided by The Michael Austin Project.

"During the program, we have sponsors and we'll be recognizing the sponsors. We have a band, which will provide the entertainment ... we will also have a wonderful basket auction. So, [the gala is] an opportunity again for people to get very nice items and be able to engage with each other," Moorer said.

The gala will also feature a tribute to the late Carol Bennett, former provost for the Office of DEI.

According to Moorer, there was a lack of volunteers to work at last year's gala. Moorer said there are enough this year as students and members of the YESS Institute will be volunteering.

"There will be more actually participating in the gala because [YESS Institute members] will be serving as volunteers," Moorer said. "They'll be helping to set up, helping decorate, helping take things down, helping as greeters [and] taking people to their seats."

So far, 272 tickets have been sold for the gala. Moorer estimates there will be over 300 attendees.

Tickets are on sale online until Feb. 2. The event requires formal attire.

# Sudoku

	3	8	4	6		7	2	9
9	2	7				4		6
4	1		7					8
3		1	8		9	2	7	5
2		5	3		7			4
	4	9	2				8	
6		2		3		8		
1	5		6		8			
8			9		4	6	5	1

Easy

				2	5	3	9	
	9	2		8	1			
5	6				7	8		2
9			7			2		6
6	2		9	5	8	4	1	
1						5		
7	3	6	5			1		8
	1				3	9		
	8	9	1	6		7	5	

Medium

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	4		7			6	8	
6	8						1	5
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Hard

7		4	9	5		3		
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				1	8			
	2		4			9		8
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2	7		1	6	9		5	4
	6	8		2		7		
				8				6

Extreme

# The Jambar Column

## Movie ‘Mayhem!’

2024 has an impeccable lineup of movies to be released. Movie fans are going to be spending quite a long time at cinemas each month.

January started the year off strong with titles such as “Mean Girls,” “Mayhem!” and “Sometimes I Think About Dying,” which are a few titles that I was highly anticipating.

“Mean Girls” is a movie remake of the Broadway musical, based on the iconic original 2004 movie. Unfortunately, the movie was lackluster in some parts. The studio severely undercast some characters, starting with Angourie Rice as Cady Heron.

With strong actors and singers like Reneé Rapp as Cady’s antagonist Regina George, you either need to step up to the challenge of playing Cady or just cast someone who can compete at Rapp’s level.

In February, I am mostly looking forward to “Argylle,” “Madame Webb” and “Bob Marley: One Love.” There’s not much that can make me dislike an action and adventure movie that features a cat, so I have high expectations for “Argylle.”

The cat in “Argylle” is named Alfie in the movie, but is actually the real-life cat of supermodel Claudia Vaughn, wife of the movie’s director Matthew Vaughn. I found this interesting detail insanely cute. The cat’s real name is Chip.

March features “Dune: Part Two,” “Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire” and was



Alison Butz

meant to feature the release of “Mickey 17,” but the movie was recently pulled from Warner Brothers’s release calendar, unfortunately.

April, May and June do not have any movie releases that catch my eye and motivate me to watch, but July features two that are highly anticipated for me.

“Deadpool 3” and “Twisters” have been on my watch list since they were confirmed to be in production.

I’m especially excited to see “Twisters,” which will be a continuation of the 1996 movie “Twister.” This movie has been one of my family’s favorites, and it quickly became one of mine. The only thing I hope to see in the sequel is the return of some original cast members.

August is another month where I don’t find any to-be-released films interesting, but September has “Beetlejuice 2” and “Speak No Evil,” which are another two I am highly anticipating. Any Tim Burton movie is set to be a good one, just because I really enjoy his work.

Finishing out the year in December, “Mufasa: The Lion King,” “Karate Kid” and “Nosferatu” are all on my radar. I am really hoping Disney doesn’t overdo the storyline for “The Lion King” because I did not enjoy the live action one at all.

# The Jambar Editorial

## Credit where credit is due

Since his mysterious death by suicide in 2019, Jeffrey Epstein has been a name synonymous with discomfort. This has only grown as court documents have revealed more details about Epstein’s life.

Alongside his crimes and victims, the public’s attention has been caught by Epstein’s association with prominent individuals, whether that be political, economic, cultural or intellectual.

Among those Epstein is believed to have been associated with include Donald Trump, Bill Clinton, Bill Gates, Michael Jackson, Stephen Hawking, actor Kevin Spacey, comedian Chris Tucker, linguist and political analyst Noam Chomsky, magician David Copperfield and presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

These associations have caused the public to speculate whether some of the most prominent individuals in society were involved in any of Epstein’s horrible crimes.

With the case of Prince Andrew of the U.K., testimony has substantiated the claim that he was involved in sexual abuse. Others such as Trump, Clinton, Spacey and Jackson have sexual misconduct allegations unrelated to Epstein.

Of course, with information as incendiary as this revealed, incorrect allegations have also spread.

Aaron Rogers, quarterback for the New York Jets, falsely accused late-night host Jimmy Kimmell of being on Epstein’s flight list in early January.

Fake lists have also spread on social media too, implicating celebrities such as Tom Hanks, Whoopi Goldberg and Barack Obama.

Public speculation is further fueled by the government’s handling of Epstein. Trump’s Labor Secretary, Jim Acosta, resigned amidst scandal in 2019 following the revelations of the plea deal he negotiated with Epstein.

Many have had a hard time coping with knowing their favorite celebrities and politicians were involved with such an insidious man. Others have used the Epstein case to justify any other conspiracy theories they previously believed.

All of this misleading information and opportunism denies credit where credit is due: to the journalists who uncovered Epstein’s sex trafficking network.

The Miami Herald is not as prominent as the New York Times or the Washington Post, but it was the newspaper that led the charge of investigating Epstein.

According to The Miami Herald’s website, reporter Julie Brown spent over a year tracking down more than 60 victims of Epstein and unraveled the extent of his evil crimes. Unlike Infowars host Alex Jones and various other grifters, she hasn’t capitalized off her hard work to make money, sell conspiracy theories or build a reputation or brand.

Brown and The Miami Herald deserve far more credit for uncovering these injustices than they have received or may ever receive.

### Quote of the Week

“I also say it is good to fall, battles are lost in the same spirit in which they are won.”

— Walt Whitman,  
American poet, essayist and journalist

# THE JAMBAR POLICY

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

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

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

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## YSU REWRITES NORSE MYTHOLOGY



Photos by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

Brett Thompson (left), DJ Burns, Ziggy Reid (both top right) and Brandon Rush (bottom right) all finished in double-digits in wins against the Jaguars and Norse.

# Penguins' defense prevails

By Marissa Masano  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team went 2-0 in its recent Horizon League games against Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis and Northern Kentucky University.

The Penguins traveled to Indiana Farmers Coliseum on Jan. 25. With a strong defensive effort, the team defeated the Jaguars, 78-50.

Fifth-year senior DJ Burns recorded his 11th double-double of the season with 16 points and 13 rebounds, while fellow fifth-year senior Ziggy Reid added 16 points. Junior EJ Farmer was the next-highest scorer with 15.

The Penguins never trailed throughout the game as they forced 13 turnovers and blocked 10 shots. Sophomore Imanuel Zorngol accounted for half the team's blocks, with a career-high of five.

YSU entered halftime with a 15-point lead and scored the first 10 points of the second half. The Jaguars surged

on a 12-0 run to get back within nine points, but it was not enough as the Penguins created a 25-point advantage late in the half to secure the victory.

The victory marked the sixth time since joining the Horizon League that Youngstown State allowed 50 points or less in a conference game.

The Penguins returned home to Beeghly Center on Jan. 28 to face Northern Kentucky. YSU defeated the Norse, 82-52, with a solid second-half performance.

Burns recorded his 12th double-double of the season with 11 points and 11 rebounds. Four other Penguins were in double figures. Reid posted 18 points, Farmer posted 12 points and fifth-year seniors Brandon Rush and Brett Thompson recorded 10 points each.

The Penguins had a total of 29 points off the bench compared to the Norse's 17 points.

For Burns, the team is taking form as the intensity of February basketball approaches.

"This team is really becoming its own. Everybody's comfortable in what they do and loves what they do. And as you can see, [that's] what happens when every-

body loves to play their role to an exceptional extent," Burns said.

The Penguin's second half was consistent both offensively and defensively. The Norse could not score for the first five minutes of the second half and were held to just 21 points.

Head coach Jerrod Calhoun said the Penguins are beginning to rely on defense to win games.

"Everything was going to start and end with our defense. That's where we're at with this group, and we talked about it. If we can guard, we can beat anybody in the conference, so I thought we sustained it for the full 40 minutes from start to finish," Calhoun said.

On the offensive side, the Penguins shot 52% as a team and built a 30-point lead with under four minutes to play.

With the victory, Youngstown improves to 8-3 in Horizon League play and 16-6 overall.

The team will travel to the Nutter Center on Feb. 1 to face Wright State University. The televised tipoff is slated for 9 p.m. on ESPNU.

# Track and field breaks two school records

By Madeline Hippeard  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University track and field team sent athletes to four different meets in Boston, Massachusetts; Akron, Ohio and Louisville, Kentucky on Jan. 26 and 27.

In Boston, mid-distance and distance runners participated in the John Thomas Terrier Classic, including senior Hunter Christopher who broke the Youngstown State record in the men's 3000-meter run.

Christopher finished the race with a time of 7:58.37, lowering his previous school record of 8:08.41 by ten seconds.

Graduate student Morgan Cole ran the women's 3000-meter with a career-best time of 9:29.46, just missing the school record of 9:28.30 set in 2012 by a second.

The Penguins also participated in the UMass-Lowell River Hawk Invitational in Boston where fifth-year jumper Jakari Lomax broke the Youngstown State record in the men's triple jump with a leap of 15.74 meters.

Lomax set the previous school record — a jump of 15.52 meters — at the YSU Icebreaker meet in December 2023.

Junior hurdler Luke Laubacher also won an event for the 'Guins at the River Hawk Invitational with a time of 7.81 seconds in the men's 60-meter hurdles.

Sophomore hurdler Harry Barton said many athletes use the indoor track season as a way to get the hang of things before the outdoor season begins.

"I sort of use indoor as a building block for outdoor as there's no 400 hurdles indoors, so it gives me time to work on building my speed and getting my flat 400 and 200 times down as much as possible," Barton said.

The Penguins had athletes participate in 13 events at

the Kent State Doug Raymond Invitational in Akron.

In the shot put, fifth-year thrower Dominic Perry picked up a win for the 'Guins with a throw of 18.30 meters.

Freshman Jenna Razavi earned first place in the women's 3000-meter run with a time of 10:15.56.

The pole vault squad traveled to Louisville where it took part in the PNC Lenny Lyles Invitational.

Freshman Kaitlyn Eger tied for first place with two athletes from The Ohio State University in the unseeded event, clearing the bar with a maximum height of 3.83 meters.

The YSU track and field team will return to action Feb. 2 when it hosts the YSU Mid Major Invitational presented by Southwoods Health in the Watson & Tressel Training Site.

# Women's basketball pushes into February

By Cameron Niemi  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women's basketball team continued its three-game homestand Jan. 24. The Penguins welcomed Northern Kentucky University to Beeghly Center and were defeated by the Norse, 62-56.

The Penguins led by three points at the end of the first quarter. NKU then outscored YSU in the second, 23-9, and went into halftime with a 34-25 lead.

Northern Kentucky came out in the third quarter and extended its lead to 18 points as they capitalized off the 'Guins turnovers. YSU cut the deficit to 13 and went into the final quarter down, 57-44.

Youngstown State climbed back and brought the game within six points, but the Norse finished out the game with a win despite being held to five points by the Penguins. NKU finished the game scoring 21 points off of 17 YSU turnovers.

Interim head coach John Nicolais spoke after the game about the team's loss.

"I thought we would shoot the ball better than what we did tonight. Unfortunately, we didn't," Nicolais said. "We were a little too careless with the basketball early, especially in the first half — way too many turnovers."

YSU ended its homestand against Robert Morris University on Jan. 27. The Penguins secured their fourth conference win of the season by a final score of 71-46.

The 'Guin's jumped out to an early 12-2 lead in the first quarter. The Colonials cut the lead down to six, but the Penguins held the 16-10 lead heading into the second quarter.

YSU continued to play stout defense in the second

quarter as the Penguins held RMU to just six points and went into halftime with a 31-16 lead. Fifth-year senior Emily Saunders had 13 points at the break for the Penguins.

By the third quarter, the Penguins pulled away to extend their lead to 18 points before heading into the final quarter with a 50-32 lead.

In the fourth quarter, YSU went on a 13-point scoring run and held the Colonials to just six points.

Senior Malia Magestro finished the game with 20 points and led the team with four steals. Saunders finished the game with 23 points, four blocks and five rebounds. Junior Haley Thierry led the team with 11 rebounds, a career-high.

Magestro credited the team's defense for getting the offense going.

"Our offense stemmed from our defense today. We tried some new things on defense, and it worked for us. I really think we got a lot of really good looks because of our defense," Magestro said.

The Penguins hit the road Jan. 31 to play Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. YSU fell to the Jaguars by a final of 69-63.

Despite the loss, Magestro made her 150th career 3-pointer and joined three other teammates who have reached that mark this season.

YSU moves to 8-14 on the season and 4-8 in the Horizon League with eight games remaining in the regular season.

Youngstown State will return home to host the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee at noon on Feb 3. To watch the game, visit ESPN+ or listen on 570 WKBN.



Photo by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

The women's basketball team celebrates a win.

# Three sets to love

By Dylan Lux  
The Jambar

Kody Duncan was named head coach of the Youngstown State University men's tennis team Oct. 16, 2023. In the team's three matches so far this season, the first-year coach is 3-0 — a perfect start.

Through three straight matches at the YSU Indoor Tennis Center, the team has accumulated wins against Binghamton University, Butler University and Georgetown University.

Duncan was the men's and women's tennis head coach at Division II Edinboro University for seven years before moving to Youngstown State. He led the Fighting Scots to a 24-3 record in Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference matches.

YSU's opening match of the season came Jan. 20 against Binghamton with a clean sweep against the Bearcats.

The team won the doubles point with victories from the team of freshman Onder Balci and sophomore Nishant Dabas, 6-4, and the duo of junior Harry Fouzas and senior David Alvarez Moreno, 6-4.

Out of the six singles matches, four Penguins won in straight sets. Juniors Nathan Favier and William Rassat, Dabas and Fouzas were victorious in two sets. Junior Clement Mainguy and Balci took their matchups to a third set where they both pulled out victories.

Day Two saw the Bulldogs run into town as YSU faced Butler on Jan. 26. Another win for the Penguins ensued, 4-1.

After going down early from losing the doubles point, Youngstown State won four singles matches. In order of finish: Fouzas, Balci, Favier and Dabas all picked up wins to help lead YSU to a 2-0 start this season. Mainguy and Rassat's matches were called early and remained unfinished.

Looking to start the year off with three straight wins, the 'Guins next matchup was against the Georgetown Hoyas on

Jan. 28.

The duos of Favier and Rassat alongside Alvarez Moreno and Fouzas took home the doubles point in a crucial matchup.

Balci and Alvarez Moreno started off with singles wins for the 'Guins, taking each of their matches in two sets.

Favier fell to Georgetown junior Jake Fellows in two sets, making the overall score 3-1.

With just one more win needed to clinch the matchup, Dabas finished his match in a third set, 6-2, to secure a third victory in a row for YSU.

Fouzas's match also ended up in a third set, which was first to ten points. Fouzas swept his opponent, 10-0, helping lead the Penguins to a 5-2 victory.

Favier stated he is excited about the start of a win streak and credits the victories to the team's effort throughout the offseason.

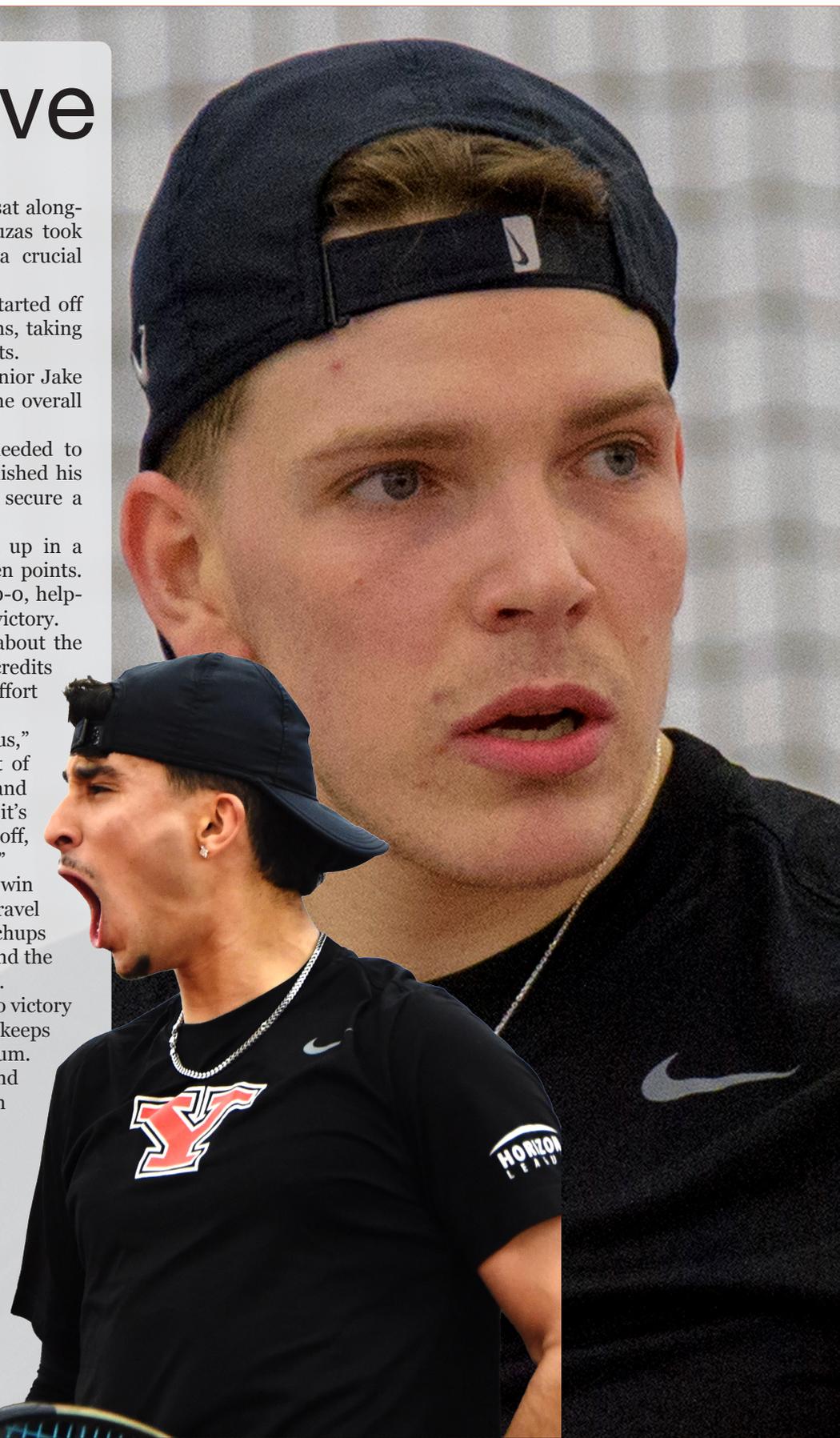
"It's an awesome start for us," Favier stated. "It is the result of hard work during the fall and beginning of the spring, and it's great to see that it is paying off, even if it is only the beginning."

Looking to extend the win streak, Youngstown State will travel to Omaha, Nebraska for matchups against Creighton University and the University of Nebraska Omaha.

Favier talked about the key to victory on the road and how the team keeps its energy in an opposing stadium.

"The key for us this weekend is to keep going with the high energy and the momentum we got, but it is also to keep our feet on the ground and understand that nothing will be given to us and we have to go get it again," Favier stated.

Matchday against the Creighton Blue Jays begins at 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 2, and the Penguins will face the Mavericks of Omaha at 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 3.



Nathan Favier prepares for an upcoming set against Georgetown opponent. INSET: Harry Fouzas celebrates a point against Georgetown.