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Thursday, October 3, 2024

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FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS



Freedom of speech is a fundamental right under the First Amendment.

Photo courtesy of The Jambar Archives.

Freedom of speech in college

By Tala Alsharif and Madison Fessler
Jambar Contributors

Freedom of speech has been a controversial topic on college campuses with conversations surrounding hate speech and what content should be allowed on university-monitored apps.

Zach Greenberg, a First Amendment attorney at the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, defines free speech as the ability to express oneself on a wide variety of issues.

"It's not just our words, it's our expression that includes the clothes we wear, the events we go to, the

God we worship or not worship," Greenberg said. "[It's] truly a wide array of ways we can get a message across, the ability to speak our minds and say how we feel."

FIRE is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to defending free speech nationwide.

According to the FIRE website, hate speech is protected under the First Amendment and cannot be legally punished by the government.

Greenberg said there are exceptions to this law.

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11th annual event returns an old tradition

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

The 11th annual Fall Fire Fest at Youngstown State University starts today from 7:30–10:30 p.m. at the M71 lot and will feature live music, a homecoming rally and food trucks.

The event officially kickoffs Homecoming festivities, leading up to the YSU football game at 2 p.m. Oct. 5 against Indiana State University.

Organized by Penguin Productions, the yearly festival offers a way for students to connect with various student organizations, meet the homecoming court and learn more about athletes across several campus sports.

Ally Wright, a senior anthropology major and event lead for Penguin Productions, said the planning process for Fall Fire Fest starts in the summer and a lot goes into the overall preparation for the event.

"There is just so many different teams that I oversee. It's a lot of work but it's very interesting to see all of the different people get involved on campus [with Fall Fire Fest]," Wright said.

Activities such as face painting, making caramel apples and fencing will be present at this year's Fall Fire Fest. Clubs and associations including Student Government Association and Pro-Choice Penguins are just a few of the organizations that will be in attendance.

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STAFF**EDITOR IN CHIEF**[John Ostapowicz](#)jfostapowicz@student.ysu.edu**MANAGING EDITOR**[Raeghan Hilton](#)rihilton@student.ysu.edu**NEWS EDITOR**[Matthew Sotlar](#)mjsotlar@student.ysu.edu**SPORTS EDITOR**[Dylan Lux](#)dilux@student.ysu.edu**ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR**[Marissa Masano](#)mamasano@student.ysu.edu**SPORTS REPORTERS**[Joel Fuzo](#)jefuzo@student.ysu.edu[Teziah Howard](#)tahoward@student.ysu.edu[Kevin Skolny](#)kmskolny@student.ysu.edu**GENERAL REPORTERS**[Annabelle Boone](#)alboone02@student.ysu.edu[Sydney Fairbanks](#)sefairbanks@student.ysu.edu[Nicarlyle Hanchard](#)nvhanchard@student.ysu.edu**HEAD COPY EDITOR**[Hannah Werle](#)hewerle@student.ysu.edu**ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR**[Katelyn Obermeyer](#)kmobermeyer01@student.ysu.edu**VOLUNTEER COPY EDITOR**[Maria Schwartz](#)meschwartz01@student.ysu.edu**HEAD DESIGNER**[Madison Fessler](#)mrfessler@student.ysu.edu**ASSISTANT DESIGNER**[Kristina Tufaro](#)krtufaro@student.ysu.edu**COLUMNISTS**[Madison Fessler](#)mrfessler@student.ysu.edu[Nicarlyle Hanchard](#)nvhanchard@student.ysu.edu[Aicha Sawaneh](#)aasawaneh@student.ysu.edu[Matthew Sotlar](#)mjsotlar@student.ysu.edu**WEB MANAGER**[Mohammad Haram Kafil](#)mkafil@student.ysu.edu**ASSISTANT WEB MANAGER**[Ari Butz](#)albutz01@student.ysu.edu**SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER**[Gavin Blacksher](#)gblacksher@student.ysu.edu**BUSINESS MANAGER**[Mary Dota](#)mfdota@ysu.edu**Freedom of speech**

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“Under the First Amendment, hateful and offensive speech remains protected unless it rises to a level of unprotected speech, such as a true threat, discriminatory harassment, or obscenity,” Greenberg said.

True threats, as defined by Greenberg, is speech considered to be a serious intent to commit unlawful violence.

Discriminatory harassment is defined as speech with a course of conduct so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive, that it could prevent a student from obtaining their education.

Greenberg said the categories of which speech can be lawfully censored are narrow in order to protect the freedom of speech.

“These categories are the way they are because you want to protect the vast majority of speech out there that may be offensive or hateful,” Greenberg said. “You want to use more speech and more education, instead of punishment and violence to address the hate in our society.”

Youngstown State University President Bill Johnson said hate speech incites violence.

“That’s when it begins to cross the line, when you’re demonizing someone because of their beliefs,” Johnson said.

FIRE ranks schools’ free speech policies based on a green, yellow and red spotlight system.

Green light schools have clearly stated policies protecting student free speech, meanwhile red light schools have policies substantially disrupting students’ right to free speech.

YSU falls under the yellow spotlight.

Greenberg said the yellow light schools have policies that could suppress students’ free speech because of their policies’ vague wording and limitations of speech in certain areas.

“Students [might not] know what speech is allowed and what speech is not allowed and that may cause them to self-censor and that’s bad for free speech,” Greenberg said.

Johnson said he oversees the university’s policies and believes they protect students’ rights.

“Our policies reaffirm [freedom of speech for students] that’s not going to change,” Johnson said.

Every year, FIRE conducts a survey gauging students’ knowledge about their rights to free speech.

“It turns out many students do not know their rights. They’re not aware of the full extent of their rights under the First Amendment. They’re unaware about the protections for hateful speech and the prohibitions on shouting down speakers and engaging in true threats,” Greenberg said.

While hate speech is protected under the First Amendment, Greenberg said universities have an obligation to protect students’ rights, but also to protect students as a whole.

“If there’s an issue of students being threatened, being harassed or obviously physical conduct assaults, the university has to step in and address that to protect free speech. You can’t have a conversation with someone threatening you,” Greenberg said.

These protections also include university apps. Greenberg said these apps and discussions included in them are considered public forums.

“The legal doctrine essentially states that when the university of the government opens up this area for discussion it has to let it remain open. It can’t put restrictions based on the content or viewpoint,” Greenberg said.

Students who believe their rights of free speech have been violated can contact FIRE to submit a case.



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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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

High: 75°F	High: 79°F	High: 68°F	High: 70°F	High: 63°F	High: 64°F	High: 62°F
Low: 51°F	Low: 53°F	Low: 45°F	Low: 48°F	Low: 46°F	Low: 44°F	Low: 41°F
Chance of precip: 8%	Chance of precip: 22%	Chance of precip: 9%	Chance of precip: 11%	Chance of precip: 58%	Chance of precip: 55%	Chance of precip: 58%



Partly Cloudy



Partly Cloudy



Partly Cloudy



A Few Clouds



Rain



Mostly Cloudy



Rain

Information courtesy of accuweather.com

Striving for a thriving community

By Matthew Sotlar
The Jambar

Thrive 10:10 is a local nonprofit organization that serves the greater Youngstown community.

Founded in 2021, Thrive 10:10 has a simple mission statement, “Relief, recovery and restoration through relationships and education.” Located in Girard, Thrive 10:10 strives to help families by providing clothing, toiletries and mental health aid.

Operations Director Meghan DeGregory said Thrive 10:10 began as a church organization before expanding into Thrive 10:10

“Thrive 10:10 is a way for us to honor the roots of the first program that we had, Ruth’s Boutique,” DeGregory said. “It started at Girard First United Methodist Church ... although we are not a church program anymore, we wanted to honor where our roots were.”

Ruth’s Boutique dates back to 2019. The program offers necessities such as clothing and personal items, though DeGregory said they have added other items.

“What we’ve seen that as people begin to come to Ruth’s Boutique and receive things like shampoo, basic hygiene supplies, but we’ve also expanded out into things that people really like to have as well. We have some jewelry, we have toys and puzzles for the kids,” DeGregory said.

DeGregory added that expanding inventory helps people feel more comfortable shopping.

“We have found that as we do that, it helps reinforce someone’s dignity,” DeGregory said. “You come in, you’re able to shop for free for items that you want that really meet your needs but also your individualities.”

In addition to Ruth’s Boutique, Thrive 10:10 offers a financial literacy course, Get-

ting Ahead in a Just Gettin’ By World. DeGregory said this program helps others become more self-aware of their finances.

“That’s a 16-week class that talks to people not only about financial literacy, but also about what our resources are, what our strengths are, how to leverage those, and as people go through that process, then they can mentor people who are coming into our next Getting Ahead class,” DeGregory said.

Thrive 10:10 also provides Mental Health First Aid. DeGregory said that while mental health can be a difficult subject for some, it is important to spread awareness.

“We provide Mental Health First Aid classes ... which allows everyone to feel as though they can talk about things that most people don’t talk about. There’s so much stigma around mental health. Many people don’t want to talk about it,” DeGregory said.

DeGregory said Thrive 10:10 always accepts donations.

“We definitely appreciate donations,” DeGregory said. “We do have a partnership with Project MKC which provides a lot of our diapers and feminine hygiene products. But as far as the shampoo, the men’s products, all those kinds of things, many times are donated.”

Thrive 10:10 also holds pop-up sites to provide either food or a mobile Ruth’s Boutique.

“We seem to have really established some good relationships,” DeGregory said. “We go regularly to Easterseals, several Trumbull Metropolitan Housing Authority buildings, and we also go regularly to Healthnetwork [Foundation] on the northside of Youngstown.”

Those interested in learning more or volunteering for Thrive 10:10 can visit their website, thriveneighbors.org.



Thrive 10:10 welcomes donations to Ruth’s Boutique.



Photos by Matthew Sotlar / The Jambar

Fall Fire Fest

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Live entertainment will be provided by Yacobucci and Madame Marlowe, who are set to play the festival. Both artists played at Federal Frenzy in 2024, but Yacobucci's musical set was canceled because of inclement weather, which prompted his return to YSU.

This year's Fall Fire Fest will also prompt the return

of a YSU tradition, which Wright said will surprise those in attendance.

"It's going to be towards the end of the night," Wright said. "It's very under wraps, very secretive, but it's a very well-loved tradition by YSU."

Erin Driscoll, YSU's executive director of Student Experience and Residence Life, said the new tradition will combine elements from both Welcome Week and Homecoming festivities.

"For the folks that really show their Penguin spirit, they might have some penguin pride to take home with them that day," Driscoll said. "You might be a lucky Penguin, who goes home with a Penguin."

When Fall Fire Fest concludes, Penguin Productions will be preparing for Federal Frenzy 2025.

The event is located on 351 Grant St. at the M71 lot adjacent to the campus McDonald's. Fall Fire Fest is free and open to the public.



This year's Fall Fire Fest will take place in the M71 lot.

Penguin City Brewing Co. events

Sunday Oct. 5	Tuesday Oct. 8	Every Thursday	Saturday Oct. 19	Saturday Oct. 26
Brunch Party with BYOB 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Tokoyo Tuesday by Bartell 4-6 p.m.	Thirsty Thursday Karaoke hosted by DJ Spruce 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.	Rocky Horror Picture Show 7 p.m.	Country Line Dance Night 7:30 p.m.
Build your own breakfast. Family friendly with breakfast cocktails, mocktails and a coffee bar by Stone Fruit	Hibachi from Bartell. Doors open at 4 p.m. with games. Happy Hour 4-6 p.m.	Drink and shot specials available	\$5 Admission, Doors open at 7 p.m. and show starts at 8 p.m. Showing the 1976 Rocky Horror Picture Show with audience participation. All proceeds from the show will go to Rebel Rescue Ranch.	\$5 Admission fee. Country Line Dance Halloween Party. Lessons by Patti, all skill levels welcome. Music by DJ Spruce or DJ Daum.



Photos by Dylan Lux / The Jambar.

Looking back at Kilcawley



Archive photos of Kilcawley in the '70s.



Photos courtesy of Maag Archives

By **Nicholas Bianco and Raeghan Hilton**
Jambar Contributors

Since its dedication in 1966, Youngstown State University's Kilcawley Center has served as an area for students to lounge, study, eat and participate in recreational games and activities.

Construction of the Kilcawley Center began in 1960 after a \$300,000 donation made by William H. Kilcawley and his wife Mattie Kilcawley, whom the center is named after.

Cassie Nespor, curator for the University Archives and the Rose Melnick Medical Museum, said former YSU students requested a student center to be constructed.

"Students needed a place on campus where they could meet and socialize, have meetings for student groups and find food," Nespor said.

Lisa Garofali, archives and records management specialist for YSU Archives and Special Collections, said the idea of building a student union began in the 1950s.

"We just had a growth of student population. We wanted the student life," Garofali said.

Nespor said Kilcawley Center changed the atmosphere of YSU, as social spaces were added for students to stay on campus longer.

"It dramatically changed the feel of campus and the student experience," Nespor said.

From the 1970s to 1990s, YSU was the home of a bar known as The Pub.

"The Pub is something that students today probably don't know about, but they did serve beer down in the bottom level of Kilcawley, where The Hub is now," Nespor said. "It was a place for students to go and hang out, either in between classes or afterward.

According to Nespor, actor and comedian Ed O'Neil worked as manager of The Pub for a short time.

Garofali said The Pub was a memorable place for YSU alumni.

"It's kind of sad we don't really have anything like that on campus anymore," Garofali said.

YSU alumni Scott Schulick said The Pub featured entertainment for students

"There might be a comedian, music or some sort of contest," Schulick said. "Periodically there were activities."

YSU President Bill Johnson's installation ceremony was the first to take place in Kilcawley Center. Nespor said previous installations have taken place in Stambaugh Auditorium and Beeghly Center.

Kilcawley Center has hosted the YSU English Festival since its founding in 1978. Other events such as History Day and math and science competitions have been hosted at Kilcawley Center.

"It's a great way for the community to come on campus and use space," Nespor said.

According to Nespor, Wicker Basket and Sbarro Pizza were notable restaurants located in Kilcawley Center. Wicker Basket was located where Chick-fil-A is now.

"A very different vibe than what's in Kilcawley Center now, [a] very different energy compared to Chick-fil-A," Nespor said.

Schulick said Wicker Basket was a nice sit-down restaurant on campus where faculty would have meetings.

"I had a lot of lunch meetings there. It was a little more of a sit-down restaurant with table service and it was fun," Schulick said.

According to Nespor, an art gallery was located in Kilcawley Center before there were art museums on campus.

"It was a place for student work to be displayed, but also [for] other works to be brought in such as traveling exhibits," Nespor said.

Despite the various changes in restaurants over the years, Kilcawley Center still remains an area for student involvement.

New coach set to lead Penguins to new horizons

By **Tim Corso**
Jambar Contributor

The Youngstown State University baseball team named Trevor Charpie as the 10th head coach in program history.

Charpie officially became the new coach of the program June 28. The move came 34 days after the conclusion of the Penguins' Horizon League runner-up finish.

He was elevated from former head coach Dan Bertolini's staff, where Charpie served as the 2023-24 pitching coach for Youngstown State.

Normally, universities will look externally in the hiring process for a new coach before promoting a coach internally. However, Ron Strollo, executive director of Intercollegiate Athletics said that wasn't the only factor that led to the hire.

"As we talked to people and as we continued to talk to our student-athletes and the baseball community [alumni], it became clear that [Charpie] was the right answer for the program," Strollo said.

Charpie began his playing career at the University of Tennessee in 2013, where he saw significant innings out of the Volunteers' bullpen.

Following a two-year stint in Knoxville, Tennessee, he transferred to the University of Nevada and became a mainstay in the Wolfpack rotation. Charpie pitched 171 innings across two seasons while going 8-11 with a 4.58 earned run average.

After college, Charpie played Major League Baseball in 2017 for the Tampa Bay Rays, where he spent three seasons before spending three more with the Joliet Slammers of the Frontier League.

Charpie's strong relationship with the players, as well as his journey, were factors that helped solidify him as the Penguins' next head coach.

"Clearly his playing career in college and in the pros stood out to us. He's been around a lot of good baseball coaches. He's learned a lot," Strollo said.

Charpie brought in three coaches compared to last year's two. He said the hiring of another coach will help give the program an edge and add a plethora of professional baseball experience.

"I tried to get really good people around me. I tried to bring in baseball minds. We're in a position that we can coach at every level and we have a ton of playing experience and we're just ready to kind of take on whatever comes our way," Charpie said.

Charpie hired new staff that catered to the culture of the program, such as assistant baseball coaches Will Maddox, Dylan Moser and Rodney Lopez. He rounded out the staff with Evan Johnson as the head of player development.

Charpie and his staff brought in 24 new faces to go along with 25 returnees, including 15 transfers and nine freshmen.

Six players from the 2023-24 season departed Youngstown State.

Junior Matt Thompson and sophomore Alejandro Covas transferred to Kent State University. Redshirt freshman Derrick Tarpley Jr. transferred to the University of Pittsburgh, while senior Ian Francis transferred to the University of Kansas and senior RJ Sherwood transferred to North Alabama University.

Trey Law, the only Penguin in program history to record consecutive 80-hit seasons, signed with the Milwaukee Milkmen.

To complement a new lineup, Youngstown State returns a rotation that includes senior Jacob Gehring, redshirt junior Brandon Mikos, junior Sloan Ulrich, and junior Braden Gebhardt.

Gebhardt, a local player from Howland, was used as a starter and long-relief role for Youngstown State. Gebhardt

was a notable name that withdrew from the transfer portal once Charpie was announced as the new leader of the Penguins.

"Last year, a lot of us created a good relationship with [Charpie] and he really knew what he was doing and really inspired a lot of us as well," Gebhardt said. "I think him being signed as the head coach really brought me back to Youngstown."

The Penguins' program will look for their second winning season since 2005 as they begin practices in preparation for the spring campaign.



Photo courtesy of Bryson Chavez

Trevor Charpie as new baseball head coach.

It's swim time

By **Nicarlyle Hanchard**
The Jambar

Normally home to Youngstown State University's men's and women's swimming and diving teams, the Beeghly Natatorium hosts this semester's Open Swim.

The natatorium is located on the main floor of the Beeghly Center in room 226. Since 2018, the Open Swim program has been conducted by the YSU Athletic Department.

Open Swim is hosted from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Matt Rollins, assistant athletic director for facilities, said Open Swim offers members of the YSU community with a valid YSU identification card the option to swim in the natatorium for free.

"Open swim is open to all current faculty, staff, and students with a valid Y Card," Rollins said. "This program gives them the opportunity to swim for free throughout the semester."

YSU students and faculty are allowed to take a maximum of four non-YSU students during their session. Though not necessary, it is recommended that the accompanying guests have prior swim experience.

Rollins said the program is open to all individuals of different swimming levels — beginner and intermediate.

"We have certified lifeguards [who are] YSU students at the pool during those hours to cover all levels of swimming capabilities," Rollins said.

Students are advised that the deepest end of the pool is 16 feet deep, while the shallow end is roughly 5 feet.

Soma Albert, YSU swimmer and lifeguard at Beeghly Natatorium said he has friends who were unaware of the program and the facility.

"I have classmates who didn't know, as sophomores and juniors, that we have a swimming pool," Albert

said. "They were really pleased to hear that we do. To come in and have the opportunity to swim here as a student, basically for free."

Rollins said Open Swim gives members of the YSU community, who like swimming, the ability to socialize with others who share the same interests.

"The swimming community is large and diverse. Those who participate in Open Swim, typically love to be in the water and they are able to build connections with others who share the same passion," Rollins said.

Albert also said that the program and facility serve as a space for friends to interact.

"It's a good place to hang out. We have friends and friend groups coming in all the time. So, it's a nice place," Albert said.

Those interested in participating in Open Swim must present a student ID to the lifeguards on duty before swimming. There is no need to reserve a spot before attending.

Open Swim does not offer swimming lessons.

Fostering friendships for miles

By Molly Burke and Sydney Fairbanks
Jambar Contributors

Taking classes at Youngstown State University is just a small part of Livia Laudermilt's path to becoming an educator.

An integrated language arts major, she aims to get work experience outside the classroom.

"I'm going to be a teacher. Working with students is something I've always wanted to do," Laudermilt said.

That's why she spends hours each semester writing to local elementary school students in the Sokolov Honors College's Dr. Rashid Abdu Pen Pals Program.

"We partner with local schools and we encourage literacy skills, as well as fostering relationships with the YSU students and local elementary students," Laudermilt said. "Our YSU students write biweekly to the local schools."

Laudermilt joined the program her freshman year. Now a junior, she leads the program as the pen pal coordinator. Journals are passed between YSU students and the elementary students twice a month.

"When they write to the students, they just say, 'What's going on in your week?' [and] 'What's your favorite color?'" Laudermilt said.

Abdu, a retired surgeon, started the program in 2012 when he was tutoring at Harding Elementary School in Warren. Abdu learned of a pen pal program at Ohio State University and was inspired to open one at YSU.

"I thought by connecting the two, the honors students would become an inspiration and role models for those little kids and would hopefully give them a different perspective on life, on learning and even some hope," Abdu said.

In collaboration with Honors College Dean Amy Cosentino, the program began with 40 fourth graders at Harding.

Today, it has about 300 students in second through fifth grade across Harding, Prospect Elementary School in Girard and E.J. Blott Elementary School in Liberty. About 160 honors students have each been assigned up to four pen pals.

"The teachers — they were reporting that students' spelling was better, they were reading better, their absenteeism was lowered and they would get so excited when they would get to hear from their pen pals," Cosentino said.

Abdu said having a pen pal is especially important for low-income students who need someone to encourage them.

"I was reading a journal, and this little girl wrote to her honors girl and said 'When I grow up I want to become a surgeon,'" Abdu said. "Her contact with this honors student inspired her to have visions of what she could become. The honors student told her 'Yes, you can,' and that's what all those kids need."

Senior math major Natalie Dando has also been in the program since her freshman year. She served as the pen

pal coordinator for two years.

"Every year, I've had two pen pals, and I really like connecting with my students," Dando said. "Some of the years, I've had students who are really into math and they tell me they want to go into college for math."

For Dando and many honors students, being a pen pal means much more than logging volunteer hours.

"It is one of my favorite volunteer opportunities," Dando said. "Many YSU students say it's a really nice study break, it's the highlight of their week sometimes. Little kids — you never know what they're going to write. So, it's always very amusing building that bond."

The program doesn't currently offer opportunities for the elementary school students to meet their pen pals in person, but last year, the program put on a day of fun for the elementary school students at OH WOW! The Roger & Gloria Jones Children's Center for Science and Technology.

As an honors student employee, Laudermilt was able to attend and meet one of her pen pals.

"He really didn't know who I was, but I got to see him interact with everyone," Laudermilt said. "It just made total sense of everything that he was saying in his journal kind of carried over to his actual life."

Laudermilt hopes the program eventually incorporates opportunities for all the pen pals to meet face to face.

Honors students interested in joining the program can email Laudermilt at lrlaudermilt@student.ysu.edu.



Honors students come to Fok Hall to write in their pen pal journals.



Photos by Molly Burke / Jambar Contributor

The internet's science guy



Hank Green's visit to YSU included a student Q&A session.

Photos by Aicha Sawaneh / The Jambar

By Madison Fessler
The Jambar

Hank Green, a content creator, kicked off the Skeggs Lecture Series on Sept. 26 at Stambaugh Auditorium.

Green's lecture focused primarily on the internet, delving into surrounding topics like content, social media, various platforms and the internet's inner workings.

"How this sort of interface between all of our decisions and then the ways that they try to control us," Green said. "Also my role that I play in that, which is that I'm sort of trying to control you by making you watch science content."

Green said he picked this topic as it's his true area of expertise and only dabbles in other areas of interest which he includes in his videos.

"[The internet is something] that I really understand more than almost anyone is how media is changing and how people who create content and how people who consume content and the platforms that host that content are all interacting to create kind of a new world," Green said.

Green said he started this journey on the internet because his older brother, John Green, was passionate about creating content on YouTube. Hank Green's obsession with subculture played into his love of content creation.

"As all of these new content platforms come up, there's always new cultures inside of them, new genres being created, new communities being created and I just love to get my fingers into that. It's so interesting," Green said.

The Green brothers had several conversations around what kind of content to produce, ultimately deciding to lean educational after receiving a grant from YouTube. They enjoyed making educational content, however the effort required to create it outweighed what the brothers could do by themselves.

Before Hank Green's lecture, students were invited to have a Q&A session with him. Questions ranged from his opinion on certain platforms to his favorite research topics.

Green said being influential to younger generations gives him a pressure to be a good person.

"My biggest fear is ruining myself for people," Green said. "Like making some mistake or having some opinion where people go 'Oh, I thought he was a good one and I don't think he's a good one anymore.'"

Green started posting videos on YouTube when he was 27-years-old and already married. He attributes these things as to why he doesn't make big mistakes.

"I do think that [himself and John] have always tried to be more careful than the average YouTuber and also when we first started, it wasn't a high status enterprise the way that it is now," Green said. "We come from [the beginning] era of YouTube, it doesn't feel like it would make any sense to do something that is bad in order to gain an audience."

Green said he used mistakes he didn't want to make, and had seen others make, as plot points for his books.

"People have made themselves miserable because they're not actually working. They're not pushing for happiness, they're pushing for status and attention," Green said.

During the student session and his lecture, Green emphasized his love of learning. He stressed that with learning comes the hardship of understanding.

"It's got to be a little bit hard for me to learn stuff. Otherwise, I don't have any empathy for all the people I'm helping learn stuff," Green said.

Homecoming fun and floats

By AnnaBelle Boone
The Jambar

Homecoming is a timeless tradition that sets campus on fire with fun activities and new ways for students to connect with one another.

Activities kickoff with Fall Fire Fest today at 7:30 p.m. in Youngstown State University's M71 lot. There will be live music, food vendors and a homecoming pep rally around a bonfire.

Students can attend the Red & White Day Carnival on Friday at the YSU Foundation Heritage Park, which includes carnival games and balloon sculptures. Also, YSU will host the Silent Disco from 6–9 p.m. Friday in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center.

Oct. 4 is also the opening day for "On the Verge" in Ford Theater at Bliss Hall. "On the Verge" centers on three explorers as they journey through uncharted lands.

At noon, Oct. 5, the YSU Homecoming parade begins on Fifth Avenue. It will feature floats prepared by student organizations, the YSU Marching Pride and more.

Capping off festivities is the Homecoming game. At halftime, Homecoming Royalty will be crowned.

Another main attraction of Homecoming is the parade. Spectators line Fifth Avenue to watch the floats as people come down the route.

Members of Zeta Tau Alpha and Theta Chi worked together to build one of the floats that will be in the Homecoming parade.

Gianna Howe, director of activities for ZTA, is in charge of planning and organizing its float for homecoming.

"Our theme is 'Pete and Penny have disco fever.' I was thinking like a John Travolta kind of vibe, since our overall theme is peace, love and penguins." Howe said. "There's a lot of manual labor. Right now we are pumping, which is stuffing like tissue paper through holes. It's very time consuming."

ZTA began its collaboration with the fraternity a few weeks earlier. Lucas Ulbricht is in his second year at YSU and said he recounted the early stages of float planning.

"We've been planning it for about two months," said Ulbricht. "We just started working on it about two weeks ago."

Meghan Crump, philanthropy chair for ZTA, said the creation of the float has brought the sorority closer together.

"Being a part of [ZTA], and getting to have homecoming with them, was really special for me," Crump said. "It's how a lot of us got close and got to meet a lot of the girls that we're now sisters with."

Karlos Giuidezan, vice president of Health and Safety of Theta Chi, said the fraternity members also became closer because of the float's construction.

"We've gone through a lot of hills and bumps along the way, so it's really brought us together. Building this float has taken time, so spending time with each other is always good," Giuidezan said.



Members of Zeta pictured working on the float

Photo by AnnaBelle Boone / The Jambar

Homecoming Calendar

Thursday Oct. 3	Friday Oct. 4	Saturday Oct. 5
<p>All Day: Homecoming Scavenger Hunt with SGA</p> <p>7:30-10:30 p.m.: Fall Fire Fest in the M71 lot</p>	<p>All Day: YSU apparel day</p> <p>11 a.m.-2 p.m.: Red & White Day Carnival</p> <p>11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: Build-a-Penguin Lottery</p> <p>12:30 p.m.: Build-a-Penguin walk up</p> <p>3-5 p.m.: International Coffee Hour</p> <p>6-9 p.m.: Silent Disco in the Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center</p>	<p>12 p.m.: Homecoming Parade starts on Fifth Avenue</p> <p>2 p.m.: Homecoming Football Game vs. Indiana State University</p>

Youngstown restaurants face mixed results



Local businesses offer discounts to YSU students.



Photos by Keon Edington / Jambar Contributor.

By Keon Edington
Jambar Contributor

Although Youngstown restaurants have gone through recent struggles to attract crowds, the return of Youngstown State University students has improved its sales.

With the fall semester underway, off-campus restaurants such as Avalon Downtown Pizza and Yosteria have seen a surge in sales mostly during YSU sporting events.

The Octave Live Music Café & Event Center, a local business in downtown Youngstown, has yet to see the increase in students according to General Manager Tony McBride.

“The Octave has yet to see an increase with fall semester back in session,” McBride said.

In addition to serving food, the venue offers live music from 7–10 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

In an effort to attract more Youngstown State students, the Octave plays various types of music that appeals to everyone.

“We like to have all different genres of music so there’s something for everyone,” McBride said. “Some of the music that you can expect to hear at the Octave varies from jazz, blues, R&B, country and a little funk too.”

The Octave also hopes to draw in more YSU patrons, with the addition of student specials, coming in October.

However, the Realty Tower explosion that happened in May was a blow to all downtown establishments as it restricted customers from coming in.

Avalon owner Anne Massullo-Sabella said the rise in customers is seen partially during YSU sporting events.

“[Sporting events] does bring in customers. We are a sponsor of YSU’s Athletic Department,” Sabella said. “Pizza and football are synonyms. That led us into both football and basketball, along with the [Watson and Tressel Training Site] one just kinda played off the other.”

Avalon’s menu includes pizza, pasta, salad and dessert as well as a 10% discount for all YSU students.

Another restaurant located east of the University Courtyard Apartments is Yosteria, which serves regional Italian food and wine for customers over 21.

Alex Zordich, owner of Yosteria, said the restaurant started as a privately owned business but over time grew to become open to the public in 2019, Wednesday through Saturday.

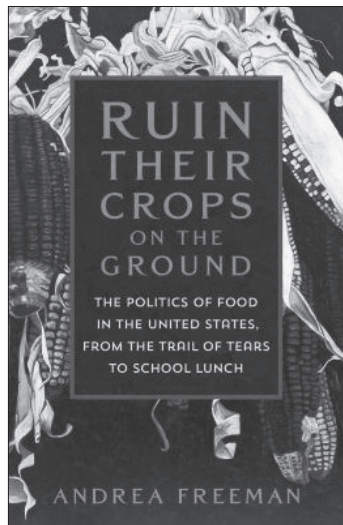
Zordich stated that nearby students shied away from Yosteria because of its private gatherings.

“The students are starting to realize [Yosteria] is theirs too. We definitely embrace them,” Zordich said.

Along with Avalon, Yosteria has seen a customer boost during YSU sporting events. “We’ve noticed a lot of people coming before or after the game and we love it,” Zordich said.

With Homecoming taking place Oct. 5, all businesses will be open and offering discounts for YSU students.

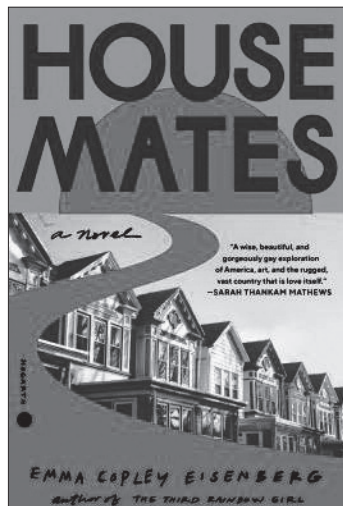
Penguin Book Nook with The Public Library



Nonfiction review

Ruin Their Crops on the Ground: The Politics of Food in the United States, from the Trail of Tears to School Lunch
by Andrea Freeman

Freeman outlines a concise history of the weaponization and commodification of food by the United States government, specifically its use against marginalized communities, resulting in the exacerbation of health issues and objectified access to quality food.



Fiction review

Housemates
by Emma Copley Eisenberg

Leah and her new housemate Bernie embark on a road trip to rural Pennsylvania to collect an inheritance from Bernie's former photography professor. They decide to use the road trip to explore and try to capture the beauty in the mundane through Leah's writing and Bernie's photography. Through their journey, they grapple with the relationships they have with their own art, themselves, each other, and the wider world around them. Recommended for adults interested in art and coming-of-age stories.

Upcoming programs

Monday, Oct. 14
11 a.m.

Mystery Monday Book Club

Tuesday, Oct. 15
6 p.m.

Relaxing Watercolor

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

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

Have something to say to The Jambar?

Write a Letter to the Editor!

Email The Jambar at

thejambar@gmail.com

The Jambar Column

Time for REO to fly

Last semester, I broke the unfortunate news that Daryl Hall and John Oates were parting ways after 54 years together. While I hate to be the bearer of bad news — again — I must inform you all that after 57 years together, REO Speedwagon will be disbanding.

Speedwagon, the epitome of midwestern arena rock, was formed in Champaign, Illinois in 1967. The band featured Terry Luttrell on vocals, legendary guitarist Gary Richrath, bassist Gregg Philbin, drummer Alan Gratzer and rockin' keyboardist Neil Doughty.

Speedwagon, still wet behind the ears, released their self-titled debut in 1971 on Epic Records. A mix of hard rock, progressive rock and boogie rock, the album contains later live staple "157 Riverside Avenue."

Like a lead balloon, the album crashed and burned. Luttrell parted ways and was replaced by Kevin Cronin, the iconic lead vocalist for Speedwagon in 1972. Following another commercial failure with "R.E.O./T.W.O.," Cronin decided it was time for him to fly and he left the band.

After only two years signed with Epic Records, Speedwagon was searching for a third lead vocalist. They settled on Mike Murphy, who made three albums with the group, all of which failed to gain much attention from outside Chicago.

Murphy left following the failure of the ironically titled "This Time We Mean It" in 1975.

Cronin had been ridin' the storm out for four years, but he heard the call of the Speedwagon and returned for their 1976 album "REO." Just to interject, this is one of my favorite albums ever. Despite my love for an album released 28 years before my birth, it failed to chart higher than 159.

Soft rock was all the rage in 1976 and 1977. The Guardian called 1976 "the worst year in rock history." Check out



Matthew Sotlar

wanted to succeed

"You Can Tune a Piano, But You Can't Tuna Fish" — yes that's the album's full title — was released in 1978. With new bassist Bruce Hall, Speedwagon cultivated a softer, poppier sound, and after nine years, the band finally had a Top 40 album.

"Hi Infidelity" was released in 1980, right at the peak of arena rock, alongside artists like Journey and Styx. "Keep On Lovin' You" was Speedwagon's first Top 10 and No. 1 hit. The band could now take it on the run with a diamond-certified album under their belt.

Despite 1984's smash hit "Wheels Are Turnin'," Speedwagon's popularity began to wane. Nearly 20 years of hard work and musicianship had paid off with a second and final No. 1 hit "Can't Fight This Feeling." After this, the water grew rather stagnant.

Although 1987's "Life as We Know It" charted at No. 28 on Billboard 200, Richrath and Gratzer had grown tired of riding in the Speedwagon. They both departed following the release of the album. Richrath sadly died in 2015. Thus was the end of the iconic REO Speedwagon.

Although the band is still touring, Cronin, the band's vocalist, announced in September because of internal conflicts, Speedwagon would be separating on Jan. 1, 2025. It is in my humble opinion all flags fly half-staff in honor of REO Speedwagon, one of America's greatest bands.

the biggest hits of the year, they're softer than butter sitting in the Arizona sun. But Speedwagon was attracted to the soft rock sound, and it would have to roll with the changes if they

The Jambar Editorial

The rise of women's basketball

With the arrival of multiple superstars on the scene of women's basketball in 2024-25, the Women's National Basketball Association had one thing to say — "We got next."

The NBA Board of Governors approved the concept of a WNBA on April 24, 1996, to begin play in June 1997.

This year, some easily recognizable names are changing the narrative for the entire association.

Caitlin Clark, former guard for the University of Iowa Hawkeyes, was arguably one of the greatest collegiate athletes of all time.

Along with leading her Hawkeyes squad to back-to-back NCAA National Championship appearances, she also finished her career at Iowa with the most points in college basketball history.

Other notable women's college basketball phenoms were forwards Angel Reese and Kamilla Cardoso from the Chicago Sky, forward Cameron Brink of the Los Angeles Sparks and guard Kate Martin of the Las Vegas Aces.

From 2011-2023, the WNBA Draft garnered over 300,000 views per year. Comparatively, the NBA Draft averaged around three million views.

This year, the WNBA draft had 2.4 million viewers — the previous all-time viewership was 601,000 in 2004.

Clark was drafted No. 1 overall and her post-draft analysis by ESPN showed how much impact she had on the sports world.

"Clark's arrival will change the perception and trajectory of the [Indiana] Fever franchise," ESPN stated.

They were correct, as Clark has had the greatest rookie season in WNBA history, finishing in the top 20 in points, rebounds, steals and leading the league in both three-pointers made and assists per game.

With Clark and other stars now in the

WNBA, the exposure for women's sports is only up from here.

This year, was the most-viewed WNBA regular season ever across ESPN platforms, with an average of 1.1 million viewers — a 170% increase from last season.

Networks such as ESPN, CBS Sports and ION all had record-breaking years in viewership, with over 100% increases.

It wasn't just TV viewers watching the WNBA this season. Attendance records were set for many teams — especially the Fever.

In 2023, the average for the entire league was 6,614 attendees per game, with the Aces being the highest of the 12 teams at 9,551.

For the 2024 season, the WNBA average attendance was 9,806, higher than the Aces league-leading attendance from the previous year.

As for Clark and the Fever, they lead the league in average attendance by over 4,000 fans per game. The Fever had 17,035 fans attend games on average.

David Broughton, reporter for the Sports Business Journal, said the WNBA had to move to nearby NBA arenas seven times because of the amount of tickets being sold.

"The WNBA drew a record 2.3 million regular-season fans this year, as they flocked to see rookie Caitlin Clark and others in the next generation of the league," Broughton said. "Seven games were moved to nearby NBA arenas to help accommodate the surge in ticket demand."

Not only are there multiple WNBA stars in the league currently, but there are countless up-and-coming athletes in the NCAA waiting for their shot.

Women's basketball for years to come will be in great hands and continue to rise the ranks of viewership and attendance.

THE JAMBAR POLICY

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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



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'Guins love to serve

By Joel Fuzo
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women's tennis team participated in the Rocket Invitational hosted by The University of Toledo on Sept. 27-28.

In singles play, senior Julia Marko won against Michigan State University redshirt sophomore Oriana Parkins-Godwin, 6-2.

Against DePaul University sophomore Sasha Stula, Marko won with scores of 6-2 and 6-0.

Freshman Sarah Partida Garcia defeated DePaul freshman Eleanor Cochran, 6-2 and 6-3 for her first career win.

Later in the tournament, Garcia defeated Michigan State junior Sarah Fazlagic, with scores of 6-4 and 6-2.

In doubles play, sophomore Yeseniia Ovcharova and junior Line Greyling defeated Michigan State's Fazlagic and freshman Amara Brahmhatt 6-3.

Senior Ghada Diringer and Marko defeated Toledo's sophomore Gaby Rondon and freshman Jacklynka Scholten 7-6 (2).

Youngstown State did not take any wins against DePaul or against Toledo in singles play.

The YSU women's tennis team will be competing next in the Horizon League Championships on Oct. 4-6 hosted by Cleveland State University.

The YSU men's tennis team had four players take wins at the Horizon League Championships Sept. 27-29 hosted by Cleveland State.

In single's matches, sophomore Ondor Balci won against Texas Southern University senior Adler Germinal in three sets in the first round with scores of 7-5, 5-7 and 6-4.

Senior William Rassat defeated Northern Kentucky University junior Xavier Ecarma in three sets, the scores were 6-2, 3-6 and 6-2. Rassat became the second player to advance to the next round.

Balci won his second match against the Vikings sophomore Nico Jamison over three sets with scores of 4-6, 6-4 and 6-3.

Rassat won his second game against Belmont's junior Sabi Roi in three sets, with scores of 6-2, 6-7 and 6-4.

In the third match, Balci lost to Tennessee Tech University freshman Alex Alvarez in three sets, with scores of 5-7, 6-3 and 7-6 (2).

Rassat lost his third match to the tournament's runner up, Cleveland State sophomore Lincoln Battle in three sets, with scores 6-3, 4-6 and 6-4.

In doubles play, freshmen Matteo Ceradelli and Filipp Avdeev defeated Belmont's Roi and junior Esunge Ndumbe 8-4.

Ceradelli and Avdeev lost their second match to Tennessee Tech's freshman Lucas Bitzer and junior Oliver Dao 8-4.

The YSU men's tennis team will be back on the court Oct. 10 to compete at the ITA Midwest Regional hosted by Michigan State.



Photo by Dylan Lux / The Jambar
Senior William Rassat for the YSU men's tennis team

Penguins lose on last-second touchdown

By Kevin Skolny
The Jambar

After a tough loss against the University of Pittsburgh, the Penguins looked to turn the season around Sept. 28 at Robert W. Plaster Stadium against Missouri State University.

However, despite late touchdowns by sophomore quarterback Beau Brungard and senior tailback Ethan Wright, the Penguins fell 38-31.

The 'Guins traveled to Springfield, Missouri to open up conference play for both teams.

The Penguins opened the game with a 15 play, 75-yard drive capped off by a nine-yard touchdown run by Brungard.

The eight-minute drive set the tone early for the 'Guins, but Missouri State answered back, as senior running back Jacardia Wright scored on a 27-yard

touchdown run for the Bears.

This would only be the beginning of the offensive bout, as Missouri State would go on to score 17 in the second quarter alone. Senior quarterback Jacob Clark threw two passes to cover 95 yards in just 51 seconds, scoring on a 57-yard touchdown to sophomore Jayden Becks.

Clark, the transfer from the University of Minnesota, would finish his day completing 21 of 29 passing attempts, for 325 yards and three touchdowns. Alternatively for the Penguins, Brungard finished the game with 180 passing yards on 18 of 31 completions, including an interception.

Brungard, for the third time this year, led the team in rushing yards, picking up 110 on the ground with two touchdowns on 16 attempts, his longest being a 44-yard rush late in the fourth to even the game at 31.

However, the Bears would respond with the ball at

their own 47 yard line. Senior Jacob Clark would find junior Dash Luke for a quick gain and ran for 38 yards to bring the ball to the Penguins' seven yard line.

With 18 seconds left on the clock, Clark would find junior Lance Mason in the endzone, giving the lead to the Bears, 38-31.

The Penguins had a chance to make magic happen on the kickoff return, but would fumble the ball to Missouri State, where Clark would seal the game with a quarterback kneel.

The Penguins fall to 1-4 and 0-1 in Missouri Valley Football Conference, while the Bears move to 3-2, with a 1-0 record in conference play.

Youngstown State will look to earn its first conference win, as it faces Indiana State University in front of the Homecoming crowd at 2 p.m. Oct. 5 inside Stambaugh Stadium.

The game will also be streamed on ESPN+.

Penguins split in Beeghly

By Dylan Lux
The Jambar

Following back-to-back sweeps in a brand new Beeghly Center for the first time since 2000, emotions were high for the Youngstown State University women's volleyball team heading into Horizon League play.

A double-header against the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay was first up for the 'Guins in conference play.

Green Bay is coming off a second-place finish in the conference last year, with a 13-5 record in conference play, along with a Horizon League championship game appearance.

As for Youngstown State, they headed into the matchup with a 6-6 record after back-to-back home wins.

The first set of Game One went the way of Green Bay, as the Phoenix gained the lead at 4-3 and never looked back. They took the first set 25-19.

YSU started the next set off with a 15-7 lead and kept a 22-16 lead towards the end of set two. Green Bay then went on a 9-0 run to end the set and took the victory 25-22.

With a 2-0 lead in the first game, Green Bay held an early lead, but YSU closed the gap to make the score 20-19, before the Phoenix pulled away for the final time for a 25-22 victory.

Green Bay completed the sweep in Game One. For the Phoenix, senior Cora Behnke led in kills with 17 over three sets. Green Bay's front was fortified with eight players, who were 6 foot or taller.

In response to the strong scoring runs by the Phoenix, fifth-year senior Dayan Malave said the team had trouble adjusting to the Phoenix's game plan.

"We had the lead and it was frustrating at times, [Green Bay] started doing things that were working for them and we couldn't adjust to that," Malave said.

In Game Two, the teams were stalemated after two sets. Green Bay took set one, 25-22, and YSU took set two, 25-16.

Set three saw a 16-16 tie midway through, but the Phoenix went on yet another scoring run to regain the match lead and win the set 25-19.

The Penguins had their backs against the wall and had the Phoenix within three in set four. One final scoring run took the score from a 13-10 Green Bay lead to a 25-13 Green Bay win.

The Phoenix won Game Two 3-1 and took down YSU in back-to-back contests.

For Youngstown State, junior Abbie Householder led the second match in kills with 22, earning two aces and two blocks. Fifth-year senior Isabel Schaefer led the 'Guins in assists with 39 and blocks with three.

Malave said Head Coach Riley Jarrett is motivational, always letting the team know it can compete with anyone.

"[Jarrett] is always telling us that we can do this, we know that it might be a hard team but we are still a really good team and we can get to that point," Malave said. "She's always able to give us feedback on what we can improve on and what we can better to beat those teams."

Youngstown State traveled to Moon Township, Pennsylvania to take on Robert Morris University on Oct. 1 for its third Horizon League matchup.

For just the third time this season, the Penguins went into an elimination match as they fought back to force a fifth set. The Colonials rallied late with a kill by sophomore Natalie Stepanovich to win the final set 15-12.

Despite the loss, Householder posted a career high in kills with 26.

The Penguins will continue their three-game road stint against Northern Kentucky University at 6 p.m. Oct. 4 and 2 p.m. Oct. 5. Live stats can be found at ysusports.com.



YSU looks to win at Northern Kentucky.

Photos by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

Swim and dive win and thrive

By Teziah Howard
The Jambar

Normally home to Youngstown State University's men's and women's swimming and diving teams, the Beeghly Natatorium hosts this semester's Open Swim.

The natatorium is located on the main floor of the Beeghly Center in room 226. Since 2018, the Open Swim program has been conducted by the YSU Athletic Department.

Open Swim is hosted from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Matt Rollins, assistant athletic director for facilities, said Open Swim offers members of the YSU community with a valid YSU identification card the option to swim in the natatorium for free.

"Open swim is open to all current faculty, staff, and students with a valid Y Card," Rollins said. "This program gives them the opportunity to swim for free throughout the semester."

YSU students and faculty are allowed to take a maximum of four non-YSU students during their session. Though not necessary, it is recommended that the accompanying guests have prior swim experience.

Rollins said the program is open to all individuals of different swimming levels — beginner and intermediate.

"We have certified lifeguards [who are] YSU students at the pool during those hours to cover all levels of swimming capabilities," Rollins said.

Students are advised that the deepest end of the pool is 16 feet deep, while the shallow end is roughly 5 feet.

Soma Albert, YSU swimmer and lifeguard at Beeghly Natatorium said he has friends who were unaware of the program and the facility.

"I have classmates who didn't know, as sophomores and juniors, that we have a swimming pool," Albert said. "They were really pleased to hear that we do. To come in and have the opportunity to swim here as a student, basically for free."

Rollins said Open Swim gives members of the YSU community, who like swimming, the ability to socialize with others who share the same interests.

"The swimming community is large and diverse. Those who participate in Open Swim, typically love to be in the water and they are able to build connections with others who share the same passion," Rollins said.

Albert also said that the program and facility serve as a space for friends to interact.

"It's a good place to hang out. We have friends and friend groups coming in all the time. So, it's a nice place," Albert said.

Those interested in participating in Open Swim must present a student ID to the lifeguards on duty before swimming. There is no need to reserve a spot before attending.

Open Swim does not offer swimming lessons.

