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ENVISIONING RENOVATIONS



Former YSU president Jim Tressel (left) and current president Bill Johnson. Photos by John Ostapowicz / The Jambar

Kilcawley begins funding campaign

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

Youngstown State University launched Kilcawley: Centered on the Future, a campaign to raise funds for a new student center.

The event was hosted in the Chestnut Room on Nov. 12, where several renderings of the projected layouts and room renovations were showcased.

Scott Schulick, a former YSU alumnus and trustee, kicked off the fundraising efforts with a \$100,000 donation. In honor of Schulick's contribution, the Student Government Association suite will be named

after him.

Schulick was also appointed as chairperson of the campaign by YSU President Bill Johnson. He said his involvement as head of the fundraising initiative seems fitting, being a former student employee and member of SGA.

"I got involved in this campaign because President [Johnson] asked me to take on this leadership role and I was happy to do so," Schulick said. "It's a space that means a lot to me."

Student center, Page 2

Paving future parking

By Matthew Sotlar
The Jambar

Students who have trouble finding a place to park near DeBartolo Hall or the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center will have their problems solved by the end of the semester with the completion of the M66 lot.

M66 was previously adjacent to M71 and M63 on Arlington Avenue. In July, several historical homes on Arlington Avenue were razed to make way for the new lot. The YSU Foundation purchased these homes for \$220,000.

Parking services director Danny O'Connell said M66 is part of a phased plan to replace the former M60 parking deck off Lincoln Avenue.

"Part of the plan, when we took down the parking garage, was to come up with replacement parking," O'Connell said. "So we did a series of lots behind Fedor [Hall], between the stadium and the [Watson and Tressel Training Site]. We did that before we took down the deck."

Following these new lots, M60 was put in place of the M60 parking deck, along with two lots behind Enterprise Rent-A-Car off West Rayen Avenue.

Parking lot, Page 4

News	1-5	Opinion	11-12
Student Life	6-8	Classifieds	13
AD	9	Sports	14-16
Art + Entertainment	10		

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Page 1

Paul McFadden, president of the YSU Foundation, announced that over \$300,000 in donations have been collected since the initiative was announced. McFadden also highlighted the previous \$100,000 contribution from Johnson and first lady LeeAnn Johnson in January, as well as a \$150,000 pledge from Youngstown's Premier Bank in October.

In total, \$6 million in donations have been committed to the overall renovation cost of the student center. In order to start the estimated \$43 million project, more donations are required.

Johnson said he's seen an increase in contributions from YSU alumni.

"[Alumni] understand that Youngstown State University is critical to the economic, social and social survivability of Northeast Ohio," Johnson said. "So goes this university, so goes our region."

Johnson said the plan to continue YSU's increase in enrollment is to renovate Kilcawley Center, which hasn't been updated since it opened in 1965.

"When [students] come [to YSU], they see a 1960s vintage building, it forces them to look backwards. We want to be looking forwards and we want to give them a vision of what can be," Johnson said.

Terin Frodyma, a graduate student in professional communication, was selected as a

student-athlete representative on the steering committee to help gauge ideas for the new student center.

Frodyma said being one of the youngest members on the committee made him unsure if his opinions would be heard or taken into consideration.

"The first day I was there, I was already giving [the committee] some ideas that I saw, and they took it and ran with it," Frodyma said.

The project itself is a community-centered initiative. Frodyma said several of the new ideas, such as the concept of natural light and a bigger atrium, were suggested by students. Those suggestions and several others were taken into consideration for the new student center.

"A lot of the instrumentation of the project has been so crucial to the final product that we're putting out. It's largely in part to those students that have boots on the ground and walk through life every day here," Frodyma said. "[Students] really get to see what it is we need and what we're going to benefit most from the new student center."

Another recommendation for the new student center is a centralized eating location. In the current Kilcawley Center layout, dining locations are spread throughout the building. In the renovation, the hope is that a generalized dining area will help strengthen student-to-student communication.

The phased renovation project for the new student center is expected to begin May 2025.



Photo by John Ostapowicz / The Jambar

Kilcawley: Centered on the Future campaign launched Nov. 12.

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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**Thu.**

High: 41°F
Low: 34°F
Chance of precip:
94%

Fri.

High: 42°F
Low: 37°F
Chance of precip:
63%

Sat.

High: 41°F
Low: 36°F
Chance of precip:
64%

Sun.

High: 44°F
Low: 38°F
Chance of precip:
24%

Mon.

High: 51°F
Low: 41°F
Chance of precip:
25%

Tue.

High: 49°F
Low: 42°F
Chance of precip:
30%

Wed.

High: 50°F
Low: 42°F
Chance of precip:
30%

Information courtesy of
accuweather.com

TEACHING TEACHERS



Charles Howell is the dean of the Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences and Education.



Photo (left) courtesy of ysu.edu and photo (right) by Nicarylle Hanchard / Jambar Contributor

New law opens door to more teachers

By Nicarylle Hanchard
Jambar Contributor

Ohio Senate Bill 168, which took effect Oct. 24, has lowered the threshold for teacher education and licensure in the state among other policies.

Senate Bill 168 Section 3319.22 seeks to provide school districts with more candidates for teachers, as it has reevaluated some previous educator licensure guidelines.

Charles Howell, dean of the Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences and Education, said the most relevant change to Youngstown State University students is a new provision that allows those in a student-teaching program to be paid.

“There is a provision that allows students who are in a teacher licensure program to be paid for work in the school, while they’re in their preparation program. That is the one that’s going to make the biggest difference to our students,” Howell said.

Getting paid as a student teacher isn’t guaranteed, he said. Payment depends on the school district.

Patrick Spearman, an associate professor in the De-

partment of Teacher Education and Leadership Studies, said the new legislation helps those with a master’s degree outside of the education field transition into a classroom setting.

“What they are advocating is, individuals who have resident licenses — these are people who already have bachelor’s degrees — and the change now is that if you have a master’s degree you don’t have to get certified. They will count your master’s degree as experience leading toward certification,” Spearman said.

Howell said some of the changes aren’t dramatic. Some, he said, are important for people looking to become educators in K-12.

“There are a couple of different provisions that are relevant. One is that a substitute teaching license no longer requires a bachelor’s degree,” Howell said.

According to the new bill, people can become a substitute teacher with only an associate degree.

“That effectively means that you can enter either an alternative licensure program or a regular licensure program, while you’re actively teaching in the school,” Howell said.

Spearman said the change only affects a small per-

centage of prospective teachers. Students coming from a traditional program would still be required to have a bachelor’s degree and licensure after graduating.

“Just to be clear, you still need to be licensed to be a full-time teacher in public schools,” Spearman said.

Spearman said alternative licensure programs give people with a bachelor’s degree the ability to become certified educators after working in their field.

“Let’s say you go to undergrad and your major is political science. You worked in that for a little while, but you always had a passion to teach. You can then go through a program like Teach for America where they’ll send you through a summer enrichment program and they’ll place you in a school that needs teachers,” Spearman said.

After two years in a school, Spearman said people can stay on as teachers. He noted there are several alternative teacher licensure programs in Ohio, as well as nationwide.

For more information on other new provisions and changes, see Senate Bill 168.

Parking lot

Page 1

M66 will have 200 spaces. O’Connell said the lot will solve the problem of overflow parking.

“I anticipate this to be a very popular parking lot,” O’Connell said. “Between the [M60] lot and then the M70 lot, that kind of fills up from the corner of Arlington and Fifth Avenue right away in the morning, and it’ll really help us there.”

O’Connell added that the lot will be especially helpful during campus or community events that draw large crowds.

“Obviously, on a normal class day, we don’t anticipate

filling the lot up at this time,” O’Connell said. “When we have major events, graduation, football, whatever, this will be a great enhancement to the campus core.”

Installing M66 will be the third part of the phase to replace the M60 parking deck. O’Connell said installing new lots was a better option than replacing the deck.

“A parking garage is very expensive,” O’Connell said. “For a parking garage today, it’s approximately \$35,000 for one parking spot. You put it into perspective, it would cost us more to build a parking garage, depending on the spaces, than it did to build Williamson [Hall].”

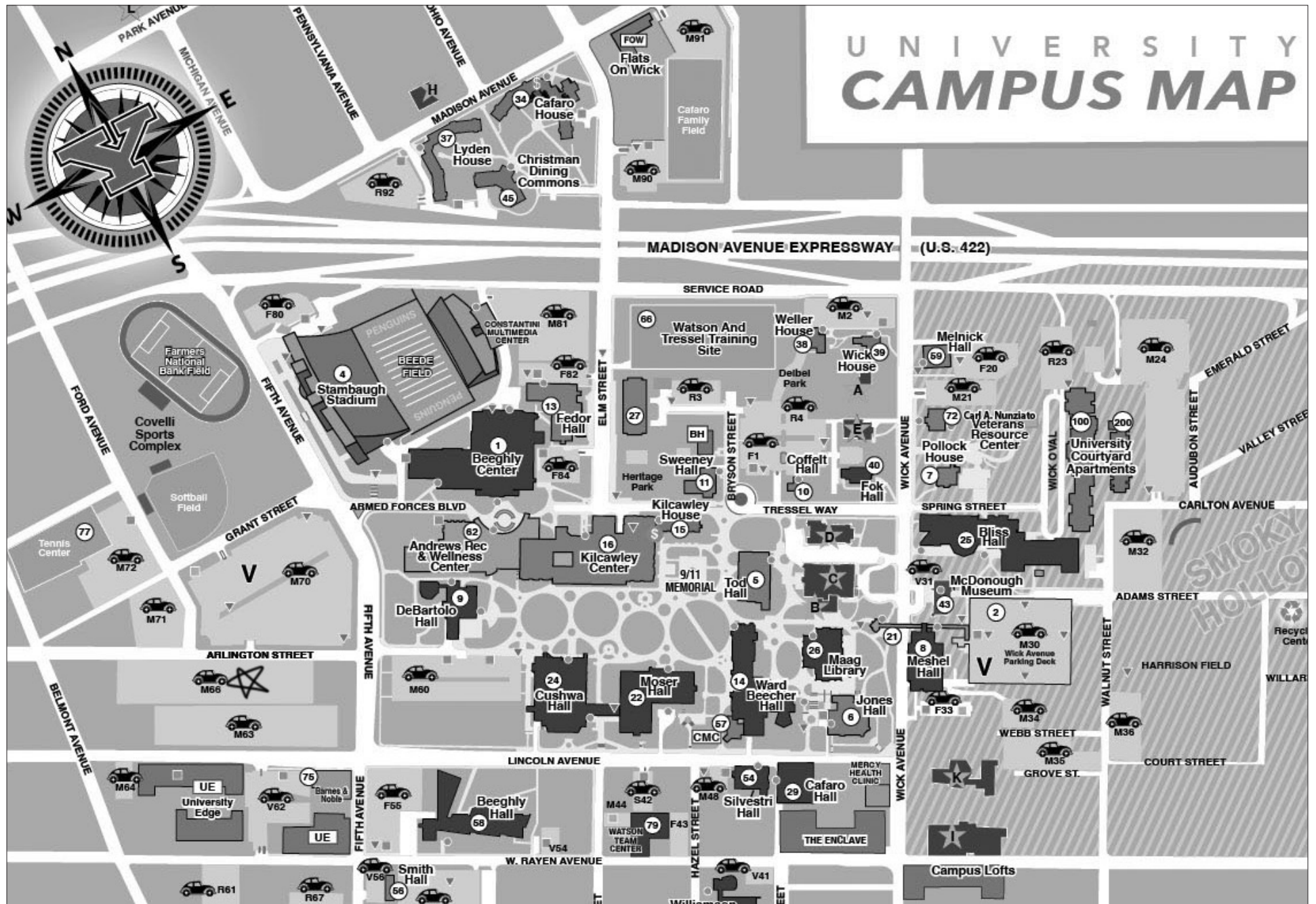
O’Connell said YSU has some of the most accessible parking out of all Ohio universities.

“Compared to most of the state universities and colleges, especially the urban ones, we have the closest,

most convenient parking,” O’Connell said. “I’m talking [University of] Akron, Cleveland State [University], even Ohio State [University], they have some land, but they’re parking significantly away from their campus.”

The lot is set to be completed sometime after Thanksgiving Break. O’Connell said he is excited to see how the lot is used by students and faculty.

“I’m pretty excited about it opening,” O’Connell said. “We won’t really see the impact until next fall, although it’ll be a big impact come spring. But we have that big rush of people in the fall that are coming early, the new freshmen trying to find their way around and everything. So, I’m excited to see that.”



The new M66 lot will be on Arlington Avenue behind Taco Bell.

Photo courtesy of Youngstown State University

Protecting college athletes

By Madison Fessler and Dylan Lux
Jambar Contributors

The Ohio Casino Commission Control banned player-specific proposition bets on collegiate athletes in February 2024. The decision was made following the NCAA sending a request in late January.

The request came after threats were made against multiple University of Dayton men's and women's basketball players.

Kiersten Kleckner-Alt, associate athletic director of compliance for Youngstown State University, said with this law being passed, the expectation is that the amount of messages have decreased.

"The hope would be that they're not getting as many online hate messages, but there's still an opportunity for those disparaging comments to be made about their performance or something else," Kleckner-Alt said.

Clint Hangebrauck, managing director of Enterprise Risk Management at the NCAA, describes prop bets as a wager

that isn't based on the total outcome of the game.

"Think about a football game ... it would be any bet that's on the first quarter outcome of the game or the first half or the third quarter," Hangebrauck said. "The outcome of who's going to have the first touchdown or the first sack. Any component of the game that's not based off of the total outcome of the game."

In a news release from Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, it stated he was happy the OCCO took quick action to protect athletes from unnecessary harm.

"Amending rules to focus bets on the team and away from individual athletes will improve the marketplace in Ohio and properly focus betting attention on the teams and away from individual student athletes," DeWine stated.

Ohio was the first state to ban prop bets in collegiate sports, now one of four states, as Louisiana, Maryland and Vermont followed suit.

The NCAA conducted a study with data science company Signify Group. It

analyzed social media accounts for over 3,000 college athletes, 500 coaches, 200 event officials and 165 teams.

The study was conducted during the 2024 College Football Playoff, men's and women's basketball tournaments — March Madness — men's and women's college world series, volleyball and gymnastics championships — all hosted by the NCAA.

The analysis found 73% of abusive messages were sent during March Madness and women athletes received around 59% more abusive messages than men.

Hangebrauck said prop bets are dangerous in more ways than one, and that outlawing them could help protect the NCAA from manipulation.

"Proposition bets are really dangerous in a lot of different ways. They're dangerous from a competition integrity standpoint," Hangebrauck said. "It's a lot easier to manipulate a certain part of a contest than the overall contest ... one specific player, if they're involved, then they can manipulate just the under on their activities and end up sitting out that game."

Kleckner-Alt said there haven't been reports of these messages being sent to YSU athletes, but there's a support system in place if it were to happen.

"We have sport administrators that work with each program. We sit with our teams at the beginning of the year and

this is a topic we talk to them about ... We try to create spaces for them where they feel comfortable coming to talk to someone in administration if they feel like that's something they're dealing with," Kleckner-Alt said.

There is a law in Ohio stating that if a person is identified as reaching out to college athletes, coaches or officials and harassing them from a standpoint of betting — either in person or on social media — that person will be banned from betting in the state of Ohio.

The law has been in place since Ohio legalized sports betting in January 2023.

Hangebrauck believes any state where sports betting is legal should have this law in place.

"That's a law that really all the states that have legalized sports betting should have in place, so we've been advocating for that law too," Hangebrauck said.

Kleckner-Alt, who's from Canada, said the law is good but there are stipulations.

"Everything is a balance. As much as we can try to protect our athletes from that kind of behavior, we should try to do so. Free speech is extremely important to the American people and the Constitution, so you're always going to be striking that balance between something we see as a core right and at what point do we try to limit that right to protect other peoples' safety or wellbeing," Kleckner-Alt said.

Banking on betting

By Dylan Bigelow
Jambar Contributor

DraftKings, FanDuel, Caesars, BetMGM and more, the ads are everywhere. Sports betting has saturated the advertising market since its federal legalization in 2018, promising free bets and easy wins. The strategy has paid off, especially on college campuses.

A study published last year by the NCAA surveyed college-aged adults about their sports betting habits and found that nearly 60% had participated at least once, while 4% reported betting daily.

Joseph Lucente, a junior business administration major, has been sports betting since its legalization in Ohio last year.

"FanDuel did a deal with Webull and

Robinhood, so when I was doing my investing, they advertised, 'You can earn \$50 on your first bet,'" Lucente said. "I was like, 'All right.'"

Lucente said he rarely bets more than \$5 at a time.

"It's usually a 50-cent parlay, and it'll be an 18-leg parlay, maybe 14-leg," Lucente said.

A parlay is a bet consisting of multiple wagers, all of which must win for the bettor to receive a payout.

Lucente's small bets place him in the extreme minority, according to the NCAA study. Only 3.1% of those surveyed wagered less than \$1 per bet, while nearly 5% admitted to betting \$100 or more on average. For 79% of respondents, a typical bet ranged from \$1 to \$50.

An analysis by the University at Buffalo, published in 2013, before sports bet-

ting was federally legalized, found that just over 10% of college students were pathological gamblers.

Pathological gambling is defined as the inability to resist the urge to gamble despite negative consequences.

The NCAA survey supports this trend. The study placed 16% of respondents in a high-risk category based on three risky behaviors:

- Betting more than several times a week.
- Wagering \$50 or more on a typical bet.
- Losing more than \$500 in a single day.

Of those who exhibited at least one of these risky behaviors, 70% believed they could win a lot of money by gambling consistently.

Stephanie Geer, the problem gambling program coordinator at Meridian HealthCare, said gambling addiction is formally diagnosed as gambling disorder.

"An individual must meet diagnostic criteria, which can be determined by

a professional during an assessment," Geer said.

Criteria for a gambling disorder diagnosis include persistent thoughts about gambling, increasing wager amounts to maintain excitement, lying to others about gambling habits and repeatedly chasing losses.

Geer noted that availability, accessibility and acceptability play significant roles in the development of gambling disorder.

"[Online] sports betting has taken the accessibility from having to travel to a brick-and-mortar location to being able to access gambling anywhere, anytime, at our fingertips," Geer said.

Help is available for those struggling with gambling problems. The National Council on Problem Gambling offers a range of resources, including answers to frequently-asked questions, a self-assessment of gambling behavior and information about treatment.

The council also runs the National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-426-2537, which connects individuals to local support services.

CREATIVE COMMUNITY



The CCCA LLC provides housing for all majors interested in living in a creative community.



Photos courtesy of Carrie Yasnowski

Students live in harmony

By Molly Burke and Raeghan Hilton
Jambar Contributors

Moving six and a half hours away to Youngstown State University was daunting for Delaware native Lauren Skarosi.

However, moving into Wick House eased the freshman's transition. It's the home of the Cliffe College of Creative Arts Living Learning Community, a program for students interested in arts, music and theater.

"It was really scary coming here and not knowing anybody, but it's been very great being somewhere that's so small with like 20 people," Skarosi said. "Since everybody's so close, it's so easy to make friends and to talk to people."

Skarosi is a music education major and plays saxophone in the Marching Pride. She said the program also provides academic benefits.

"It's very beneficial because we're in a very close proximity to Bliss Hall, and that's where all of my classes are besides one," Skarosi said. "We can work on things together, or we can help each other out with things. I just have to walk down the stairs and I can go and I can practice for hours, and nobody minds it because everybody's doing it."

This is the second year for the LLC. The house is complete with practice spaces and a computer lab for stu-

dents to use whenever they need. Olivia Cupp, director of Housing and Residence Life, said the house was fully refurbished in preparation for the program.

"We have an art studio, we have a dance practice studio with a ballet barre. We have a theater practice room. There's a bunch of extra resources available to that community to enhance their living environment," Cupp said.

Chris Bryne is an academic advisor for CCCA students and oversees the LLC. He said students in any major or grade can apply.

"It's really open to students across the campus. So, you don't have to be majoring in one of our majors to be part of the LLC. You can apply to be part of the LLC because you have an interest in these areas and would like to learn more, or maybe you have a friend in the LLC that's staying in the LLC and you want to room with a friend," Bryne said.

The program also hosts events for residents and friends. For Halloween, students could take a spooky special effects makeup workshop.

"We also did Halloween Lego printmaking, which was a lot of fun. We put Lego boards and used specific Legos to make Halloween scenes and used ink brushes to make Halloween prints," Bryne said. "We're planning on repeating that for Valentine's Day to do a Valentine's Day card workshop."

Shannon Holdridge, CCCA's director of Academic Advising, said students are welcome to be part of the program even if they're unable to live in Wick House.

"If you're a first-year honors student, you're required to live in Cafaro [Hall] if you're living on campus, but those students — if they want to be part of the LLC — they can be part of the LLC, and they have access to the practice spaces. They have access to the events," Holdridge said.

With students of all grades living together, Holdridge said the LLC provides mentorship for freshmen.

"One of the benefits of not being restricted to a certain class is that we have freshmen living in the LLC along with seniors. This creates an opportunity for there to be a lot of camaraderie [and] support and mentorship among the different classes of students," Holdridge said.

Skarosi said she appreciates the company of upper-classmen.

"It's been very nice to have people that are older than you because they have the experience that you don't have yet. You can ask for help and ask for the guidance that you need when you need it or just to have a friend that's older who knows more than you do. It's pretty great," Skarosi said.

Wick House is located on Wick Avenue just up the street from Bliss Hall. For more information on how to apply, visit CCCA's website.

Religious opportunities at YSU

By **Tim Corso**
Jambar Contributor

At Youngstown State University there are numerous religious organizations any student can get involved with.

In total, the university offers 11 different organizations: H2O Church, Bible Study, Bible Talks, Catholic Penguins, Chi Alpha, Delight Ministries, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, IMPACT Campus Ministries, Muslim Student Association, Orthodox Christian Fellowship and Young Life.

Caleb Queen, the coordinator of student involvement, said it's important for students to have access to a desired organization that aligns with their spiritual beliefs.

"We're a public institution. Religious freedom — it's a big thing," Queen said. "We have quite a few different [organizations]. Our religious [organizations] do tend to be centered around Christianity, but we do have our Muslim Student Organization."

If there are students who don't find an organization that fits their beliefs, Queen said they can be created by students.

"If we're missing anything, these are all student-ran, student-supported, student-created," Queen said. "So, if we're missing an [organization] or if you think we're missing a denomination or religion, that's something that you can gather people yourself to create that [organization] centered around that religion."

Queen says these organizations are always looking to expand and engage with students, even if it's a learning inquiry and not necessarily an interest in joining.

"A lot of these [organizations] might have a similar denomination, but might be part of a different church or a different version within that denomination," Queen said. "Typically they are working to pull people in that have similar beliefs to them or that want to learn more about those beliefs."

Catholic Penguins is one of those organizations, housed at the St. John Henry Newman Center. According to student member Lucy Allen, students of any denomination can join the organization.

"We would love anyone to come, especially just to learn about the faith, and just to get to know us," Allen said.

According to Allen, the group offers opportunities to

participate in events such as a potluck dinner after Mass on Thursday, Nov. 21. Students can also socialize while watching the Cleveland Browns and Pittsburgh Steelers game.

While all are welcomed to join, there are restrictions that align with Catholicism that can only be observed by students of the denomination, including receiving Eucharist.

Another organization is Young Life. A Christianity-based organization for young adults that originated in Texas and was brought to YSU. It has numerous organizations across the country.

Emily Smith, president of YSU's Young Life, has been a member since she was in eighth grade and reflected on her experience with the organization.

"It's been a huge part of my life, my whole life. I just figured, might as well keep it going kind of thing," Smith said.

Smith also said Young Life doesn't embrace a specific religious tradition.

"Whatever denomination you are, you can go. It's technically Christian-based, we do a little bit of a Bible study, but you can be any," Smith said.

Student Investment Fund represents nationally

By **Dylan Bigelow**
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University students in the Student Investment Fund manage a portfolio worth around \$3.4 million.

James Kover, a senior finance major and president of SIF, said YSU has an actual-cash fund, while other universities use virtual funds for their student-managed portfolio.

"We manage the second largest actual-cash fund in the state of Ohio. I think, second only to Ohio State," Kover said.

SIF began in 2008 with a \$250,000 donation from the YSU Foundation. Over the next five years, from 2009-2013, the foundation donated an additional \$50,000 annually, for a total of \$500,000.

Using that money, and an anonymous donation of John Deere stocks, students have grown the fund to its current size.

Recently, the organization competed in the 11th annual Student Managed Investment Fund Consortium, hosted by Indiana State University on Oct. 2-3. The event took place in Chicago and featured 140 universities from across the country.

SIF finished third in its competition, winning \$700.

Kover said competitions like these are great for showcasing YSU.

"It's a good way to put what we're doing here in Youngstown on a national stage," Kover said.

The conference featured two competitions, one for a team's overall portfolio and another for analyzing the tech company Nvidia. YSU's team entered both but only placed in the Nvidia competition.

Kover said the team's four officers worked on their analysis for about two months leading up to the competition.

"We got started working on the finan-

cial side closer to the project coming due," Kover said. "The qualitative stuff isn't going to change much, so we worked on that earlier on."

The team focused its analysis on the company's intrinsic value, without comparing the performance and asset price to other companies in the same field.

The team then used its valuation against Nvidia's stock price to give it a buy, hold or sell rating.

"We actually gave it a 'hold' rating, which probably had to be against consensus," Kover said. "Everyone is trying to ride this Nvidia rally."

The team participates in other competitions, whether virtual or in person, but this was SIF's first year at the event. The team received an invitation through old connections.

"[Former] Dean [Kelly] Wilkinson had a connection with Indiana State's business college dean. So it got passed

through [Wilkinson] and our faculty adviser, [Peter] Chen, to us that this is something we should pursue," Kover said.

After Wilkinson's departure this summer, Kover said interim Dean Betty Jo Licata was very supportive of the group's plans to compete.

YSU competed against schools such as Abilene Christian University, George Mason University, John Carroll University and the University of Wisconsin.

The organization is open to all YSU students, not only business or finance majors, Kover said. SIF membership ranges between 30 to 40 students. In addition to managing its financial portfolio, the group hosts speakers on financial matters and promotes financial literacy on campus.

SIF meets at 4 p.m. every Tuesday in Room 1110 of Williamson Hall.

Balancing racing and college

By Keon Edington
Jambar Contributor

Champion sprint-car driver and Youngstown State University student Vivian Jones juggles racing and studies, using her communication skills to help further her racing career.

Jones, a fourth-generation sprint racer who runs a type of car called 305 sprint car, is also a communication major with a minor in employee relations.

Jones has been racing for 14 years and has since won several races, including the 2024 Sprint Car Championship.

Jones said balancing racing and coursework is a difficult task and there's not much time for herself with racing as a full-time job. Jones also works two jobs in addition to racing and college.

"There's not any time for play. I take everything very seriously," Jones said. "I come home from work and I'm in the garage working on the car."

Because races are held during weekends, Jones said she tries to get her schoolwork done during the work week.

"I just try to get stuff done early. Once I'm in racing mode I'm completely focused on that," Jones said.

Jones said this year was particularly hard because she took on a leadership role, as the

crew chief when her team was not around.

In the world of motorsports, a driver's career is not sustainable without sponsorship. Jones uses her communication skills to find sponsorships and continue to fund her career and the team.

"I went out and started searching for my own sponsors," Jones said. "I went to my hometown and a lot of them said no."

Jones explained that she had to pivot to other companies and change her approach to earning sponsorships.

"It took a lot to put myself out there, being in school and knowing how to dress professionally and knowing how to sell yourself," Jones said. "Having confidence that you can be taken seriously and if they are not interested, move on."

Jones said her public speaking classes helped her step out of her comfort zone and sell herself to sponsors in interviews.

Jones is set to graduate in May. Afterward she plans to pursue a career in human resources utilizing her communication skills.

Jones started racing at age 8 for the family-owned team, Jones Performance Racing, carrying on the family tradition as a fourth-generation racer.

"My great-grandfather started first, [my] grandfather started in the '80s and my dad after that," Jones said. "I started at 8-years-old and have been racing ever since."

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VOCALS AND VOWS

Coffee and Cabernet

By AnnaBelle Boone
The Jambar

Located on 4491 Mahoning Ave. in Austintown, Cafe Rose is a specialty coffee retail and gift shop. Local vendors can rent out a shelf for twenty dollars per month. They sell goods such as handmade cookies, candles or fidget toys.

There is also a wide variety of local coffee blends, including those from all over the state. Some are from as far south as Dayton, while others are more local, from Salem and Cleveland. They also have some teas and decaf blends.

Leah Sakas started the business with her long-time friend, Amanda Evans. They are both Austintown natives who graduated from Youngstown State University.

“We’re coffee lovers, and we would always do like little road trips here and there,” Sakas said. “And on these road trips, we kind of started talking about this idea if we had our own coffee shop ... and that’s how the idea started.”

The store’s name comes from the products it offers — coffee and nonalcoholic wine.

“It was just kind of something that came together

over time...at first it wasn’t serious, but then as we just kept talking about it, we were like ‘No, we should, this is something we should do,’” Sakas said. “We’re very fortunate in this community. There are a lot of entrepreneurs, particularly women entrepreneurs, who support one another.”

The shop is open from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, and from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturdays, then noon to 4 p.m. on Sundays. The shop will be closed for Thanksgiving, from Nov. 28 - Dec. 1.

“There is no handbook on how to start a business. It’s been a lot of learning on the fly and trial and error. You have to be adaptable and figure out what doesn’t work,” Sakas said.

The coffee shop opened in 2020, which led to some difficulty, Sakas said. However, she said they were able to rely on other local companies and sellers for support.

“When we first started, we were in a [difficult] position because we filed with the state in 2020, which, terrible, but we were like, ‘Well, at least we’ll get the paperwork side of it done, and everything,’” Sakas said. “So we met with Ben [Ratner] from LiB’s in Salem. We had sort of that wide-eyed deers in the headlights look to us, and he kind of mentored us.”

LiB’s Market Cafe and Roastery is a local coffee brand that serves its house blend and different premium roasts at Cafe Rose.

In two years of being open, Sakas said they’ve acquired 13 coffee roasters throughout the state, along with other local vendors.

“We’ve recently brought in local artisans and bakers, as well. They rent a shelf from us, and then get 100% of their sales. So they help us out and it helps them out. It’s kind of a win-win as well,” Sakas said.

Sakas said one effort they wanted to initiate is hosting community events, both to attract customers and to create a community space.

“We added a Halloween market. We did trivia, craft nights and paint and sips. We’re going to have one in December, like a cookie decorating class with one of our vendors,” Sakas said.

They also have a monthly book club that meets the first Saturday of every month. The next book, for the Dec. 7 meeting, is “Malice” by Heather Walter.

Other events to be held in December include “Harry Potter” trivia Dec. 7, and a Sip n’ Decorate and a crochet and knitting circle Dec. 14.

Married with music

By Mick Dillon
The Jambar

The Indie-rock band Husbands looks to wrap up its 2024 U.S. tour next week with shows in California and Arizona.

Hailing from Oklahoma City, Husbands was founded in 2013 by lead vocalist and guitarist Danny Davis and Wil Norton, a friend of his from college.

“Wil and I were the only married people we knew ... Being married was a distinct part of our identity at the time so it just made sense to name our band Husbands,” Davis said.

The current live iteration of Husbands is Davis, multi-instrumentalist Zach Zeller, drummer Alberto Robert and bassist Ethan Wilcox.

Though the band considers itself indie rock, the members’ love for different genres seeps into their sound.

“I like all kinds of music and don’t set out to write with a specific genre in mind, though everything obviously falls under the umbrella of indie-rock,” Davis said.

The indie-rock ensemble has amassed over 400,000 monthly listeners on Spotify, and its track “Mexico” has over 8.6 million streams.

Husbands has grown from an underground band to being internationally known, playing gigs in Switzerland, Belgium, Australia and more.

The importance of gaining such a large following has not been lost on Davis.

“[It] means a lot, especially to go out on tour and meet some of those people and hear them singing along with us. [There’s] no better feeling than connecting with someone through music,” Davis said.

Being featured at the Governors Ball Music Festival in New York City this summer

was added to Husbands’s list of accolades. The band was part of a lineup that included artists such as SZA, Post Malone, Chappell Roan and more.

Davis said he spent a lot of time listening to SZA this year, so being included in the same festival as her was a big moment for Husbands.

“[It] feels crazy. I can speak for all of us saying we’re more stoked to see a bunch of great shows than for [us] to play our 50-minute set,” Davis said.

October 2023 saw the band releasing its sixth project, an LP titled “CUATRO.” Husbands has no plans to stop there, and the group looks forward to putting out new music in the future.

“Definitely a lot of new tunes in the works. Not sure if that’ll come out in the form of singles or an album or an EP, but I plan on putting out something in 2024 for sure,” Davis said.

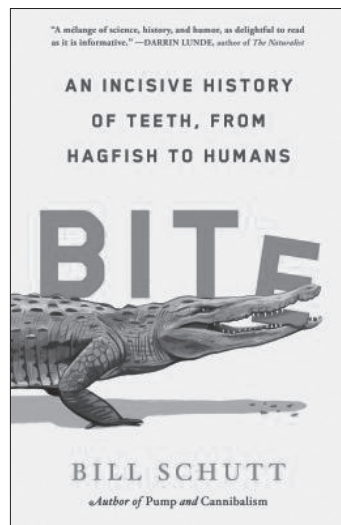
More information on tour dates can be found on the Husbands’s website.



Husbands released its LP “CUATRO” in October 2023.

Photo courtesy of husbandsokc.com

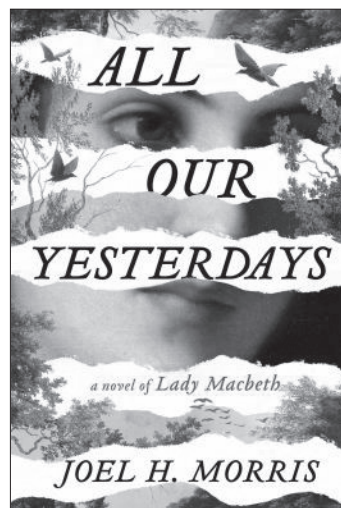
Penguin Book Nook with The Public Library



Nonfiction review

Bite: An Incisive History of Teeth, From Hagfish to Humans
by Bill Schutt

Research associate in zoology at the American Museum of Natural History, Schutt introduces us to the fascinating—and sometimes creepy—natural, scientific, and cultural history of teeth.



Fiction review

All Our Yesterdays: A Novel of Lady Macbeth
by Joel H. Morris

Explore the world of Shakespeare and the backstory of one his most infamous characters: Lady Macbeth. This novel is set ten years before the events of the play, when the murderous tyrant was a lonely young girl. Recommended for fans of historical fiction such as Maggie O'Farrell's Hamnet.

Upcoming programs

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Cross Stitch Christmas Cards

Monday, Dec. 11

6 p.m.

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Email The Jambar at

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The Jambar Column

Women in charge

When I first started my job, I didn't think much about who my bosses were. But over time, I realized something unique about my workplace — all my bosses are women.

In a world that often debates the challenges and biases women face in leadership, I'm living the experience of working under female leadership every day — and it's been nothing short of inspiring.

Working with female bosses has reshaped the way I view leadership. There's a misconception that women in charge are overly emotional, soft or too "nice" to handle the pressures of leadership.

My bosses, however, prove every single day how false those stereotypes are. They are decisive, focused and — most importantly — human. They balance professionalism with empathy, setting an example of how leadership doesn't have to be rigid or unapproachable to be effective.

One of the moments that stands out most to me happened during a tough time. I was struggling with what to do after graduation, feeling lost about my career path and the future. One of my bosses sat me down for a conversation I'll never forget.

She didn't just give me generic advice, she shared her personal experiences, her struggles and the steps she took to find success and happiness. She helped me map out a path that wasn't just about landing a good job, but about finding joy and purpose in what I do.

That conversation gave me clarity and confidence in a way I didn't think was possible. It's this personal touch that makes working under female leadership so impactful.

My bosses aren't just guiding me professionally, they're invested in who I am as a person. They show that leadership is



Aicha Sawaneh

about more than deadlines and goals — it's about helping people grow, both in their careers and in their lives.

But let me be clear, having female bosses doesn't

mean the job isn't challenging or that they go easy on me. They set high expectations and hold me accountable when I don't meet them. Yet, they do it in a way that feels constructive, not demeaning.

Beyond the day-to-day tasks, seeing women in leadership roles is empowering in itself. It's a reminder that breaking glass ceilings isn't just about occupying a position — it's about redefining what leadership looks like and proving that women belong in every space.

Watching my bosses navigate challenges, make tough calls and still have room for kindness makes me hopeful for a future where gender isn't even part of the leadership conversation — when it's just assumed that women are as capable as men.

I'm grateful for my job and the lessons it's teaching me — not just about work, but about leadership, humanity and the kind of person I want to become.

If there's one thing I've learned, it's that being a good leader isn't about gender. It's about how you treat people, the vision you bring and the example you set. And my bosses? They're setting a pretty great one.

The Jambar Editorial

Girls Rock

Now and then, The Jambar will publish an editorial ranking our favorite songs or musicians. Whether it's guitarists, bassists or albums, The Jambar has a very musical editorial board.

This time around, The Jambar will rank the greatest female rock singers to grace a stage.

The criteria for the list is simple, as any female musicians whose music has been classified as rock will be included. Do not expect to see Taylor Swift, Miley Cyrus or Mariah Carey, as they are more pop than rock. Soul artists such as Aretha Franklin, Tina Turner and Janis Joplin will also be excluded.

Before starting, our honorable mentions include Belinda Carlisle of the Go-Gos, Chrissie Hynde of the Pretenders, Patti Smith, Elizabeth Fraser of Cocteau Twins and Debbie Harry of Blondie.

Starting at No. 5 is Pat Benatar. First appearing in 1979, Pat Benatar emerged as a hard rock vocalist with an impressive 4.5-octave range. Her best-known hits include, "I Need a Lover," "Hit Me With Your Best Shot," "We Belong," "Heartbreaker" and "Love is a Battlefield."

Benatar, alongside her guitarist and partner Neil Giraldo, were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2022 by Sheryl Crow. They are often considered the most iconic husband-and-wife duo in rock.

At No. 4 is Kate Bush. One of rock's most iconic, unique voices, Kate Bush got her start in 1975 at the age of 17, when she was discovered by Pink Floyd guitarist David Gilmour. Her first album, the progressive-tinged "The Kick Inside," was released in 1978.

Bush and her four-octave voice scored multiple hits in England, including "Wuthering Heights," "Babooshka" and "Running Up That Hill." The latter became a major international hit in 2021 following its inclusion in the Netflix se-

ries "Stranger Things." Bush, now considered a progressive rock icon, was inducted into the RRHOF in 2023.

Annie Lennox takes the No. 3 spot. Getting her start with Eurythmics in 1981, alongside Dave Stewart, Lennox broke boundaries with her androgynous stage presence. Her three-octave contralto vocals have been a staple of international radio stations since Eurythmics' debut album was released in 1981.

Other than Eurythmics' smash hit, "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)," Lennox can be heard on "There Must Be an Angel," "Love Is a Stranger," "Here Comes the Rain Again" and her solo hit "Walking On Broken Glass." Lennox and Stewart were inducted into the RRHOF in 2022 as Eurythmics.

Fleetwood Mac's Stevie Nicks comes in at No. 2. Perhaps the most easily identifiable voice on the list, Nicks' ability to capture the soul of her songs sets her apart from most other female vocalists.

Having joined Fleetwood Mac in 1975, Nicks can be best heard on their 1975 self-titled album and the follow-up, "Rumours," often considered to be the greatest rock album of all time. As a member of Fleetwood Mac, Nicks was inducted into the RRHOF in 1998. She was later inducted as a solo artist in 2019.

No. 1 goes to Ann Wilson of Heart. Alongside her sister and guitarist Nancy, Ann Wilson has perhaps the most emotive, iconic voice in rock. With hits including "Magic Man," "Crazy On You," "Barracuda," "Never" and "Alone," Heart has been a domineering force in American rock since the release of their debut album in 1975.

A dramatic soprano, Ann Wilson's vocal range spans three octaves, and her ability to hold notes sets her apart as one of the greatest women to hold a microphone. Heart was inducted into the RRHOF in 2013.

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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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RUNNING UP THAT 'GUIN

Cross-country ties program best

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's and women's cross country teams competed in the NCAA Great Lakes Regional Championships on Nov. 15 at the Silver Creek Park Cross Country Course in Norton.

In total, 14 Penguins competed in the event as 62 teams participated from over 30 universities.

The men's squad led the way with a ninth-place finish totaling 224 points. The placement tied the highest finish for the Penguins in program history and the second-consecutive ninth-place finish at the Great Lakes Regional.

Youngstown State placed 10 points behind The Ohio State University. The University of Notre Dame won the championship title on the men's side with a team score of 70 points, while the University of Wisconsin–Madison and Butler University rounded out the top three, respectively.

In the men's 10K, fifth-year senior Hunter Christopher led the way for the Penguins with an 11th place finish with a time of 29:29. Christopher broke his previous program 10K record, which was 30:23.9 — set at the same event in 2023.

Senior Thomas Caputo was the next Penguin finisher, who placed 45th in the event. Caputo's time of 30:19.2 would have also broken the record, but moves him into third place in the record book.

For Youngstown State, the women's squad placed 20th overall with 583 points, while Notre Dame secured the championship title with 51 points.

Individually, two Penguins finished in the top 100 on the women's side. Sophomore McKinley Fielding placed 62nd overall with a time of 20:51.8, while freshman Caleigh Richards finished 88th, with a time of 21:14.4.

With the conclusion of the championship, Youngstown State marked the end of its 2024 cross country season. To stay up to date with the team over the off-season, follow @ysutrackfieldXC on X.

Richards finished 88th, with a time of 21:14.4.

With the conclusion of the championship, Youngstown State marked the end of its 2024 cross country season. To stay up to date with the team over the off-season, follow @ysutrackfieldXC on X.



Men's cross country team ties program best finish.

Photo courtesy of ysusports.com

Volleyball wraps up season

By Joel Fuzo
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University's women's volleyball team concluded its season Nov. 15-16, with back-to-back matches against Purdue University–Fort Wayne.

Head Coach Riley Jarrett reflected on her goals ahead of the final games.

“We want to finish this year with some highs of being consistent, build momentum for the seniors to go out on and for the momentum of our program,” Jarrett said.

Youngstown State lost the first match in four sets 3-1.

Offensively, junior Abby Householder led the team as she recorded 19 kills and 13 digs. Senior Isabella Schaeftbauer tallied a double-double with 40 assists and 13 digs.

Freshman Kelsey Cooper contributed 10 kills, the second most for the Penguins.

Defensively, senior Nyia Setla helped the defensive backline with 14 digs, while senior Dayan Malave sealed the first set with a block.

The second set featured four lead changes, but the Penguins fell short as the Mastodons rallied in the third set.

In the fourth, YSU closed the gap 14-13 after a slow start, but couldn't complete the comeback.

The Penguins also dropped the second match in four sets 3-1.

Householder secured her 17th double-double of the season with 16 digs alongside sophomore Gabriela Machin.

Schaeftbauer recorded her final career double-double with 37 assists and a game-high 21 digs.

Malave finished with six kills and three blocks while Setla added 11 digs in their final collegiate match.

In the third set, YSU led 18-13 before Fort Wayne ral-

lied to tie the game at 20. Down 23-22, the Penguins scored four of the final five points to take the set.

Looking ahead to the spring season, Jarrett emphasized the need for growth.

“There's still a lot of things we'd like to change. I keep telling our returners that there's going to be more accountability, higher standards and more that we want to progress on,” Jarrett said.

The season marked Jarrett's first year as head coach, and Householder expressed her optimism about the program's direction.

“There have been so many different changes, there have been lots of adjustments but there hasn't been one thing that I have disagreed with that we've changed and we are going to have a great future in this program because of her,” Householder said.

The Penguins finished the season with a 9-21 record and will return to action in the spring.

Penguins defend Ice Castle

By **Marissa Masano**
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University football team traveled to Southern Illinois University on Nov. 9 and returned home to face the University of Northern Iowa on Nov. 16.

The Penguins fell to the Salukis, 37-33. Sophomore Beau Brungard compiled 266 yards passing, with one touchdown and one interception. Brungard also led the team in rushing with 121 yards.

His leading receiver was junior Max Tomczak, who caught nine receptions for 154 yards.

Brungard rushed for two touchdowns in the first quarter, as Youngstown State shut out Southern Illinois 14-0.

In the second quarter, Brungard continued the run game as he scrambled for 27 yards to make the score 21-0. Later on in the quarter, Brungard completed a three-yard pass to senior Tyshon King in the end zone, building a four-score lead.

SIU's offense got on the board late in the second quarter, making the score 28-12. The Salukis attempted a two-point conversion after their second touchdown, with just 16 seconds left before halftime.

Junior Stephon Hall forced a fumble, allowing soph-

omore Mike Wells to find the opposite endzone for a defensive two-point score. The score marked the first defensive two-point conversion in program history.

YSU headed into halftime with a 30-12 lead. In the second half, the Penguins were held to just a field goal, while the Salukis scored 19 points in the fourth quarter to complete the comeback victory.

Head Coach Doug Phillips said he's still focused on winning football games.

"We ran 84 plays. That's unheard of, 84 offensive plays and lose the football game. For us, those things will be in the off-season, but the bottom line is you got to win football games. We gotta find a better way [to win] football games," Phillips said.

In the final game of the season, Youngstown State returned home with an overtime win against UNI. The Penguins celebrated its 14 seniors, beating UNI 39-38.

Brungard went 31 on 36 attempts for 256 yards and two touchdowns. His efforts earned him the Missouri Valley Football Conference's Co-Offensive Player of the Week.

Brungard accredited his seniors for motivating the team throughout the game.

"We just kept saying, 'Everything you got for these seniors.' You know they put so much work in. You know most of them have been here for five years, so every-

thing we got for them," Brungard said.

Tomczak had 10 receptions for 87 yards along with a touchdown. Redshirt freshman Cyrus Traugh had five receptions and a touchdown.

Brungard opened the scoring with two rushing touchdowns, giving the Penguins a 14-0 lead. The Panthers responded with three touchdowns, taking the lead 21-14.

In the final five minutes of the fourth quarter, sophomore Andrew Lastovka kicked a career-long 51-yard field goal to give YSU the lead, 24-21.

UNI was quick to respond as senior Sergio Morancy scored a 97-yard kickoff return to regain the lead 28-24.

Brungard connected with Tomczak on a 12-yard pass for the go-ahead score. UNI settled for a field goal to make the score 31-31, sending both teams into overtime.

The Panthers scored on their opening possession. Youngstown State handed the ball off to King, who scored a nine-yard touchdown to make the score 36-37.

The Penguins converted on their two-point conversion as Brungard connected with junior Austin Bray to complete the overtime victory.

The Penguins ended the 2024 season going 4-8 overall and 3-5 in conference play. The team held a record of 4-2 inside Stambaugh Stadium, but went 0-6 on the road.

Back-to-back-to-back in Beeghly

By **Teziah Howard**
The Jambar

After the cancellation of its week one matchup, the Youngstown State University women's basketball team followed up with four wins at home against Lake Erie College, St. Bonaventure University, Clarion University and Mercyhurst University.

The Penguins opened the season inside Beeghly Center scoring 95 points. Since the start of the season, the 'Guins have outscored their opponents 224-143. This year, the Penguins offense is led by senior Jewel Watkins and fifth-year senior Malia Magestro.

Magestro reached a milestone at home against the Bonnies. With a layup in the second period, Magestro scored her 1,000th career point. She also finished with a team-high 15 points, while Watkins finished with 14.

The 60-52 final score wasn't the only aspect of gameplay that was kept close. Youngstown State lost the turnover battle 18-17. The Bonnies were more efficient at the free throw line, shooting 78.9% to the Penguins' 72.7%.

The Penguins out rebounded the Bonnies with 42, while the Bonnies mustered 36. Junior Abby Liber led the team with 11 rebounds.

In the final 11 minutes of the matchup against Clarion University, Watkins posted 17 points. What was once a 43-40 lead for the Penguins, turned into a 64-48 score after Watkins made her presence felt.

Watkins finished the matchup with 24 points and helped the Penguins secure the

victory over the Golden Eagles, 69-52.

Head Coach Melissa Jackson praised her top two offensive scorers of the 2024-25 season. Jackson said the spotlight can be put on any of her players, but the plan is for the offense to run through Watkins and Magestro.

"On any given night anyone can go off, but I've actually been really happy with our balance," Jackson said. "Obviously Malia [Magestro] and Jewel [Watkins] are two really good players and we're going to get the ball to them a lot.

It's no secret the two guards will be the key features to create a high-powered offense for the Penguins. Watkins leads the team in scoring, three-pointers, field goals and average points per game.

Watkins has put up 57 points on the season, with 24 of those points coming from beyond the arc. Magestro adds another veteran presence to the squad and has put up 38 points on the season.

The efficiency of the Penguins has been a key component of their victories. Prior to Tuesday's mid-morning matchup against Mercyhurst University, YSU had four Penguins that were 100% from the free throw line.

After hosting Mercyhurst University for its annual Kid's Day game, the Youngstown State women's basketball team will travel to Lewisburg, Pennsylvania for a matchup at 11 a.m. Nov. 23 against Bucknell University.

To view the game or live stats, visit ESPN+. To stay updated on the YSU women's basketball team, visit YSUsports.com.

YSU's big league adventure

By Dylan Lux
The Jambar

To start off the 2024-25 campaign, the Youngstown State University men's basketball team has played in three contests — including two Power Five matchups.

The team's game-opening matchup was Nov. 9 against Chicago State University. Through a closely-contested first half, the Penguins led 32-29 over the Cougars.

In the second half, the 'Guins managed to pull away, outscoring Chicago State 48-31, leading to an 80-60 win for YSU.

In Game One, fifth-year senior Nico Galette led the game in three categories with 34 minutes played, nine rebounds and 20 points. Galette shot eight of 13 on the day.

Sophomore Gabe Dynes — a part of the Horizon League all-defensive team last season — finished the game with seven blocks for Youngstown State.

After a 1-0 start, the 'Guins traveled to Columbus for a matchup with No. 21 The Ohio State University.

The Buckeyes won their season-opener against the No. 19 University of Texas at Austin, which boosted them into the NCAA Top 25.

YSU kept the score within 15 at halftime, but the Buckeyes pulled away in the second half for an 81-47 win over the Penguins.

Despite the loss, junior Cris Carroll had 10 points and seven rebounds to go along with two steals for the 'Guins. Dynes had three blocks in the contest.

Five days later, Atlantic Coast Conference foe Syracuse University was up next for YSU in the JMA Wireless Dome.

Youngstown State came out scoring against the Orange, with a seven-point lead at halftime, 38-31. The 'Guins ended the half on a 12-7 run.

The 'Guins had a two-point lead with 14 seconds remaining after a Galette layup, but Syracuse junior J.J. Starling forced an overtime period with just eight seconds remaining, tying the score at 73.

One overtime wasn't enough as Syracuse and Youngstown State continued for a second overtime, with an 86-86 score.

In double-overtime, Syracuse managed to pull away with a 104-95 win over Youngstown State, who put up a valiant effort against its second P5 opponent in five days.

Starling finished the game with a career and game-high 38 points and seven rebounds.

Despite the loss, Head Coach Ethan Faulker said he was proud of the team's execution.

"For the most part, we executed our game plan very well, which gave us a chance to win. I was proud of our staff for the game plan we put together," Faulkner said.

Though the 'Guins fought closely with an ACC opponent, Faulkner knew the opportunity was there for YSU to grab a big win for the program.

"We're at a point in our program where there's no moral victories.

We felt like we should have won the game and we let one slip away. I'm super proud of our effort and competitive spirit of the game," Faulkner said.

"Just the bottom line, they made a few more plays than we did down the stretch."

For YSU, four 'Guins finished in double figures, while two had over 20 points.

Galette had 21 points to go along with seven rebounds and two steals, while senior EJ Farmer put up a team-high 26 points on 50% shooting.

In response to Farmer's career night, Faulkner said he played very well and had an aggressive approach to the game.

"[Farmer] is a guy we're going to give a lot of freedom when we need him to score the basketball for us," Faulkner said.

Fifth-year Ty Harper had 17 points against the Orange, while junior Jason Nelson pitched in with 10 points.

The 'Guins will compete in the Axe 'Em Classic, hosted by Stephen F. Austin State University, where the team will play three games over three days.

The first of the team's three-day triple-header will be 5 p.m. Nov. 21 against Monmouth University in Nacogdoches, Texas. The game will be broadcasted live on 570 WKBN.

