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Mark Roty (CENTER) rallies the crowd of roughly 300 protesters at Saturday's Occupy Youngstown rally. Roty and other area residents voiced their frustrations with the government and corporations. The group intends on remaining at the site until Election Day on Nov. 8. Photo by Chris Cotelesse/The Jambar.

Occupy Youngstown

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

Students in Ray Beiersdorfer's classes at Youngstown State University have an incentive to exercise their political freedoms from now until Election Day on Nov. 8.

Beiersdorfer told his students that if they miss class to become a part of Occupy Youngstown, an offshoot of the Occupy Wall Street protests, they would not be penalized. Beiersdorfer said he would pass out quizzes on the street if it helped them attend.

"I'd be honored to come down here and teach them," Beiersdorfer said.

Beiersdorfer added that he's noticed "a disinvestment in college education, especially here in Youngstown."

"There's political reasons you have to pay \$7,000 or more to go to school. It shouldn't be that way, but it's going to stay that way unless students get down here and start to protest," he said.

Other local representatives of the "99 percent" of Americans gathered downtown on the corner of Federal and Market streets in front of Huntington and First National banks at noon on Saturday.

The first phase of the indefinite occupation started out at a few hundred but dwindled down to around 50 by 5 p.m., as the dropping temperature progressively drove protesters away.

The movement, which started in lower Manhattan, was centered on the wealthiest 1 percent of the country, who protesters say control the American political spectrum with their economic influence.

In Youngstown, a scattershot of ideas, issues and concerns drew a unique blend of disgruntled citizens, comprised of local leaders, union members and area residents.

Staying somewhat in line

with its mother movement, Occupy Youngstown incorporated local and statewide political issues, namely Senate Bill 5. However, solidarity throughout the 99 percent was the ultimate lure that drew in the movement's local supporters.

State Rep. Bob Hagan recounted the struggles of his family, who spent most of their lives as blue-collar workers.

"They watched as the steel mills sucked the life out of them. Pollute our rivers, pollute our air, and then they left. Now they come up with something called Wall Street so they can continue to screw us. Are we going to sit here and let that happen?" he asked, to which the crowd responded with a resounding "no."

Hagan criticized the policies of Gov. John Kasich's administration, the Republican majority in the Ohio Statehouse and SB 5. He touted his role as "protector" of the working class.

"I stood at the floor of the Ohio House of Representatives, defending working people, defending the poor, the teachers, the police [officers] and the [firefighters]. And they're under attack with this Issue 2. We have to vote 'no,'" he said.

Beiersdorfer also took the opportunity to speak. Holding a large globe to illustrate his point, he pointed out how Earth has no political boundaries.

"Those are just things that people put up with," he said.

His wife, Susan Beiersdorfer, recited a quote from Mahatma Gandhi, which touched on corporate greed, something many in attendance felt was a pressing issue.

"There is enough on this Earth for everybody's need, but not enough for everybody's greed," she said.

Sean O'Toole, a disabled

OCCUPY PAGE 6

Behind the protest

Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As downtown Youngstown's Central Square acts as another home to protesters and speakers aiming to educate the public, it seems that the minds behind Occupy Youngstown are of differing employment status with a similar perspective.

As spokesmen for the Occupy Youngstown protest, Brandon Smith and Chuck Kettering spoke with media outlets to spread the word during the weeks leading up to the big day.

On Saturday, they told fellow protesters that they would be available to answer questions.

Both will be standing, holding signs and raising awareness until Election Day.

"Whenever I'm not at work or asleep, I'm going to be down here," Smith said.

Smith graduated from Youngstown State University in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in fine arts. He works at an electronics retail corporation, and his association with the Occupy Youngstown protests barred him from divulging his employer's name to the

media.

Smith said despite working full time and not being at the poverty level, it has still been a struggle to pay back his student loans. He can only imagine what it's like for someone who is unemployed.

"I was going to get a deferment, but I couldn't do it. I don't deserve tax breaks. I don't deserve things like that," Smith said.

Aside from working an electronics retail job, Smith said he is a budding actor and uses his free time to go to auditions, even though he realizes his chances of making a living as an actor are slim.

"The figure one of my professors told me was out of every 100 auditions, you'll get



Occupy Youngstown members Chuck Kettering, far right, Brandon Smith and Jeremiah Blaylock hold signs on stage during Saturday's rally. Photo by Chris Cotelesse/The Jambar.

10 callbacks. Out of every 100 callbacks, you'll get an offer," Smith said.

Smith also spends his free time writing and coaching dialect.

FACES PAGE 6

Curiosity revives campus club

Jenna Medina
FEATURES REPORTER

In the 1990s, when Youngstown State University offered a bachelor's degree in physical therapy, undergraduate advisers started the Pre-Physical Therapy Club primarily to prepare students for the program.

However, when the undergraduate program expanded to the current Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, "membership kind of fell off," said Nancy Landgraff, associate professor and chairwoman of the physical therapy department.

"We tried to keep the group functioning," she said.

Around 2006 or 2007, though, a couple of exercise students expressed interest in bringing back the club, changing its name in the process to the Future Physical Therapy Society.

"We brought the group back as a student organization, where we reinstated and rewrote the by-laws and got it going again," said Landgraff, who also serves as director of the FPTS.

Nicole Pavlichich, president of the FPTS, said the organization is relatively new on campus.

"This year, myself, along with Vice President Sam Gindlesberger and Ben Clement [who serves as secretary and treasurer] are trying to build the organization up from almost nothing."

CLUB PAGE 6

Youngstown goes pink

Jessica Johnson
REPORTER

During the month of October, shades of pink add a hue of awareness to the fall foliage. This is the 25th anniversary of October's designation as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Since its creation, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month's events and promotional items have escalated. Organizations are all things pink, promoting awareness through apparel and other goods.

Even professional football players take pink accessories to the next level.

Pink goal posts, jackets, receiver's gloves, knee-high socks and skullcaps adorn the gridiron during Sunday and Monday football games.

Skullcaps aren't found only on the football field. They're also popular with cancer victims who have suffered through chemotherapy treatments, which often results in hair loss.

The NFL and Zeta Tau Alpha have teamed up their respective groups, "A Crucial Catch" and "Think Pink," to raise awareness and funding for breast cancer. This is the third year of the partnership.

Although several breast cancer events occur across the country, there are also plenty of local ways to donate funds to research, support breast cancer victims and spread awareness.

Youngstown State University's ZTA sisters will host the 11th annual Pink Ribbon Cheer Classic on Sunday.

The organization raised \$115,000 last year and hopes to raise more this year, said junior

member Morgan Pallo.

YSU will also host a "Dig Pink" volleyball match. The volleyball team will donate all proceeds to the Side-Out Foundation, a breast cancer support and advocacy organization. Volleyball coach Krista Burrows has set a goal of raising \$1,600.

"'Dig Pink' is a cause that the sport of volleyball has really taken under their wing. We are proud to support the cause and raise more awareness for breast cancer," Burrows said.

The game will start at 7 p.m. on Friday at Beeghly Center.

For off-campus events, ZTA has partnered with the Youngstown Sports Grille to sell pink T-shirts. The restaurant will sell the shirts for \$12 each, donating \$2 per shirt to cancer research.

Local menus also feature food and bar items with "pink" in the name.

Panera Bread recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of its Pink Ribbon Bagel, sold throughout October.

"I love October and seeing pink everywhere. I feel really good about making a difference," said Kayleena Kinnick, manager of the Boardman Panera Bread.

The Boardman Walmart also plays a role in breast cancer awareness.

"We just got in several different styles of shirts, and it does sell quickly within the next couple days," said Nanette Clemens, assistant manager.

Walmart has a Relay For Life team that attends the race each year and also holds bake sale fundraisers in the store.

Campus Connection

How have you been affected by breast cancer?



Madeline Rodriguez
Freshman

"My aunt has been affected by it. She died last January. I saw her leave as she died. I don't really know how to talk about it."



Holli Richards
Senior

"My aunt and my dad's ex-wife had it. My aunt lost all her hair, and it was sad to see."



Max Bumgardner
Sophomore

"My friend's mother had it. He's actually at the Ohio State University doing a lot of cancer research. He ended up doing the sciences. He's in special programs for it, basically doing cancer research because of it."

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'I am a survivor'

Austintown woman recounts breast cancer battle

Candace Mauzy
REPORTER

JoAnn Doran never finished her classes at Youngstown State University. But she's not ashamed. She battled something other than student loans and final exams: breast cancer.

Doran, 77, of Austintown, was diagnosed with breast cancer 19 years ago. At age 58, she discovered a lump under her arm that would change her life forever.

"I put my hand under my arm, and I thought, 'Oh my goodness. Something feels funny here,'" she said.

So Doran talked to her doctor. She went in to have more tests, and they came back positive for cancer.

Doran had a radical mastectomy, a procedure for surgically removing breast tissue.

"I told the doctor to do whatever it takes. If the breast has to [be] removed, then do so. I gave him permission. I had 10 lymph nodes removed, and only one of them was malignant. This was besides what they found in the breast," she said.

The procedure took three days.

"I had my breasts completely removed. As far as reconstruction surgery, I voted not to have it because I did not want anything foreign in my body," she said.

The American Cancer Society played an important role in Doran's recovery. The organization gave her a prosthesis she could wear at home and encouraged her to call whenever she needed help.

"They brought me a rope that you put over the doorway. It helps you raise your arm and get it functioning again. My left arm was swollen [because of the surgery] and was not reconstructing well, and it [helped] me get use of it again," she said.

Doran had to face this nightmare alone, finding strength within herself to beat the disease.

"I was a widow at that time. When



JoAnn Doran, 77, of Austintown stands outside her home on Monday. Doran discovered a lump when she was 58 years old that ended up being breast cancer. Photo by Nick Young/The Jambar.

I had to start [chemotherapy], I was alone. My husband was gone, and my children had families of their own. I was a little let down that I was by myself, but I just told myself that this would last a short time," she said. "I went to church and did ... what I could."

Doran stayed at work until the last month of chemo when she became too weak to stay on the job. She endured chemo every other week while taking medication every day. Her chemo concluded in April 1992.

Doran said her four children — Jacquelyn, Janice, Joyce and James — "would sit with [her] four to five hours during chemo."

"They supported me all through it. Back then, chemo wasn't what it is today. It was medicine ran through an IV," she said.

After the chemo was over, Doran's doctor said the cancer was gone.

"I was told to have a mammogram yearly. They also made sure that my daughters were checked out," she said.

One important step of this experience was the BRACAnalysis, a test that assesses the hereditary risks of breast or ovarian cancer for family members and offspring.

"Two of my maternal aunts had breast cancer and died from it," Doran said.

Fortunately, Doran did not pass on the genes to her children.

"I have known Joann for many years now, and she always shares her experience with others. She has been successful at convincing many women to have breast exams done," said Melanie Rudolph, one of Doran's co-workers.

Doran works with the mentally challenged as a nurse at Gateways to Better Living, Inc.

Doran said she would never forget the day she discovered the strange lump under her arm. She thanks God for strengthening her during recovery and preserving her life to help others.

"All I have to do is go to my check-up regularly. I am a survivor," she said.

ZTA sisters take on breast cancer

April Shirley
REPORTER

On Sunday, Zeta Tau Alpha will host the 11th annual Pink Ribbon Cheer Classic.

This event — a dance and cheer show — helps raise money for breast cancer awareness, education and research.

Last year, the ZTA sisters raised more than \$115,000. This year, they want to top that number.

The sisters participate in silent auctions, 50/50 raffles and concession sales, among other fundraising activities, to reach

their goal.

"The Pink Ribbon Cheer Classic represents hope to me. [It's] hope that one day this world will be free of breast cancer, or the hope that everyone diagnosed will one day all be able to call themselves survivors," said Miranda James, ZTA historian.

ZTA President Alyssa DiBernardi said the event is dedicated to community members who have been affected by breast cancer.

For instance, survivors are honored during the special survivor walk. Those in attendance are recognized for the amount of time they have

beaten cancer.

A typical day at the Pink Ribbon Cheer Classic involves cheerleading teams dedicating their routines to those who have either survived breast cancer or who live on in their memory.

"Being a part of this event has been bittersweet for so many reasons," DiBernardi said.

In 2008, ZTA appeared on ABC's "Good Morning America."

For the past five years, the event has received the Constellation Award for the best university-wide event sponsored by a registered Youngstown

State University student organization. Additionally, for the past nine years, the event has been honored with the Kessler Award for the best YSU Greek life fundraiser.

"This is an amazing event. It is incredible to think something so large can come from such a small group of people," James said. "That in itself is hope that everyone really can make a difference in the lives of those affected by breast cancer. I'm honored to be a part of the organization that makes such large contributions to the fight and will continue to fight like a girl for all the women out there with this disease."

Occupy nothing

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

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OCCUPY PAGE 1

As Youngstown's bankers and businessmen left work on Monday afternoon, four angry protesters waited for them.

Four. Let's be honest, Occupy Youngstown has gained no traction and even less attention.

The original movement based in New York City had a purpose, a general consensus and an overall theme.

The Youngstown offshoot serves up the usual pro-union, anti-Kasich soapbox we've come to tune out.

No structure or common objective exists, and they're not oppressed.

They argue for employment. However, a report released by the Brookings Institute lists Youngstown as the seventh among the largest 100 metropolitan areas with the highest education gaps, a "shortage of educated workers relative to employer demand."

So, instead of arguing for education or specific employment opportunities, the shivering crowd hid behind anti-Senate Bill 5 rhetoric to keep warm.

Many in attendance on Saturday and the handful who hung on through Monday morning claimed solidarity, but they clearly missed the point.

Rick Montanez, one of the group's coordinators, said a restructuring of the government is in order. But when asked how he would do it, he said he would attack "corporate greed."

Restructuring government has no bearing on corporate greed. Be more specific. Is it corporate taxes? Tax loopholes? Import and export excise taxes?

Or maybe it's the high union salaries and costly benefits that force our corporations to hire overseas.

No, it couldn't be the unions. Could it?

It's easy to point out problems in government, but the lack of potential solutions makes them more of a social club than a political movement.

We fall in line with Paul Sracic, who suggests that they attempt a run for political office. Maybe then they'll be forced to do more than recite memorized catch phrases regarding tax breaks for the wealthy.

The movement is exercising their right to peacefully assemble, and we hope it remains that way. The violence in New York City is the last thing we want.

But until they collectively agree on the problems and push a consistent message with insight and reason, they'll be nothing more than a spectacle.



Cartoon by Paris Chrisopoulos/The Jambar.



Jared Buker
COLUMNIST

The big picture Things I learned from my dad: Saying a lot with a little

When I was young, my dad got Indians tickets for the family. The plan was to hit Cleveland early, get some lunch, walk around a bit, then enjoy the game. I was never a huge baseball fan, and we never had fantastic seats, but that never mattered much to me.

When we got to the entrance, the people at the gate told my dad our tickets were actually for the following day's game. We wanted to get to Cleveland three hours early, but we got there 27 hours early. Dad tried to exchange the tickets for the right game, but he didn't have much luck. The entire drive home was silent.

We went back the next night and had a blast.

My dad knew actions spoke louder than words, so he spent that quiet car ride home planning the next day's trip back to Jacob's Field. We never talked about it again because it just didn't matter anymore.

When I was old enough to drive, my parents were gracious enough to bestow upon me the old family minivan, which I named Prudence. I failed my driving test twice — three times if you count being late and thus not allowed to take it — so my folks never gave me much

freedom behind the wheel. But no one ever gets over his first car, and I am no exception.

On Halloween night 2007, I was racing home to go trick-or-treating with my friends. I tried to cheat a yellow light when I saw a semi truck doing the same thing catty-corner to me.

I slammed the breaks, but Prudence wasn't so good at stopping in the rain. I totaled the car, broke every window, took an airbag to the chest and punched my left hand through the windshield.

I was scared to see my dad.

He and my mom trusted me with that van, and I felt like I failed them because I wanted to get candy from strangers at 17 years old. But when he picked me up, we sat in his car for about five minutes and didn't say a word.

But then he gave me a hug and turned the radio on like nothing had happened. It was like he knew so well how I felt and how scared I was to see his reaction that it just didn't seem worth saying anymore.

Maybe when you hear that your son was in a car wreck with a semi, you just know nothing could be said that couldn't be expressed with a hug and some oldies — everyday stuff we take for granted.

Sometimes saying nothing says it all.

Not long ago, I was mugged. My wallet, full of money and a credit card, was stolen. The importance of this story is not the money but rather the way my dad handled the news. He gave me money to replace everything I had lost without as much as a hiccup.

He said he was just glad he raised a son who knew how to pick his battles. In his heart, he thought that if it had been him being robbed, he might not have cooperated and may have lost more than just his wallet.

For a man who often said so much by saying so little, any praise or advice I got I always took to heart.

He told me the way to get a girl's dad to like you is through your handshake.

He told me I would regret it for the rest of my life if I didn't have a good career.

He said "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" is, without question, the best movie ever made.

But most of the time, he didn't tell me how to be. He just was, and he let me watch. I bet he won't say much when he reads this, but, honestly, he won't have to.

Medical marijuana: Research, not fear

McClatchy-Tribune News Service
(MCT)

What is it that makes marijuana more frightening to the federal government than cocaine or morphine? The Drug Enforcement Administration has steadfastly, over decades, listed marijuana as a Schedule I drug, meaning that it has no medical value and that the potential for abuse is high. Cocaine

and morphine, far more dangerous and habit-forming, are listed as Schedule II because they have some medical value.

Last week the DEA ruled once again, a decade after it made the same decision, that marijuana is a potentially dangerous drug without known medical benefits. During the intervening 10 years, though, nine more states passed medical marijuana laws, bring-

ing the total to 17. Two years ago, the American Medical Association recommended changing the classification of marijuana to Schedule II, which would make it easier for researchers to obtain the drug for medical studies.

In March, the National Cancer Institute reported: "The potential benefits of medicinal cannabis for people living with cancer include antiemetic effects,

appetite stimulation, pain relief and improved sleep." However, it stopped short of endorsing marijuana as a medical treatment, concluding that there was too little evidence.

The cancer institute and the DEA are right that there's not enough scientific evidence about the medical uses of cannabis. But whose fault is that?

The biggest reason there is so little proof about marijuana, one way or the other, is that the federal government is paranoid about legitimate research on the drug and has refused to relist it as Schedule II. The few and scattered studies that have been

completed, in this country and around the world, have not proved marijuana's potential benefits, but by and large, they have produced some promising findings. In the late 1990s, both the New England Journal of Medicine and the Institute of Medicine, part of the National Academy of Sciences, suggested that marijuana appeared to have some medical uses and recommended more research.

Those recommendations went unheeded, and no wonder. All research-grade marijuana in this country is under the control of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, whose mission is to research the addictive properties of drugs, not their potential medical benefits.

Our prescription is for better knowledge. Marijuana is just another drug — one with psychotropic effects, for sure, but one that might be able to help sick people. Oversight of research-grade marijuana should be shared with an agency whose primary mission is medical research. Marijuana should be listed as a Schedule II drug to facilitate further research. The findings should be submitted to the Food and Drug Administration, just as clinical trials are for any other drug. Then the nation can base its marijuana policy on information, not on entrenched fears or a patchwork of possibly well-intentioned but under-informed state medical marijuana laws.

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Profs learn from raising adopted children

Candace Mauzy
REPORTER

For two professors, attaining a doctorate pales in comparison to what they have accomplished outside of academia. They've juggled school, work and raising two children from Romania: one autistic and one who speaks English as a second language.

Julia Gergits, 55, and James Schramer, 68, have been married for 25 years. Both are English professors at Youngstown State University. They are also the proud parents of Joey, 14, and Carl, 19.

A student at the Rich Center for Autism, Joey is autistic.

Autism is a developmental disorder that appears in the first three years of child development. The disorder affects the brain's development of social and communication skills.

"It's not surprising that he is autistic. It's a miracle that he's as affectionate and outgoing as he is. With the help of the wonderful teachers at the Rich Center, he began talking around 4, and he was potty trained by about 5," Gergits said.

Both Joey and Carl were born in Romania.

"In Romania, Joey had been kept swaddled up to his armpits and in a crib until he was 18 months old. No toys, no affection and only bottle-feeding. No solid food," she said.

Schramer and his brother-in-law, Carl Gergits, traveled to Romania to pick up 2-year-old Joey.

"Two men and a baby. We picked him up on May 10, 1999, on his second birthday. We knew that Joey had problems because I could speak a few simple phrases in Romanian," Schramer said. "He

was 2 and was not saying even simple words or phrases in Romanian. When he did speak, it was in English."

In contrast, Carl — whom Schramer and Gergits adopted when he was 4 years old — had been "speaking fluent Romanian when we took him to the U.S. in 1996," Schramer said.

"He wisely discerned that my Romanian would never get beyond the level of a 2-year-old, so he picked up English rather quickly," he said.

Gergits and Schramer said they have learned as much from their adopted children as they had hoped to teach them.

"You learn a lot about yourself and your partner when you raise children, whether they're normal or autistic," Gergits said. "The hardest thing was figuring out where to send him for school. Once we found the Rich Center, we calmed down. We know he's getting a good education with understanding and supportive teachers."

Almost every morning, Gergits and Schramer wake up, eat breakfast and prepare Joey for his day at school. Although Carl also has disabilities, he is more independent and does not live at home.

Like clockwork, Joey's morning is scheduled for normalcy: wake up at 6:30 a.m. and be at the Rich Center by 8:30 a.m. The family usually commutes to YSU together.

"Joey has the most regular schedule, so his mornings are usually normal," Gergits said. "But our schedule is unpredictable."

The couple has years of experience in time management and compromising schedules.

Gergits and Schramer met at the University of Minnesota.

"We were poor, starving graduate students," Gergits

said.

"Julia and I were both graduate students in the Ph.D. program in English ... when we met. She was a graduate assistant composition director, and so she was in the English department office almost every day. I stopped by the office a lot to check my mail but really so that I would have a reason to talk to her," Schramer said.

After finishing school, Gergits was hired in Chicago and Schramer at YSU. For two years, Schramer commuted five hours from Youngstown to Chicago to see Gergits until she was also hired at YSU.

"The drive was sometimes a little tedious, but it was worth it. We felt that staying in Youngstown or Chicago to 'get more work done' could lead to putting our jobs before our marriage, and we did not want to make that trade," Schramer said. "Julia was able to get a position here at YSU in 1990."

The family is "anchored by our teaching schedule," Gergits said. "We are anchored by when we teach and when we have to get Joey back and forth to school. Everything else is chaos."

Joey leaves the Rich Center at 2:30 p.m. for DeBartolo Hall with his father.

He spends about an hour at DeBartolo Hall waiting for his parents to get off work. Most of that time is spent in the computer lab or in his mother's office.

"Joey can only tolerate the computer lab for so long, then he has to go home," Gergits said.

Bege Bowers, associate provost, has known the family for many years.

"Joey loves to listen to the radio, dance and sing. He is the first person that I've known



James Schramer and his wife Julia Gergits, English professors at YSU, spend time with their son Joey between classes. The two adopted Joey, who attends the Rich Center for Autism, and another son, Carl, from Romania. Photo by Candace Mauzy/The Jambar.

really well with autism. He is smart and funny, just a joy to be with," she said.

Schramer said everyone at YSU is "very exceptional."

"That makes it a different kind of workplace. There are other places that are not at all accepting of children. And we probably sometimes stretch their goodwill, but they have really been very good about it," he said.

"The department has been

wonderful about having Joey around," Gergits said. "He is growing up around them, so he actually thinks this is [his] office and department. He is very comfortable."

Gergits and Schramer work together five days a week. Joey is with them, too.

But they wouldn't have it any other way.

"Working at the same place allows us to see each other," Schramer said.

Fundraise by masquerade

Rich Center students, families and staff masquerade for autism

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

On Friday, Alpha Xi Delta will team up with the Rich Center for Autism and Antone's Banquet Centre to host a masquerade costume party.

AZD sisters are preparing for the event by making decorations.

"It's a fun Halloween theme, so we're carving pumpkins on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week," said Alina Rios, an AZD member who helps organize the group's philanthropic events.

A puzzle piece is the symbol for autism awareness. Lori Miller, a National Panhellenic Conference delegate who represents AZD at Youngstown State University, decided to make masks with puzzle pieces on them.

"If you wear a costume to Masquerade for Autism, you get a free drink. There is also a cash bar at the event," Miller said.

All proceeds benefit the Rich Center. Tickets cost \$35 a person, but YSU students with valid YSU ID can buy tickets for \$10.

Tricia Perry, the Rich Center's event coordinator, said the center plans a lot of fundraising events, but this is the Masquerade for Autism's first year.

"The parents of the children here run the fundraisers usually," Perry said.

Due to Temple Grandin's autism lecture in May, the Rich Center could not hold its spring fundraiser. Parents and staff subsequently created the masquerade event.

"We expect around 200 people for a first-time event. We have told friends and advertised around the community," Perry said.

The event will feature basket raffles and a silent auction. Some of the prizes include a toolbox, a sweeper, toys, gift certificates for local restaurants, an original cornhole set and an iPad 2.

The costume contest judges are WFMJ's Susan Campbell, WKBN's Greta Mittereder and Jeff Levkulich, Mahoning County Commissioner Anthony Traficanti and Ballet Western Reserve's Virginia Hartman.

Jenny Ellis' 11-year-old son Carson attends the Rich Center, and she will be attending the party.

"It's not mandatory to be dressed up, but we hope that everyone comes with the intention of having a good time," she said. "We wanted to broaden our horizons and try to get people into it."

Ellis said the Halloween-themed party is different because the center usually plans sit-down dinners and shows. She hopes that turnout is favorable.

"There will be a variety of music, and young and old people love to dance," she said.

Cannibals roam the night

Students participate in independent horror film



(LEFT) Thiel College graduate and movie extra Quincy Harris eats the intestines of Aimee Wilds, an OSU student and movie extra, during a shoot for the independent horror film "Night of the Cannibals." (RIGHT) Makeup is applied to an actress before a scene is shot. Auditions for the movie took place in Austintown, and it has been shot in several locations throughout Ohio, including Youngstown. Photos courtesy of Joe Mohn.

Chelsea Telega
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

By day, Julian Kalis is a freshman at Youngstown State University studying special education. However, at night, he transforms in to a gory, bloody snack for flesh-craving cannibals.

"Night of the Cannibals" is an independent horror film about a group of friends who take a trip to a desolate area in the country to investigate reports of deathly occurrences. After they discover the myths are true, they are not able to escape.

Kalis was awarded a lead role as "Chris" after his audition in the summer. He heard about auditions from a friend and traveled to Austintown to try out.

"They insisted that I should come along because I have always been interested in movies and acting, and especially horror movies," Kalis said. "I almost wasn't able to attend, but I'm so glad I did."

The filming process began in August, and Kalis said it was a long and tedious experience. The crew has been filming daily for two months and often puts in eight to 10 hours a day.

"I never, ever thought it would be as time-consuming and as much work as it has been, but the results are amazing," Kalis said. "It has been tough with school and stuff, but it's such a cool experience that I would never have given up."

Kalis said one of the best parts of participating in the project is working with esteemed professionals in the film

business. Daniel Emery Taylor has worked with stars like Tom Green, and Kristina Michelle has been involved in more than 30 feature films, through both acting and producing.

"It has been so cool learning about the filmmaking process. I never dreamed it would be as difficult as it has been but so rewarding. I've been so lucky to get this experience so that I know how exactly the process goes," Kalis said.

Joe Mohn is the writer, co-producer and director for "Night of the Cannibals." He has been writing horror films for five years, starting with independent films in the area. Mohn also co-owns Eerie Frequency Entertainment.

"I woke up one day and said, 'I need to get this movie going,'" Mohn said.

Mohn has been working locally since the start of his career. He said it is important to keep something of this caliber in the area.

"You've got to start somewhere. I know there's not a lot out here," he said.

Mohn can recall going to conventions and meeting horror film stars when he was younger, and he is now casting them.

"I never thought I would meet these people, let alone have them in my movies," he said.

Prospective YSU student Courtney Davis has a lead role as "Angel" in the film, and she has been a part of the film since the beginning. She started working during the preproduction phase as a production assistant.

"Once you are involved in the production of a movie, you

will never watch one the same way again," Davis said. "In this business, time is money."

Davis said members of the cast and crew have fun in between working hard.

"If we have a lag in filming while the director is working with a certain group of the cast or just getting filler shots, we all loosen up by playing pranks on each other or running over lines," she said.

The excessive goriness of the film requires the cast to have strong stomachs.

"I love watching horror movies. Horror is my favorite genre of movies, by far," Davis said. "Now that I'm working on a horror movie, it's harder to get scared by them."

Kalis watches scary movies in his spare time as well and loves the gruesome nature of the film.

"I am a huge movie buff, especially scary movies. I love the eeriness of them, the gore. I just love being scared, and this movie is sure to make you cringe," Kalis said.

Eerie Frequency Entertainment will be hosting a horror convention at the Eastwood Expo Center on Oct. 29 and 30. Horror movie fans will have the opportunity to meet celebrities within the genre and purchase related merchandise.

Cast members agree that the film has created multiple opportunities.

"It is amazing to me that my wildest dreams are coming true just by one decision to go to this casting call on a July day," Davis said. "That's the butterfly effect in full force."

"Night of the Cannibals" will be available on DVD and Netflix in the summer.



International connection

International student-athletes add element to team dynamics

Caitlin Cook
REPORTER

For young athletes, committing to a college sports team is a major decision.

At Youngstown State University, roughly 20 of the 344 student-athletes are international, coming from eight different countries.

Coaches and players said these international team members give YSU an edge in competition and recruiting.

Elaine Jacobs, associate athletic director, said the compliance process for incoming prospects, including international athletes, is completed through the NCAA Eligibility Center.

International students must have their transcripts evaluated and equated to their American educational counter

parts. The NCAA has guidelines for academic athletic advisers to evaluate each country's educational system.

Mark Klysner, tennis coach, said he knows about recruiting and playing at an international level. Klysner grew up playing tennis in Europe before moving to Canada as a teenager. He went on to play college tennis at the University of South Carolina.

Klysner's teams feature nine international athletes, leaving only four domestic players. From his own experiences, Klysner said he believes he can relate to his athletes.

Tennis has the highest team percentage of international student-athletes, while individual sports have the highest concentration of international athletes.

Together, men's and women's cross-country and track and field have

four international athletes. Swimming and diving has three international team members, football has two and softball has one.

"I think it's an experience a lot of other student-athletes don't get to experience," Klysner said.

Swimming and diving coach Matt Anderson uses his three international team members in recruiting. Anderson said swimming is easier than other sports for international student-athletes because it is based off time.

Anderson encourages recruits and promotes his team's diverse culture. He explains to prospects that they are "going to get a chance to meet people from other cultures, from different lifestyles and be teammates with them and get to know them."

Klysner said international athletes have a chance to get out and live on

their own, away from family and friends.

"I think it prepares them very well for after college," Anderson said.

Klysner and Anderson agreed that recruiting internationally typically provides coaches a chance to sign a higher-caliber athlete.

"They're more likely to come to any school just based on whatever the scholarship is," Klysner said.

Sophomore tennis player Gimena Puppo knew she wanted to continue to play tennis and study in the U.S. Puppo also needed money for school.

"If there was a chance that I could — with a scholarship — pay college and not have to depend on my parents, well, then I figured I should take that chance," Puppo said.

ATHLETES PAGE 6



Senior Nishani Cicilson from Suriname competes in a swim meet. Cicilson finished in 11th place in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard backstroke at the Horizon League championships last season. Photo courtesy of Sports Information.

Caitlin Cook
REPORTER

Accompanied by her father, Nishani Cicilson boarded a plane, left her home country of Suriname in South America and arrived in Miami to begin anew.

During her first couple of weeks in the U.S., Cicilson began to rethink her decision. She struggled to adapt and longed for her home.

Cicilson was just 17 years old and in the U.S. for the first time.

While searching for higher education opportunities in her last year of high school, Cicilson decided she wanted to continue swimming while obtaining an education.

The U.S. boasted enough universi-

ties and scholarship opportunities for Cicilson's dream to come true.

In her home country, sports are only practiced in spare time. So, with the help of her father, she made the decision to search for schools abroad.

After seeking guidance from former swimmers who had traveled to study in the U.S., the Cicilson family entrusted Anthony Nesty to set up a recruiting profile marketing Cicilson.

Nesty made a swimmer recruit profile online, featuring Cicilson's fastest swims and educational background, which he emailed to schools throughout the U.S.

Cicilson received offers the following day.

Unlike many of her domestic stu-

CICILSON PAGE 6

Yegon pursues her dream

Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER

Nelly Yegon, junior cross-country and track athlete, came to Youngstown State University in 2009, which was also the first time she ever stepped on American soil.

Yegon, born in Eldoret, Kenya, is a nursing major. She runs the 5K and 6K events for cross-country, and she runs distance for track and field.

In Kenya, she ran throughout her high school career.

"In high school sports in Kenya, it is not like it is in the United States," Yegon said. "There are no organized sports in Kenya. We all just used to run. Then whoever was the best in the school would represent the school in events."

When she came to the U.S., she was already familiar with the English language.

"I had learned English in high school while I was in Kenya," she said. "When I got here, the accent was very much different. After a while, I was able to get used to it and be OK with the language."

Yegon was named the best cross-country athlete in high school in 2004 and top of the class in Kenya Certificate of Primary Education exams in 2001.

Yegon made an impression on American coaches.

"[They] would come in the summer and watch us and attend time tri-



YEGON

als," Yegon said. "I would email my times and stats to Coach Gorby [who coaches cross-country and track and field at YSU]."

Yegon used the Internet to apply to schools in the U.S., eventually selecting YSU.

"I was admitted to college in Kenya, so I could have stayed over there, but I wanted to come to the United States and pursue my dream to study abroad," she said.

Yegon said she "randomly" came to Youngstown, not knowing she was "going to be coming to YSU until it was chosen."

Subsequently, she left her parents and 11 siblings in Kenya.

"I am able to talk to them every so often, about once a week," she said. "It is usually through phone call or email."

Tennis program recruits internationally

Kayla Hanuschak
CONTRIBUTOR

Freshman Marta Burak knew from the minute she moved to the U.S. that she was different.

But she's not much different from eight other players on Youngstown State University's tennis teams. Only three of YSU's tennis players were born in the U.S.

Like teammate Margarita Sadovnikova, Burak has accomplished a great deal in a short amount of time.

Burak, 15, hails from Lviv, Ukraine. She began playing tennis at the age of 5.

In the U.S., 15-year-olds are typically high school freshmen or sophomores. However, in the Ukraine, students graduate from high school at 16.

Even in Ukraine, Burak displayed exceptional talent on and off the court. "I went to school at age 5 and skipped a grade," Burak said. "This allowed me to graduate a year early."

In the Ukraine, schools typically do not offer sports teams. If a student wants to play, he or she has to do it alone.

As a junior tennis player, Burak began searching for a college that offered her major and a tennis program interested in having her join the team.

Burak signed with an international recruiting service that reached out to YSU tennis coach Mark Klysner. From there, emails emerged from each party, and an agreement evolved.

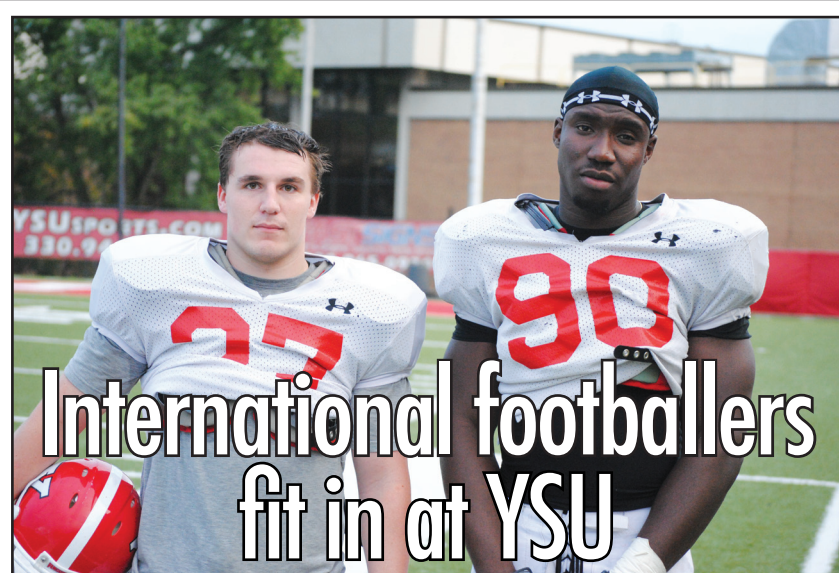
Klysner said he thinks Burak is adjusting to her surroundings better than he ever imagined.

"One can't imagine what it's like to be 15 in a foreign country and having to study at a college level all the while

TENNIS PAGE 6



Freshman Marta Burak from Ukraine graduated at age 15, which is a year earlier than the standard in Ukraine. Burak came to YSU because it offered her major and a tennis program. Photo courtesy of Sports Information.



Sophomore Thomas Kipp (LEFT) from Denmark came to YSU to play football, and senior Obinna Ekweremuba (RIGHT) from Nigeria came for an education. Both men are focused on improving their skills. Photo by Joe Catullo Jr./The Jambar.

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Sophomore Thomas Kipp arrived in Youngstown last year with just the clothes on his back. On Saturday, he'll be wearing a Youngstown State University football jersey.

"In the start, you're a lot alone," Kipp said. "You get to learn people, but it takes a long time to get close. It's tough at times, but it's what I wanted to do. I know the consequences, so I'm living with it."

Kipp is originally from Tranbjerg, Denmark. He played linebacker for the junior and senior national teams in Denmark.

YSU was a great opportunity, he said.

"I was looked at [by] some Division II teams, but I wanted to do Division I because that's what was kind of in my dreams," Kipp said. "I was a walk-on here. I had some other places in mind, but this was the best choice for me."

When senior Obinna Ekweremuba arrived on YSU's campus, he didn't realize his potential.

He came to YSU in 2007. He never planned on playing football.

As a frequent soccer player in Orlu, Nigeria, Ekweremuba tried out for the YSU football team in 2008. One year later, he was a member of the team.

FOOTBALL PAGE 6

NEWS BRIEFS

WYSU-FM hosts annual fall fund drive

WYSU 88.5 FM, YSU's public radio service, will host a fall fund drive from Tuesday through Friday. This year's goal is \$115,000. The station will offer prize packages, and anyone who contributes will be entered into a drawing for two tickets to an 11-day tour of Vienna, Budapest and Prague. Contributions can be made by calling 330-941-1481 or by visiting <http://www.wysu.org>.

Visiting prof discusses Civil War women

Kate Selby, an assistant professor at Walsh University who specializes in the history of 19th century war and society, will present "Ohio Women and the Civil War Homefront" on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Melnick Medical Museum, located on Wick Avenue. This presentation — sponsored by the Melnick Medical Museum, YSU Women's Studies Program and the Mahoning Valley Historical Society — will explain women's contributions to the war effort. Admission is free.

Free lecture addresses Toltec collapse, regeneration

The YSU Anthropology Colloquium will present Heath Anderson, visiting assistant professor of anthropology at the College of Wooster, in a lecture titled "The Collapse and Regeneration at the Toltec Capital of Tula." The free lecture, scheduled for Thursday at 7 p.m., will be held in DeBartolo Hall, Room 132.

POLICE BRIEFS

Manager reports TV missing from fitness room

On Oct. 11, a Flats at Wick manager reported to YSU Police the alleged theft of a TV from the complex's fitness room. A resident assistant noticed the TV missing from a wall bracket on Oct. 10. The room is attached to a common room and is open to all tenants. According to the police report, a window on the building's west side was unlocked, with the screen on the ground. The manager is reviewing a security camera, which was directed at the window.

Coach can't find pitching machine

On Oct. 11, a YSU baseball coach notified YSU Police that the team's pitching machine was missing. The coach said he last saw the machine in July. Although the coach asked around and checked various locations, he came up empty-handed.

Fight occurs at day care

On the morning of Oct. 11, YSU Police reported to the Wee Care Day Care, located in Fedor Hall, in reference to a fight. A 25-year-old woman was dropping off her son at the day care when the argument began. Witnesses said the woman swung and hit a 31-year-old woman in the face. The 31-year-old woman said she does not want to press charges at this time. Wee Care Day Care staff said this wasn't the first incident with the 25-year-old woman at the day care, and that they would no longer provide day care services for her.

CLASSIFIEDS

HOUSING

2 BR-House 1st floor-near YSU Parking lot. Has ADT, appliances, washer and dryer. \$500 plus utilities. Craigslist 'Sept 29' call 330-533-4148.

1 bedroom apartment near YSU, all utilities paid, cable and internet. Shared laundry \$500/month. Call 330-219-4223.

CICILSON PAGE 5

dent-athlete teammates, Cicilson experienced a recruiting process filled with emails and phone calls. For international student-athletes like Cicilson, the chance to visit schools and meet teams prior to selecting a school is rare.

Relying heavily on the Internet, schools' websites and optimism, Cicilson decided to accept a swimming scholarship at Youngstown State University.

"Matt sounded like a cool person on the phone," Cicilson said of Matt Anderson, YSU's head swimming and diving coach.

For the coaching staff, recruiting internationally takes a different approach than recruiting domestically.

"It's really kind of a leap of faith in a lot of ways on both parts," Anderson said.

Anderson added that most recruiting for the upcoming season is done domestically until springtime. Then, if spots remain, the staff looks internationally.

Anderson said finding a balance between domestic and international athletes is crucial.

He viewed his recruiting process with Cicilson as a growing relationship that stretched from when her profile was first sent out, through an extensive amount of emails and finally to a point where Cicilson was comfortable with YSU.

Along with her father's help, Cicilson began to fill out compliance forms for the NCAA. The process provides international student-athletes with required forms, references for help in completing the process and tips for a smooth transition. Cicilson also had to take the ACT and schedule a meeting at the U.S. Embassy in Suriname to obtain proper documentation needed to travel and study in the U.S.

Having to reschedule meetings twice, Cicilson finally received her I-20 form, allowing her to travel to the U.S., just one day before her flight was scheduled to depart.

Cicilson and her father said acquiring proper documentation was frustrating.

However, Cicilson obtained her student visa in a timely manner since her parents already had work visas to travel to the U.S. as airline employees.

On her first day at YSU, Cicilson was just like any other student, taking a campus tour and having her student ID picture taken. Unlike many, she said she did not know smiling was permissible.

She also needed her I-20 form signed, proving her status as a student.

Cicilson continued her first day and scheduled her first semester of classes with Terry Samuels, her academic-athletic adviser in charge of monitoring student-athlete eligibility.

For every international student-athlete, an initial academic evaluation must be conducted.

At first, Cicilson missed home, but with the assistance of her roommate, an international student-athlete from Scotland, she worried less about the transition and began making her mark on YSU swimming.

"You have to find people who are going to be worth that much of a scholarship," Anderson said.

After the first few weeks, Anderson was worried that Cicilson was not the swimmer he had hoped for. Those concerns would be put to rest the first time he saw her race.

Cicilson transformed as an athlete, devoting 20 hours per week to training as opposed to the seven hours a week she spent swimming in Suriname.

Cicilson earned team Rookie of the Year honors, receiving three top-13 finishes at Horizon League championships. In her sophomore year, she placed fifth in the 50-yard freestyle, setting a new school record.

Her biggest accomplishment came the following summer when she was selected to represent her country in the 2009 FINA World Championships in Rome. In her junior year, she finished 11th in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard backstroke.

While focusing on her education in exercise science, she said she hopes to go to graduate school for physical therapy and return to her home country to run a clinic.

OCCUPY PAGE 1

Coast Guard veteran who served in Vietnam, held a sign that read, "The Department of Homeland Security calls me a terrorist because I support the Constitution."

O'Toole said U.S. citizens have gradually had their rights, namely freedom of speech, taken away.

"They're arresting the people protesting in New York," he said.

Paul Sracic, political science chairman at YSU, recently had an op-ed published on CNN.com. This piece criticized the Occupy Wall Street movement, pointing out that protesters have more adequate mediums to be heard politically than the Arabic springs the movement likens itself to.

"The polls are still open," Sracic said.

He also disregarded the movement's claim that the Supreme Court's decision in the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission case, which removed the cap on campaign contributions, would make it easier for corporations to control candidates.

"Unions benefit from Citizens United too," Sracic said. "Look at the Tea Party movement. They swarm the polls, and they've made a huge impact in just the last year and a

half."

Sracic doesn't foresee anything substantial coming out of the occupation and suggests running for office as a viable alternative to protesting.

"People that already agree with them are the ones that are going to show up. It's not a great way to get the word out," Sracic said.

Sracic said incumbents are running unopposed, and the Occupy Youngstown folks could better serve their cause by running against them.

"How many people [who] are involved in these occupations have paid the \$40 to \$50 to get on the ballot?" he asked.

Jacob Harver, local business owner and one of the event's coordinators, was thrilled with Saturday's outcome.

"Everybody involved is doing [his or her] part," he said.

Harver was also pleased with the representation, as the group consisted of firefighters, police officers and teachers.

"It was a diverse group of the 99 percent," Harver said.

Harver also opened his apartment to anyone who needed to use the bathroom during late hours.

"It's not like I'm doing anything heroic," he said. "I'm glad to be a part of this."

Rebecca Vulcan was an-

other volunteer. She walked around collecting donations to provide food, water and other necessities for those who plan on remaining steadfast.

After the initial rally, the crowd continually diminished. On Monday morning, only five occupiers were at the site. A propane-powered heater kept the small group warm.

Occupiers said little to no dialogue was made between them and bank employees when they went to their offices Monday morning.

"I wish there was more engagement," said Bill Youngman, 28, of Youngstown. "But it's not them we're mad at. It's people way over their head."

Youngman said he arrived downtown at 5:30 Monday morning before businesses opened.

Rick Montanez, 49, of Lowellville, heads the Occupy Youngstown safety committee. He said he would begin examining the possibility of a petition to allow occupiers to reconstruct a temporary shelter, as it is forecast to rain throughout the week.

The group continually updated its Facebook page throughout the weekend, listing needed supplies, as well as upcoming general assembly and organization committee meetings.

FACES PAGE 1

He hasn't been able to do any shows recently, as he works more than 40 hours a week and his shifts are mostly closing.

"Rehearsals are mostly at night," Smith said.

His colleague, Kettering, was born and raised in Youngstown and graduated from Loyola University Chicago in 2006.

Kettering has been unemployed all year.

"My major was sociology and theater," Kettering said. "Where am I going to get a job?"

But I can't get a job at McDonald's."

He said he has been told that he is too "overqualified" to work fast food.

"I've heard the term way too much. A college education is supposed to help you get a job, but in my case it's been working against me," Kettering said.

Kettering spends his free time searching for a job and researching issues that strike him as important.

Kettering said that when

he heard about the Occupy Youngstown protests, he knew he "had to be a part of it."

"This is something I've waited a long time for," he said.

He said he began realizing that other people felt the same way he did when he saw Occupy Youngstown movements circulating through Facebook.

"We're here to say, as people, you can do something. If the only thing you can do is vote, then you've done something. But you can do more," Smith said.

CLUB PAGE 1

she said. "I want to have members who regularly attend meetings and who will rejoin next year to continue the organization once the current executive committee graduates."

Other than preparing students for admission into a physical therapy program, Pavlichich said the group's goal is to help students understand the requirements and expectations of careers in physical therapy.

In the past, Landgraff brought in therapists from various specialty areas — such as pediatrics, orthopedics and rehabilitation — who would speak to students about their typical workday and clientele.

"Physical therapy is not just a healing profession, but we focus a lot on prevention," Landgraff

said. "We are movement experts. [Physical therapists] work on people who have some injury illness to promote them to be as functional as possible through movement despite what's going on with them."

Landgraff said that acceptance into physical therapy "is a very competitive process."

"Students mistake this society and membership of this society as a way to just be considered for admission to the program and that's not it at all," she said. "It's about being involved in an undergraduate student organization to serve the campus and the community and to learn about physical therapy."

Last year, the FPTS participated in the American Heart Association's Start! Heart Walk.

"Cardiovascular disease leads to heart attacks and strokes, which cause people to go to cardiac and stroke rehab," Pavlichich said. "This is a huge part of [physical therapy]."

For National Physical Therapy Month, the FPTS plans to host an on-campus event to raise awareness about people with disabilities. The annual "Where There's a Wheel, There's a Way" event is scheduled for Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Our students will be running the [eight] stations and will be sharing with people information about the Americans with Disabilities Act and also information about people-first language, so it's a diversity initiative as well as a physical therapy initiative," Landgraff said.

FOOTBALL PAGE 5

However, he didn't see much action.

"My roommate just told me to try out for football," Ekweremuba said. "It was tough. It wasn't like it was easy or anything. Hopefully, I play football after I graduate."

Ekweremuba was named Scout Defensive Player of the Week when the team faced Northeastern University on Sept. 19, 2009.

Last year, Ekweremuba played in every game and started the final six. He totaled 24 tackles and 17 solo tackles. He earned the HKB Defensive Player of the Game and YSU Defensive Lineman of the

Game throughout the year.

Head football coach Eric Wolford said Ekweremuba is a guy who continues to learn the game.

"He's a guy that has a lot of physical tools, and we're trying to get more consistency out of him," Wolford said. "He's a guy that's strong. He's got long arms [but] still has a way to go as far as learning the game. We're trying to bring him along as fast as we can."

Kipp said his family still lives in Denmark, and he talks to them at least once a week.

"I went home over the summer [to visit them], but I probably won't see them again

until next summer," Kipp said.

Ekweremuba talks to his friends and family all the time over the phone and via Skype. His brother and sister live in Brooklyn, N.Y., with his father and stepmother.

While Ekweremuba still learns football, Kipp tries to develop into the player that Wolford wants him to be.

"He gives great effort," Wolford said. "He's a guy that flies around, a guy that football means a lot to him. He's about another spring away from just continuing to develop and do things we need him to do to be a contributing factor here."

TENNIS PAGE 5

playing Division I tennis," he said. "She has acclimated extremely well."

In her first collegiate competition — Bucknell University's Bison Quad — Burak won the Flight A singles title and partnered with senior teammate Lauren Hankle to take the doubles championship.

Sadovnikova, a junior, is from Ufa, Russia, and she is a business major and an account-

ing minor at YSU. She began college at age 17, combining her junior and senior years of high school to graduate early.

"I didn't know anyone, so it was tough at the beginning," she said. "I also got homesick sometimes [because] I have been here since January and have no family here, but I have made close friends who treat me like family, and that is what helps me. I'm enjoying being

here."

Klysner said many prospective tennis players "sign up with recruiting services that not only help them with all the paperwork involved in applying to college, but they help the recruit find the right school and scholarship."

"The recruiting service basically promotes the players and allows us to see their database of players," he said.

ATHLETES PAGE 5

With family support, she began to search for a team. After being recruited by coaches, she decided to leave her home of Canelones, Uruguay, for YSU.

"I was a little scared, but I knew from friends that had already studied in the States that regardless where you go, chances are it's going to be a lot better than back home," Puppo said.

Puppo said her homeland does not offer the same athletic opportunities. Growing up, sports and school were

separate. She would not have been able to attend college and play tennis.

She said tennis in Uruguay is growing. But, with a small number of players, people are often forced to compete against the same players.

"I looked at the website, and I was surprised when I came here that the campus is a lot better than what the website shows," Puppo said.

Puppo added that the hardest thing to adjust to was not kissing people when saying hello, which is customary in

her home country. She makes the trip home almost every four and half months.

She said she hopes that studying in the U.S. will pay off when she returns home. For now, though, Puppo finds comfort in her teammates as international student-athletes continue to impact YSU athletics.

"Everyone is from a different country. You get to learn so many things, and we have so many inside jokes about our horrible English," she said.