I came to college with lots of questions. I’m leaving with even more.
And I consider myself lucky.
I’ve met a lot of people at Kent State who are here for a McEducation. And a lot of people who will give it. But I’m grateful for the professors who took time to teach questions as well as answers. I’m grateful for teachers like metalsmith Bruce Metcalf (our cover story), whose subtle challenges follow their students for a lifetime.

Unanswered questions tend to move people to action. Four KSU students and a professor have gone beyond questioning and are actively seeking their own answers. They volunteer at the temporary shelter in Kent. Their few hours each week touch more lives than all of the theories and studies on homelessness combined. Photographers Michael McBane and Terri Cavoli and writer Anthony Ondrusek explore the shelter and report that homelessness affects individual lives, not a collective mass of unknown people.

Homelessness will some day touch all of us if we ignore our common home - our environment. Burr writers Sammie Chan, John Ervin and Claire Sullivan researched solid waste and acid rain in northeastern Ohio. Their reports show that the environmental issue is as close as the nearest light switch.

And, finally, on the brighter side, we welcome spring. Bicycles, suntans and outdoor basketball games mark the end of another semester and the beginning of . . . dare I say it . . . summer. Best wishes from The Burr. See you next year.

Tonya Vinas

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The growing interest
Increasing college costs, easy-access borrowing have students seeing red

By Tim Hahn and Debra Csikos

at Willison, a senior education major, has a lot to look forward to when he graduates this month. After seven years at Kent State University, Pat, 24, hopes to put his degree to use by becoming a high school science instructor.

"I'm looking forward to teaching," Pat said. "It's something that I can do well and something that I enjoy. Of course, I won't be making a lot of money, but I didn't go into education for money."

Besides a diploma and a host of memories, Pat will leave KSU with a significant amount of debt. He started taking out student loans when he was a sophomore, and has since racked up a $10,000 Guaranteed Student Loan tab.

In addition, Pat's trusty old Chevrolet Malibu Classic ended its road life earlier this year. In order to get to and from his student teaching position in the Akron public schools, he bought a 1984 Ford Tempo.

Pat tries to make ends meet by working as a gas station attendant at Sohio and as a bartender at Walden Country Club, but the part-time earnings from these jobs usually cover more immediate bills like rent and groceries.

"Everytime you get your bills paid off, something happens that puts you back into debt," Pat said as he smiled and shook his head.

Today's students face an ever-increasing burden of financing their education. The median income of households in the United States has increased by only $1,300 over the past eight years, while the average tuition for a public, four-year university has almost doubled since 1980, according to the 1988 Statistical Abstract.

The challenge of making it through college with enough financial support has forced many students to work more than planned or rely on loans. And because of aggressive marketing campaigns of credit companies, students are finding that owning plastic is an easy way not only to buy goods, but also to add to their debts.

Because the cost of a college education has been rising faster than the rate of inflation for the past few years, more students are turning toward financial aid to pay for schooling.

Theodore Hallenbeck, associate director of student financial aid, said fewer students are eligible for Pell and Ohio Instructional Grants than in previous years. He also said grant requirements haven't changed in eight years.

"The cutoff income level for Ohio Instructional Grants has been $25,000 for the last eight years," Hallenbeck said. "This means that a family earning $25,000 in 1980 could have gotten the grant, but that same family, which may have only increased in income by $1,000, would be ineligible for the grant."

Three federally assisted loans available to students are the...
Perkins loan, financed through the school with a 5 percent interest rate; the Guaranteed Student Loan or Stafford loan, financed through banks with a moderate (usually 8 percent) interest rate; and the Student Supplement Loan, targeted at independent students and set up individually through banks.

Also available is a PLUS or parent loan, which is set up as a normal loan and does not have deferred payments.

According to Hallenbeck, 2,107 KSU students were awarded Perkins loans in 1987, totaling $2.52 million; 5,571 were awarded Stafford loans, totaling $11.89 million; and 261 students and parents received PLUS and SLS loans, totaling $1.5 million.

“The amount of money a student can borrow varies,” Hallenbeck said. “Freshmen and sophomore undergraduates are allowed to borrow $2,500 each year, while junior and senior undergraduates are permitted $4,000 a year. Graduate students are allowed $7,000 a year.”

With this kind of borrowing necessary for some students, it’s not inconceivable for an individual to rack up $13,000 in loans over four years.

“The loans were worthwhile for the simple fact that it was my only way to pay for school,” Willison said. “But I’m not really looking forward to the day my first bill arrives.”

Loan repayments usually begin about six months after graduation, with $50 a month repayment the lowest financial institutions accept, said Joyce Shaw of Sally Mae Loan services. Located in Columbus, Sally Mae purchases loans from banks and handles repayment.

“We realize the importance of these loans to students, so we try to arrange terms of repayment that suit the individual’s ability to repay,” Shaw said. “Of course, in certain cases we may run into some trouble collecting, but that’s because some graduates may not find employment right away.”

But while loan repayment doesn’t begin until after graduation, students can find themselves in more immediate financial trouble through the use of credit cards.

Whether through the mail or at a Student Center or store booth, retail outlets and financial institutions that offer credit cards vigorously work at signing on college students.

Dan Leahy, who works out of the Sears new accounts office in Cleveland, said his company does very well attracting student credit card holders.

“Sears takes an aggressive stand in being one of the first cards a young adult owns,” Leahy said. “I think the reason we’re doing so well is that Sears sells almost everything college students need, from clothing to furniture to school supplies.”

To further distinguish itself from department store competition, Sears will unveil its Grand Central Concept to young adults this spring.

“The concept entails carrying name brands in our stores, which we think will be a big boost to sales,” Leahy said. “We figured that students don’t want to wear the Sears logo, so in order to increase reaching students we’ll carry popular items as well.”

Through the program, Sears expects to receive 19,000 applications from Kent State, Leahy said.

Students are also sought as credit card holders because of their need to establish a credit rating, said Bob Klein of First National Bank in Akron.

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WORKING TO KEEP YOU MOVING

672-RIDE

Campus Bus Service has been meeting the needs of KSU and the Kent community since 1967.
"The Visa that we offer is very favorable in establishing credit for college students," Klein said. "After all, once a student graduates, he or she will look into buying a home, car or other large purchase, and without some sort of credit history, it's almost impossible to finance these things."

Potential card holders are checked out through credit bureaus and must show proof of a job usually through an employer's address and telephone. Although credit applications ask for bank records, Rob Wright, an analyst for American Express in Salt Lake City, Utah, said these accounts are rarely checked.

"We've never had a problem with students giving false information, and we can check anything out through credit bureaus," Wright said. "American Express has actually taken surveys and found that college students are their best paying customers."

Of course, many students take advantage of the buy-now-pay-later terms of credit cards without giving much thought to their impending bills, said Mary Sites of Consumer Credit Counseling in Kent.

"All student debts are generally due to charge cards," Sites said. "When you're a student, you don't have much money, so when you want something you say, 'Oh, I can put it on my charge.' Later on, as you charge more, your monthly payments increase."

Sites helps students get out of their financial troubles by using a debt-reduction program, an alternative to bankruptcy which stops all forms of credit and slowly pays off bills.

As the best vehicle for establishing credit, charge cards can be helpful to students if used properly, Sites said.

"You really have to establish credit in this society," Sites said. "If you don't have any, that's points against you. So to establish good credit without spending a lot of money, all a student has to do is buy something small and pay it back right away. What companies are looking for is a submission of the payment requested and a payment made on time."

As students get closer to graduation, the opportunity and desire to own a new car becomes greater.

Using a fresh degree as incentive, car dealerships have set up financing that offers students significant rebates on automobiles.

Keith Carlo, a salesman for Kent Lincoln-Mercury, said recent graduates are offered instant financing because the companies are looking for long-term association with new car buyers.

"Last year, Ford ran a 10-month program that offered an extra $400 rebate toward the purchase of a new car for those who earned their degree within a six-month period," Carlo said.

"This rebate was added to existing rebates on the cars, so by taking a car with a $600 rebate and adding the additional $400, those who qualified would knock $1,000 off the sticker price."

But while the extra financing is a big incentive to new car buyers, Carlo admits that it can be difficult for recent graduates to afford a big purchase right away.

"I think students are a little leary about buying a new car right away because they want to have more financial stability," Carlo said. "Graduates with debt from student loans would rather pay off their existing debts than build up new ones."

Once existing debts are paid off, graduates can expect their purchasing power, as well as their wants, to increase. The longer they remain with a charge company, the larger their credit limit becomes. And the more settled they become, the more they look into large purchases such as homes and new cars.

"There comes a time in every consumer's life when you realize that you have to start living within your means," Sites said. "Hopefully, if you learn early enough, you won't have to deal with financial problems later in life."

Illustration by Wes Bedrosian
Cycles of spring
Biking makes a hit on the streets

By Bernie Gearon

Springtime at Kent State forces pale, desk-bound students to the outdoors in search of sunshine and exercise. Tennis balls bounce, jogging shoes hit the pavement and, more and more, bicycles make their way along the roads of Kent.

Marking the popularity of cycling is the KSU bicycle club.

Member Steve Schraufl said he believes the sport of bicycling will be the second phase of the United States’ physical fitness craze.

“Greg Le Mond did for bicycling what Frank Shorter (who won the 1972 Olympic men’s marathon in Munich, West Germany) did for running,” Schraufl said.

“In the running boom of the ’70s, everyone was donning running shorts and a tank top. Now, bicycling is having its boom.”

The U.S. men’s and women’s cycling teams won four gold, three silver and two bronze medals in the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. (The United States received only one medal, bronze, in the cycling events at the 1988 Olympics.)

Then with Le Mond winning the Tour De France in 1986, the United States began to see cycling as more than a sport exclusively for Europeans, Schraufl said.

Steve Tapp, a member of the Kent-Akron area Summit Freewheelers bicycle club, agreed with Schraufl.

“The 1984 Olympics were one of the biggest boosts for the sport,” Tapp said. “It made the sport visible to many people.”

Tapp also said the Olympic games changed the way people in the United States view the sport.

“It made people aware of the sport. In Europe, bicycling is the No. 2 sport right after soccer.”

In the United States, however, community 10-K running races are still more popular than cycling races. Still, serious cyclists can find competition in the area.

Schraufl sometimes turns to triathlons to compete. He has won his age group in the KSU triathlon two years in a row.

“A few years ago, there weren’t many cycling races,” said Schraufl, who placed fourth overall in 1987 and sixth in 1988. “Now you see them (races) all over. Every weekend, there’s a bicycle road race in Northeastern Ohio.”

As a result of the United States’ growing interest and media coverage of the sport, Tapp said more adults in the United States are riding for fitness than ever before.

“The sport has grown since 1984,” Tapp said. “People used to think of bicycles just simply as toys they bought for their kids. Now, adults are taking the sport more seriously.”

Some cyclists believe biking will be the second phase of the U.S. fitness craze. The KSU bike club already enjoys the sport. At left, the members begin a ride just outside of Hudson.
But not all must compete to have fun and enjoy the sport.

The KSU club views its rides more as a pastime. They get together to work off stress, talk about their interest in the sport and see some Northeastern Ohio scenery.

The club's 20-25 people don't race right now, but they do schedule tours together Fridays and Sundays.

Friday rides, otherwise known as "Happy Hour Rides," are scheduled for 4:30 p.m. and usually last an hour to an hour and a half.

"Happy Hour rides are our more fun rides," club co-manager Kyle Brooks said. "They are a slower pace and enable our members to enjoy riding more."

Brooks said the Sunday tours are much longer and faster-paced. He said Sunday rides are for riders who enjoy pushing themselves to the limit. Sundays give them a chance to let themselves go.

For Schraulf, riding with the bike club has been an asset.

"Riding around campus got boring," Schraulf said. "I was able to meet new people and learned of other roads to ride on other than the ones around campus."

Since Schraulf has been riding with the club, he has been to Stow, the Blossom Music Center, Hudson, the Cuyahoga Valley and Peninsula.

"If someone likes riding, they should join our club," Schraulf said. "It especially gives freshmen a chance to meet new people to ride with and helps them get more involved with the sport."

KSU bicycle club Co-manager Dave Heath's involvement in bicycling lead to intense training in Dierem, Holland.

During his junior year in high school, Heath had the opportunity to be an exchange student.

While in Holland, Heath bought a good racing bike and began to train with the Reto racing club of Arnhem, Holland.

"I learned quite a bit," Heath said. "It helped me to be able to ride with some of the people over there. I didn't ride with many professionals, but I did ride with some of the best in the country."

Heath said he practiced almost every day after school.

"I started to train with those people to see what it was like to get serious about racing," Heath said. "To do well, you really have to do a lot of training."

A KSU bike club member leads the way on a Hudson road. The club stresses enjoyment, not speed or competition.

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In the winter of his stay in Europe, Heath said he did weight training and aerobic exercises to stay in condition, and when the weather broke it was back to the roads.

He practiced twice a week with the club, which did either extended rides for 40 or 50 miles or circuit training, like racing around a building. When he wasn't training with the club, Heath pedalled at least 30 miles on his own.

He learned bicycle racing as a serious sport in Europe.

"Reportedly, there are more bikes than people in Europe.

"I think the reason bikes are more important over there is the fact that gas is so much more expensive — along with narrow roads and serious congestion problems."

Kent residents interested in learning the sport of racing may want to speak to Summit Freewheeler president George Liolios.

Liolios said his club centers around people interested in becoming competitive cyclists.

"We are primarily a racing and developmental club," he said. "KSU is basically a touring club. We try to focus on those guys who want to go fast."

Liolios, who has been racing for 11 years, says his club tries to help all his members reach their racing potential.

"In other clubs that I have belonged to, we would go out on rides, and slower people would get left behind on training rides," he said.

"We teach how to train for races and what to do during them. So, if people want to learn to race, but don't know where to go, they should check us out."

Liolios said before the 1984 Olympics the United States Cycling Federation, which governs the racers in the United States in conjunction with the U.S. Olympic committee, recorded at least 15,000 licensed riders. The number has since doubled to about 30,000.

"We've had a big increase in riders with licenses and a major increase in races," Liolios said. "Ten years ago, we probably had about five or six in the state. This year we have over 20."

The club heads home to Kent after a ride in Hudson. Biking has become increasingly popular since the 1984 Olympics when the men's and women's teams won four gold, three silver and two bronze medals. The club takes "Happy Hour Rides" every Friday afternoon and concentrates more on fun than competitiveness.
Second-semester people, grab your notebooks,” Bruce Metcalf yells above the constant gnaw of filing in 108 Oscar Ritchie Hall.

“Second-semester students, come on!” he blasts again.

Six of Metcalf’s jewelry and metals students lazily collect at the end of a long work table. Metcalf takes a seat.

The room looks more like a dumping site for rejected university furniture than a metals lab. Mismatched chairs crowd the aisles between work tables. A dusty film lingers everywhere, even near the bright lamps that reach around the working students. Metcalf pulls a lamp closer to start the lesson.

“Rendering, I think, is a very valuable skill,” he begins, sketching a copper pot on tracing paper.

He lectures as he works, referring to future clients who will expect accurate drawings of the students’ pieces before buying.
He tells his students they must be able to communicate with their clients, people who may know nothing about the jewelry-making process. One way to communicate is through renderings, sketches of proposed pieces.

"This is not an exercise in expressionist drawing," he says. "You can really create an effective form in space. That's what your job is, to make a drawing that's believable. That's the business. That's how it's done." The students look closer at the renderings. Metcalf answers some questions. The group breaks up. But the lesson has not ended.

Here, amid the scraps and ash, Bruce Metcalf wields his two roles—metalsmith and mentor.

"I do a lot more than the minimum," says Metcalf, a thin, elegant man who looks 10 years younger than his true 39. "It's the only way I can give these people a good education. I couldn't in good conscience do any less than I'm doing. I just can't accept mediocrity."

His high standards show in both his own work and his students'.

"He's definitely an asset to the school," said William Quinn, director of the school of art. "He's known internationally. He's been invited to Korea, Australia... I've got a couple articles here on him, one from Italy and one from Germany."

Metcalf describes his jewelry designs as emotional representations of how people react as members of society. His recent pieces—mostly pins—show one or two figures reacting to a social concept or dilemma. The pins "Catching the Bomb I & II" and the necklace "Eating the Bomb" work the theme of nuclear annihilation. The pins show silver figures with outstretched arms who are gawking at falling bombs. The necklace shows a similarly-designed figure sitting down to a spicy dish of nuclear bomb. Metcalf says the jewelry poses the question of acceptance. The pieces ask: Will I passively accept or actively reject this concept?

A series of Metcalf's pins recently appeared in the German art magazine Art Aurea. His favorite piece from the group is a 5-inch wooden pin called "Schlock Shock." An asymmetric silver figure grasps its forehead in horror as it stares at an advertisement using a squeaky-clean angelic girl as a model.

The scene represents an artist's reaction to kitsch, Metcalf says. At right, "Catching the Bomb I and II" asks: Will I passively accept or actively reject this concept?

"You make the thing, and it's all you. You think it. You design it. You make it."

Metcalf said he works and teaches jewelry and metals on a small scale, the size of a hand or smaller. Working mostly with copper (silver and gold are too expensive for most students' budgets), Metcalf's students learn filing, sawing, buffing and other techniques of metalsmithing. Their work can range from intricate pins to showy neckpieces to primitive-looking copper pots. Mass-produced jewelry, the kind found in Spencer's or the May Company, is produced with a machine press. By contrast, Metcalf's students pound, fire, file, buff, paint and saw to craft their own unique designs. A future of working with his hands was partly why Metcalf was drawn to jewelry making.

"I had been an architecture major (at Syracuse University)" he said. "One of my friends quit architecture and started doing jewelry."

Metcalf was impressed with his friend's work and changed his major. After receiving his master's degree from Philadelphia's Tyler School of Art in 1977, Metcalf taught part time in Boston and also worked in a metals studio. A friend told him about a job opening at KSU, and in 1981, Metcalf moved to a new home and put together a new studio.

Today, his designs are literally falling out of his closets, he said. Still, Metcalf claims his productivity level is low because the little time he has to work is funneled toward perfection. Always perfection.

He spends 27 hours a week in the metals lab either working with his 55 students or doing paper work—writing grant proposals and ordering supplies. Thirty hours per week are spent in his own studio. The result is a constant pull from one side or the other, he said.

"I wish I had more time to spend with the students—to sit down and get to know them," Metcalf said. Metcalf said he doesn't socialize with either his students or other faculty members. When he's done with his teaching work, he leaves Oscar Ritchie Hall and works elsewhere, either at home or in his other studio.

"I don't spend a lot of time lying around watching the tube," he said.

Because of Metcalf's hectic schedule and because the time he spends with his students is work time, he's an enigma to some of his students.

"He distances himself from the students," said Laura.

"Schlock Shock," left, portrays an artist's reaction to kitsch, Metcalf says. At right, "Catching the Bomb I and II" asks: Will I passively accept or actively reject this concept?

The necklace "Eating the Bomb" continues questioning the social responsibility or social irresponsibility of nuclear weapons.
Metcalf has designed and molded the curriculum of the jewelry design program with strict attention to detail — the same way he designs his pieces.

Marth, who recently graduated from the program with an master's degree. "But I know that's part of his philosophy of teaching. One to one, he's extremely easy to talk to. But it's not often you find him one to one because he's so busy."

Marth came to KSU to study with Metcalf after he critiqued some of her undergraduate work at the Massachusetts College of Art.

"He really impressed me then," she said. "I found him to be, and still find him to be, a very insightful person. He's really in tune with people's motivations about their work."

Marth said when she first came to Kent, she saw Metcalf as a god. She put him on a pedestal because of his respected position in the field.

"When I came here, I was intimidated by him, (like) he was superhuman. Then I came to work, and I realized he was human."

But Marth will still admit that Metcalf's teaching methods can be intimidating. Students who expect sugar-coated criticism and extra points for effort need not apply.

Irene Janson, a 1988 graduate of the jewelry and metals program, said her work would not have been the same without Metcalf's instruction.

"He tries to bring out each person's self in the work," she said. "He's one of the rare teachers who doesn't want to make clones of himself. He really makes you be honest with your work and reach for your true voice."

Janson said Metcalf tries to make students develop a "true voice" through research, reading, writing, slide demonstrations and studies of other artists and their work.

On the same day Metcalf gave the rendering lesson, he assigned "The vessel as metaphor" to his advanced students. The "poem" of the vessel is up to the student, Metcalf said.

"It's so open in that respect," he said. "They have to invent the solution."

The openness of the assignment doesn't make it any easier. "He insists on thinking and never on the easy solution," Janson said. He's given me a critical eye (for) looking at my own work."

Janson said Metcalf's strictness is sometimes a turn-off.

"He's very structured and sometimes very rigid," she said. "But he has a reason. I think people would slack off without that. He is the curriculum."

The students who fit into Metcalf's curriculum, who can put up with the filmy lab and dirty fingernails, are ones who make a commitment, he said.

"The students I get here who do make a commitment don't do it for success. They do it because they have to."

He said his students are not "world burners," they are interested in more than success. They are honest, but not ambitious, he said. They find something in the personal, manual craft that connects with a need. They see themselves in the finished pieces crafted from unfinished metal.

"What I like is seeing how this information, this field, changes people's lives," he said. "They come in here totally naive, not knowing anything. Then they find something about it that speaks to the deepest part of them. And then they make a commitment. That's the best part of the job."
You see her amid the sea of nameless faces, in one of those huge, overcrowded lecture halls. She strides easily down the aisle, slender, blond and, if that isn't enough, tanned. She's wearing white shorts, a white shirt and white teeth. Men want her phone number; women want the name of her tanning salon.

This woman appears everywhere in Kent — downtown, in the library, at parties. Her omnipresence may have something to do with the number of tanning salons in the area. A quick glance at the 1988-1989 Kent-Ravenna Yellow Pages reveals 19 entries under “tanning salons.” Most salons exist independently or as part of a beauty salon. An estimated 18,000 exist in the United States, and a Cleveland Clinic dermatologist estimates that about 2,000 of those are in Ohio.

The increasing popularity of tanning salons and the relative ease in which an individual can go into the tanning business has some experts concerned. The growing industry has sparked new and proposed legislation, and opponents of the tanning salons think that new and enforceable regulations are desperately needed to protect unwary consumers — including tan-conscious college students.

The barrage of recent criticism of the tanning salons and the general dangers of sun exposure have been heard for years. Although the American Academy of Dermatology has released...
findings that support the sun exposure/skin cancer link, many consumers are not concerned.

Heather Cowan, a Kent State University senior business and day care systems major, works and tans at Golden Tan, 4942 Darrow Road in Stow. Cowan patronized the salon before she became an employee, and says that almost all of her friends go to tanning salons as well.

"I go about twice a week to maintain a tan," she says. "I like to have a tan. It makes you feel healthier."

Cowan says she doesn't worry about the dangers of tanning because she thinks the Eurosystem beds used at Golden Tan are safe.

"These beds contain less than 1 percent of the burning (UVB) rays. They're actually safer than the sun."

She says that once she went to another salon to see what the difference would be and was burned because the bulbs contained more UVB rays than she had expected.

Several KSU students, Tammy Mathia, a sophomore nursing major, works and tans at Tan Spa, 146 S. Water St., which is owned by her brother, Ted. Mathia says she has been tanning in the beds for about 13 months, but she is not going very much lately.

"I go if I have time, if I'm not really busy," Tammy says. She works 18 to 23 hours a week at the salon right now, and brother Ted says business is definitely increasing.

Tammy says that during spring break, business gets even heavier, and Tan Spa stays open 22 hours a day.

Ted, a 23-year-old electrical engineering major at the University of Akron, says he had good reasons for locating in Kent.

"The downtown area is (a prime) location," he says. "I thought it was the new wave. That's what attracted me to it."

Even though maintaining the salons can be expensive (bulb replacements can run up to $400 apiece, and license fees are stiff), Ted says it's a profitable business.

"I wouldn't recommend to anyone who has to support a family, though," he says, noting that the spa brings in only about 25 percent of his income, and that business is seasonal.

"We're a lot busier now than we were this time last year," he says.

Ted says he made the initial investment into Tan Spa, and just recently purchased a new Wolff System tanning bed for about $5,500, which brings the total number of beds in his salon to five.

Students at other colleges are also following the trend. Bowling Green State University, a campus similar to KSU, has its share of tanning salons, but fewer than half as many as in the Kent area.

Tina Howard, owner of the Perfect Touch Boutique & Tanning Salon in Bowling Green, about two miles from campus, says that the three or four tanning salons nearest to campus are booked first, but students eventually find their way to her shop.

"The way business is going, I could stay open from 6 a.m. until midnight," she says.

Howard says that during the summer, business slows down, but there is still a clientele of older patrons, such as those with arthritis, or those with skin ailments, who continue to use the tanning beds.

Professionals also have their reasons for wanting a golden glow.

Ann Russell, who works for a major law firm in Cleveland, is an avid suntan fan and has been going to the salons since 1985. She says she pays as much as $6 per session to tan in the Cleveland area, about three times the average price in Kent.

"I just feel better when I'm tan," says the tall brunette. "You feel good and look good. I think anyone with color looks better than a white ghost."

Russell says she tans outdoors in the summer and sometimes supplements her time outdoors with indoor tanning sessions.

Recently, however, Russell has cut back on the number of times she visits salons.

"Now I go about three times a week," she says. "I've noticed my skin is in much better condition when I don't go (as often)."

Russell says that she does go around the Christmas holidays to get some color. She says people assume she got her winter tan on a December vacation.

Russell says she never burned in a tanning bed or outdoors after she has had a tanning session and does not worry about skin damage.

"I tan easily," she says. "But my grandmother is always sending me newspaper articles about how bad it (tanning) is for you, and it kind of makes you realize. . . But I guess I won't really worry about it until something actually happens."

Although professionals like Russell have hit the tanning scene in other cities, students remain the top customers in the Kent area.

Ian Brown, owner of Electric Beach, 500 S. Depeyster St., says that she chose the area specifically to target her service to KSU students.

"Business has been great," says Brown, who has been in the tanning business since last May and tans once or twice a week herself. "Each month it gets a little better."

Brown says there was marked increase in business last winter, and says she thinks the tanning industry as a whole will be on the upswing, even during the summer.

"With people working (indoors) in the summertime, they can't go out in the sun or don't have the time," she says.

With this increased use of indoor tanning comes concern from medical professionals.

Not all the consequences of tanning are long-term or widely recognized. Wi-
Ima Bergfeld, a Cleveland Clinic dermatologist, says that the most publicized consequences of sun exposure, such as premature aging and skin cancer, are increasing. But the alarming news is that skin cancer danger has taken on a new twist.

"We are now seeing cancers in areas previously unexposed, such as the genitals," Bergfeld says.

Also, many customers think they are safe from burning since the type of radiation produced in most tanning machines is largely UVA (alpha) light instead of UVB (beta) light.

The beta rays are the ones that redden the skin, but the alpha rays can be more dangerous because they can cause damage to underlying tissue.

Customers might not know until two or three days later that they have done damage. In addition, there is evidence that sun lamps can dramatically boost the effect of natural sunlight, possibly causing a severe burn.

Although most tanning salons follow the regulations set down by the Food and Drug Administration and the State of Ohio, some may not screen their customers thoroughly enough, resulting in...
burns or photosensitive reactions to medications or previously existing skin conditions, dermatologists say.

The Electric Beach's Brown says she is thankful for the regulations.

"They (enforcement officials for the State of Ohio) come in and check whenever they are in this area," she says. "It's usually a surprise. I think that's good, because it cuts down on giving tanning salons a bad name."

Brown employs four part-time workers and says each is trained for at least a week. They learn the length of time a customer should be in the tanning bed and the correct procedures for sanitizing goggles and beds after use.

However, Brown says she thinks the tanning industry has been given a bad reputation regardless of the regulations.

"Inside tanning is at least regulated," she says. "Outdoors, there is no way you can know how much UVA or UVB you are getting. It's actually safer because it's all regulated."

Jeff Schaber, 23-year-old manager of a Goodyear Auto Service Store in Akron, says he has been going to tanning salons off and on for about five years. He now patronizes Tanfastic in Tallmadge.

"I just don't like to look white," Schaber says. "It's just like a girl wearing makeup; I think I look healthier with a tan."

Schaber lifts weights and models for John Powers Models. He has done print advertisement for the May Company and also does runway shows. He believes having a tan has gotten him modeling jobs.

Schaber says that once he was burned in a stand-up booth and attributes the burn to an incomplete knowledge of the type of bulb that was being used in the stand-up booth compared to the tanning beds he usually uses.

"I've seen some people come out (of the tanning booths) pretty toasty," he says.

Even though Ohio law requires that tanning salons prohibit customers from standing too close to sun lamps and requires the use of goggles, there is a general feeling among users that customers often are not monitored once they enter booths. So once in, they can elect to discard clothing or the goggles.

The law also requires that customers be supervised for the duration of the tanning session and that signs be posted as to the potential effects of radiation on persons taking certain medications and the possible relationship of the radiation to skin cancer and premature aging.

Bergfeld says the big problem here is that the consumer does not always fully understand the hazards. She says she feels consumers often misinterpret the truth when deciding whether to tan. Words like "healthy" and "safe" are often misleading, she says.

Although regulation of the tanning industry began in Ohio in September 1984, she says she thinks there is little enforcement of the laws governing the industry or its advertising.

Even though Schaber knows the risks, he continues to tan, saying a big part of why he likes the tanning process is for relaxation.

"I work about 60 hours a week, and when I go (to tan), it's nice and warm in there, and they have nice quality stereos. I go to relax."

Schaber lies in a Wolff System "coffin bed" that is open for the head and feet and has a stereo system built in. He says he usually tans for half an hour, but sometimes stays for as long as an hour "to get darker faster."

Schaber wears goggles and his bathing suit while tanning. He goes to the salon once a week in the winter and more often in the summer to maintain the tan of "an average person in the summer." Schaber tans easily (he is part American Indian), and says the only consequence of tanning so far has been dry skin.

Bergfeld adds that as a safe and effective alternative to tanning, many bronzing products on the market stimulate the pigment-producing cells to give the appearance of a tan.

"You'll get the look you want for a longer period of time, and it's better for your long-term general health," she says.

Schaber, however, defends his tanning practices.

"I don't worry about skin cancer," he says. "I'll probably get that from the sun. If I'm 40 years old and look 45, who cares? I'll just pour on some Porcelana."

These beds contain less than 1 percent of the burning rays. They're actually safer than the sun.
Lynda Hirsch finds success among the soaps

By John Bublic

Backstage during a live shooting of the television show "A.M. Cleveland," soap opera expert Lynda Hirsch talks openly about the ups and downs of her career. A production assistant hurries to tell Hirsch she'll be on in two minutes. Hirsch continues talking about her past, laughing as she relates a childhood memory.

One minute.

With seemingly no preparation, Hirsch casually walks to the set, where she'll answer any question about soaps that call-in viewers and the studio audience have for her. She sits down and jokes with announcer Kim Scott.

Ten seconds.

Hirsch glances at a monitor and then squints into the bright stage lights.

"Hi Lynda," says a voice over the telephone intercom. "I wanted to know what's happened to Emma and Olivia."

"Well, Emma has lost her baby," Hirsch says, "and now Olivia is going to be shot, and Anna is going to be tried for trying to kill Olivia, but they tried to keep her in a coma for a long time because they're trying to decide to keep her or have her go off."

Hirsch spends the next 15 minutes answering a myriad of questions about soap operas.

After the show, she explains that she doesn't need to prepare for the question-and-answer dialogue about soaps because she has been watching soaps incessantly since her college days at Kent State University. That was in the early 1970s. Today, Hirsch is on "A.M. Cleveland" twice a week, on similar shows in Pittsburgh and Detroit monthly, and has four columns syndicated weekly in more than 200 newspapers around the country.

But Hirsch is quick to add that the years between school and her current status as a television personality were not soft and easy.

"The good didn't just happen because I sat around waiting for it," she says. "I don't sit and wait for life to happen to me."

Even during high school, Hirsch had tried to be as financially independent as she could. This self-reliance as a high school student soon carried over to other decisions in college, sometimes to the dismay of her parents. When she decided to major in journalism while at Cuyahoga Community College, Hirsch had to contend first with her father's old-fashioned values.

"My father was European, and he felt women should be teachers or nurses, and when I said, 'Writer,' he looked at me blankly. I got very stubborn and said, 'I want to be a writer, and I'm paying my way through college, so just don't worry about it.'"

Hirsch began watching soaps when she was only 5 years old, and by the time she enrolled at KSU as a journalism major, she had become addicted to soaps.

"I did some minor reporting on the Kent Stater, but not a lot," she says. "I saved most of my writing to do freelance writing, which I did. I did a lot of celebrity interviews, mostly from soap stars, and got them published."

Hirsch interviewed Paul Anka, Leonard Fry, Johnny Bench, Tony Roberts and quite a few soap opera stars.

"It wasn't easy," she says. "To do it, I had to be a little manipulative, and that was make it appear to these people that I had a place for these articles. Because I knew once I could interview them, I could sell my interviews."

"I would tell them that I had a freelance assignment from such and such, and they wouldn't check it out — and there I was."

Hirsch says she would use soap operas as the subject for many of her other assignments, too.

Ralph Darrow, a retired KSU journalism professor, says he remembers an assignment in which students were to choose a theme for a magazine.

"And guess what she chose?" Darrow asks. Soaps.
After Hirsch graduated in 1973 with a journalism degree from KSU, her first career move brought her to New York, where she wanted to find a job with an entertainment magazine.

"I thought that New York was the center of the universe," she says. "To live in New York would be the best thing in the world."

Hirsch found New York intimidating and expensive. Although her typing skills were in demand, no one offered the kind of job she wanted — writing — and living expenses quickly emptied her savings.

After the dispirited summer in New York, Hirsch returned to Cleveland to work on several magazines, one of which centered on soaps.

"I saw in the newspaper an ad by some women putting together a soap magazine," she says. "They needed an editor, and they hired me."

"I edited the magazine. I did almost all of the writing, and I was only getting paid $100 a month."

To promote the magazine, Hirsch talked her way onto the Cleveland "Morning Exchange" program and the Phil Donahue show.

"I told them I knew everything about soap operas, and that they could ask me anything, and I'd tell them," she says. "I wasn't scared. I knew a lot about soaps, and I could easily talk about them." Hirsch's best friend, Bonnie Schwartz, who met her in 1968 while taking journalism classes at Tri-C, says Hirsch "is so relaxed and so natural that she comes across as the person next door."

"Watching her sit in on television shows is like watching her sit in my living room," Schwartz, 40, says. "If she has any sense that what she says is being broadcast into thousands of homes, she doesn't show it."

Even after the magazine Hirsch was editing had failed, the television producers continued to ask her back. But Hirsch's big break occurred when a woman from King Features Syndicate called her about a chance to write a column — summarizing cartoon strips that have continuing story lines, like Judge Parker and Mary Worth.

"I thought it was a dreadful idea," Hirsch says, "but I told her I had a great idea for a column. She loved the idea, and this idea is what I'm doing now."

Hirsch, a bubbly woman in her late 30s, writes four different columns for syndication. One column is a summary of the soap operas on daytime television. She also writes a question-and-answer column that gives people a chance to ask their questions about the soaps. In addition, Hirsch writes a gossip column and a summary of prime-time soap operas.

When Hirsch started talking about soap operas on television programs, she watched three television sets simultaneously and sometimes put shows on videotape to keep track of them. Now, she receives synopses from the television studios and has many close connections with actors and actresses.

"Does this mean that my life is a
bowl of cherries?” Hirsch asks. “I have a wonderful job, wonderful friends, financial security, and I can do what I want to do when I want to do it.

“That’s a lot better than a lot of people have. Why aren’t I the person working in a shoelace factory? That amazes me. But I still have tough problems to face in life.”

Hirsch says many of the obstacles she has had to face have given her a maturity and a seriousness of purpose beyond that of someone who has had an easy, pleasant time in life. She volunteers some of her time with Bellfaire, a children’s relief program, partly because of a traumatic incident she had as a teenager.

“I was molested when I was 16,” Hirsch says. “It was a horrible experience, and that has always colored my life.”

Although Hirsch has been through many unhappy and trying periods, she says that in the end the negative episodes have had positive effects.

“If everything goes your way all the time, you’re not going to understand how wonderful things can be,” she says. “I could fall into a vat of excrement and be stuck in it for two years, and come out with a rose between my teeth.”

But Hirsch’s longest and hardest battle has been with her own appearance. “When I was in college, I was very unattractive,” she says. “It was not until later in my life that I had something called craniofacial surgery.”

Hirsch has had many operations to correct what she says was a “homely” appearance. Her present appearance is the result of much surgery and patience. Hirsch has gone through the craniofacial procedure — surgery that eliminates defects in the human skull. The process took three years to finish.

“No one who has never been homely will ever understand, but let me tell you, life is like a bookshelf, and if there are two books on a shelf, and one has a gray, dull cover and next to it is an electric blue, gold-leaf book, what are you going to go for?

“No, it’s not fair. No. Is it what the world is like? I think so.”

Despite the tough times in her life, Hirsch has never lost faith in the “wonderful things” that can happen.

“When I was in high school, I was told not to go to college,” she says, “but I wouldn’t listen . . . I went to college and I graduated from Kent with honors.

“I was told I would never be syndicated, and I was told I never would be on TV, but all these people didn’t have the power to keep me off TV or from being syndicated.

“If you want to do something, decide what it is and go for it,” Hirsch says. “But if you tell your best friend, uncle, your cousin, your parents or the ditch digger what you want to do and they tell you, ‘No,’ don’t argue with them. Don’t waste your energy. Say, ‘All right, I see your point,’ and then go after it.”

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**Extra Curricular Activities**

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- Billiards
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- Darts
- Cross Country Ski Rental
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- Sign Shop
- CraftArt Studio
- Music Listening Center
- 672-2554

**Student Center Food Services**
- Rathskeller
- A La Carte Cafeteria
- Schwebel Garden Room Restaurant
- Banquets & Special Occasions
- 672-2592

**Eastway Recreation Center**
(Open 7 days a week)
- Billiards
- Bowling
- Foosball
- Video Games
- Board Games
- Snack Bar
- Deli
- 672-2598

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Spring 1989/The Burr 19
One life at a time

Workers at Kent’s temporary shelter emphasize people, not the procedures

By Anthony G. Ondrusek

Terry Anderson had nowhere to stay when he came back to Kent from Danville, Ill., after suddenly gaining custody of his three young daughters in December.

“I was a little worried when they said ‘shelter.’ I was scared,” Anderson says of the temporary homeless shelter in Kent recommended to him by Kent Social Services.

“I had the idea of many beds, with kids on one side of the room and men on the other,” he says. “And I thought there would be no privacy.”

The shelter wasn’t at all what Anderson had expected. He and his daughters — April, 1, Amber, 4, and Misty, 9 — got their own bedroom. They had a couch in the living room to lie on at night, a television and a fully-stocked kitchen to use.

Anderson felt safe, but not completely at home.

“April woke up at night and cried, and I had to hold her so she wouldn’t wake anyone else up,” he says. “Other than that, it was a home.”

It was a home, but not HIS home.

Anderson, 39, initially came to Kent last October because he wanted to change his life.

The former truck driver and mechanic in Danville divorced his wife, who retained custody of their three daughters. He quit his job because of epilepsy and back problems and began a battle with the federal government to receive Social Security benefits.

Anderson ended up in Kent and stayed with his brother here. With a Pell...
Terry Anderson sits with daughters Amber, 4, and April, 1. Anderson came to the temporary shelter when he suddenly gained full custody of his three daughters.

Grant he received, he started studying electronics at a local technical school. With hopes of opening his own shop, things began looking up.

But late last year, his former wife went into the hospital and was unable to care for the girls. Anderson returned to Illinois in an instant.

"My kids come first," he says. "If I have to give up my housing and my schooling to go get them, I'll do it."

He then obtained custody of his daughters and returned to Kent.

But his brother's apartment was too small for all four of them. Anderson soon discovered that a single parent with three daughters and no money can't always find suitable housing.

"I had to get housing, but I was even denied by the slums of Kent," he says. "I wasn't prepared for that."

State-subsidized housing required Anderson to find a place with three bedrooms, but he could not afford a three-bedroom apartment.

So he and his daughters ended up at the shelter. Anderson was able to stay there a few days past the usual week-to-10-day limit, and he began to get some of the help he needed.


"I learned a long time ago that your congressman can do a lot," says Anderson.

He was able to find moderately priced housing, and Kent Social Services gave him the money for a security deposit. The agency also gave him used furniture and the use of a truck to move furniture to his new three-bedroom duplex.

However, there hasn't been a storybook ending for Anderson and his daughters since moving to Atwater,
"The most important thing we do here is listen to our clients," says Sabina Alasti, coordinator of the shelter since 1985. Above, a client waits in the house's kitchen. At right, leftovers from a birthday celebration decorate the walls.

about 22 miles from Kent.

April has a throat infection, and the other two girls have had the flu. Anderson has to haul drinking water to the house because a neighbor told him the water in the house is unsuitable for drinking, and his car is slowly dying. He's still receiving ADC and housing funds, but the Social Security isn't coming in. And he must be both mother and father to his daughters.

"I've got April in my arms and a roast in the oven," says Anderson, "and the girls miss their mom."

He's not sure how he'll manage if he starts working or gets back in school, especially when it comes to finding a sitter for the girls. But he loves his daughters and desperately wants them to have a home and stable family life. He's willing to endure the hardships to accomplish that goal.

"You've got to have a lot of determination to get through all of this," Anderson says. "I hope it was worth it."

The temporary shelter in Kent is where as many as eight people — whether temporarily homeless or transient and passing through Portage County — find time to get their feet on the ground and their lives in order.

Since September, several Kent State students and a KSU associate professor have volunteered time and assistance to those staying at the shelter.

The location of the house, which is indiscernible from other houses in Kent, is known only by those who work there or offer support to its clients.

Sabina Alasti, 27, coordinator of the shelter since Kent Social Services first opened it in February 1985, welcomes the help that she and her full-time staff of five get from the volunteers.

But she's a little surprised when people volunteer for reasons other than cre-
Amber Anderson, 4, colors in the doorway as her father, Terry, talks with client Ronald Welch.

problems lie. They spend several hours a week as secretaries, phone receptionists, intake counselors and all-around caring people. They may do anything from helping a client find a new home to playing with children.

"It seems like sometimes (the children) want someone to latch on to," says Elaine Allensworth, 21, a senior Spanish major who volunteers about six hours a week. "Their parents are so busy getting their lives together that they don't have much time for their children."

Alasti says spending time with the clients and their children takes precedence over the administrative duties of the staff.

"The most important thing we do here is listen to our clients," she says.

More than 200 people each year have found refuge in the shelter during the last two years. Alasti says they are mostly people who have fallen on hard times, not the street people who live in their cars or cardboard boxes in urban areas.

Allensworth agrees. She says that a homeless person is not easy to identify.

"We get all kinds of people," she says. "A lot have had problems with alcohol in the past. There are single people and married ones. They all feel differently, have different likes and different political views."

According to Allensworth, homeless people come from all walks of life. She's seen everyone from "raggedy" people to nurses and even college professors.

Two other students, Lisa Goss, a 21-year-old radio and television senior, and Laura Putre, a junior journalism major, accompanied the others to New York and decided to volunteer at the shelter.

Mohammad Kazim Khan, 34, an associate professor of mathematics at KSU, volunteers one hour a week at the shelter. In the past, people have come to the Kent Mosque, where he worships, looking for a place to stay. The mosque's inability to house those people prompted Khan to volunteer at the shelter, hoping that if someone he meets ever needs somewhere to stay, there will be a place for them.

"I could open the door for someone, or at least make coffee for them," he says, "we could help them out."

But Khan adds that a homeless shelter
should be only a last resort, that all roads for the unfortunate need not end in homelessness.

Terry Anderson was one of the lucky ones—he was able to find housing and receive financial assistance. Others return to intolerable situations including alcohol or drug abuse, abusive families and inadequate housing. Some travel to other towns and other shelters. Some find themselves on the streets.

Khan says society must find assistance for those in need so they can receive help before they end up homeless.

"We should create an environment where there is no need for a shelter. A shelter is like a barrier, and sometimes you can't get over that barrier."
CHRIST:

Lynne Erdmann, a sophomore early education major sings with other Chi Alpha members during the song period of their weekly session in Bowman Hall.

The new man on campus

Room 137 Bowman Hall doesn’t look much like a church.

But every Wednesday evening, about 100 Campus Crusade members file in, flip on the lights, plug in the bass guitar, drop lyrics on an overhead projector and get in the spirit.

Jesus loves me this I know.

It doesn’t sound much like church music, with a quick rock beat and a catchy chorus.

Because the Bible tells me so.

The clothing is casual. The announcements informal. (A partially inflated beachball dragged to the stage reminds members of a Crusade-sponsored trip to Daytona Beach.)

He’s the best.

And 33-year-old Dave Booram doesn’t look much like a pastor as he steps up to the lecturn wearing a turtleneck and sweater.

J-E-S-U-S.

His message is pretty standard: Jesus loves you — a lot. But whether it’s the message, the music or the members, evangelical groups like Campus Crusade feel they have something mainstream Christian groups are lacking.

“People are tired of McDonaldland religion — We do it all for you,” said Joe Daltorio, former coordinator of Campus Ministries and campus pastor for Chi Alpha. “They don’t want to go to church and just sit there. They want to be involved.”

Traditionally, college students have been considered apathetic at best, irreligious at worse. But Daltorio and other evangelical group leaders say times are changing: Over the past 10 years, they’ve grown in numbers of organizations and members on campus.

They’re bigger, and they’re noisier. Evangelical groups have
sponsored several highly visible and sometimes controversial programs. A partial listing:

On Jan. 23, Campus Crusade, along with five other groups, sponsored inspirational speaker Josh McDowell, drawing more than 3,400 students to the Memorial Gym to hear his "Maximum Sex" lecture.

On Feb. 8, a full-page advertisement arguing against the evolution theory appeared in the Daily Kent Stater, sponsored by Community of Believers, Campus Crusade, Chi Alpha, Great Commission Students and Christian Life Center Assembly of God. It sparked several letters to the Stater and a pro-evolution program by geology professor Neil A. Wells.

On March 11, Chi Alpha invited Sy Rogers, who describes himself as a former homosexual, to campus to discuss homosexuality and Christianity. His visit promoted a protest rally by about 50 members of the Kent Gay/Lesbian Foundation.

Add to that, a miscellany of letters to the Stater on everything from abortion to sex to atheism, flyers advertising Bible studies, and efforts to preach to students sitting alone in the Hub, evangelical students have been busy spreading the message: Find Christ.

They'd like to add two footnotes to that message: One, evangelicals are normal.

Two, they are not all alike.

"People sometimes have the impression that Christians are holier-than-thou, self-righteous, pious people who have no fun," said Chris Martin, pastor of the Cuyahoga Falls chapter of Great Commission International. "We're normal people."

Some evangelicals are fundamentalists, some aren't. Some speak in tongues, some don't. Some are politically active, and some aren't.

For example, Intervarsity, who did not sponsor the creation ad, is considered the "intellectual" group. Campus Crusade is more "liberal" than some of the others. Chi Alpha members do the speaking in tongues. Campus Crusade, Intervarsity and Navigators are "inter-denominational." Chi Alpha is affiliated with the Assemblies of God. Great Commission is its own church.

In general, evangelicals believe the Bible is the inerrant word of God. Jesus is God. Heaven is real. And so is hell. Evangelicals are also distinguished from mainline churches by their form of evangelizing — they go out and actively recruit new members.

In the beginning, virtually no evangelical groups were active on campus. The Rev. William Jacobs of the ecumenical United Christian Ministries remembers no active groups when he arrived at KSU 25 years ago. Most have become active in the last 10 to 15 years, he said.

Jacobs, who teaches Values in a Changing Society, said the growth in evangelical groups reflects the growing conservatism of society as a whole.

"More students are willing to express conservative views in my class," he said. "In the '60s, they wouldn't be caught dead saying they get their moral values from their families. Now it's common."

"One of the questions we deal with is "Why be moral?" They have difficulty answering that. Why not be immoral and have fun? The old traditions of morals and religion don't appeal. They are looking for a new basis, a different kind of experience."

Margaret Paloma, a professor of sociology at Akron University who has written two books on the evangelical movement, said students aren't finding that experience in mainstream churches.

"Evangelicalism is what people want in religion; it focuses on the spiritual aspects," said Paloma, who is herself a "born-again" Catholic. "Mainstream churches are doing everything but that. They make no real demands, but people are willing to have demands made on them... They want more substance. "Liberal Christianity is pretty much bankrupt."

But Mark Papai, campus pastor for Intervarsity, was cautious about assuming that students are flocking to evangelicalism.

"It's very hard to measure an increase or decrease in spiritual matters," he said. "Students may be more spiritual, but they don't interpret it in traditional ways." Those non-traditional ways may include interest in everything from occultism and eastern religions to new age spirituality and rock music, he said.

Those who do join evangelical groups come from a variety of backgrounds,
members say. Some have strong religious background, some have none. Several campus pastors said they were surprised at the number of members who come from a painful family background, which includes problems with alcoholism, divorce and incest.

Because of their family background, college students are often insecure about themselves and are seeking solid relationships with others, said Martin of Great Commission. "We have a whole generation who come from single-parent families," he said. "They are drawn toward solid friendships and relationships because they are coming to college without those things. The message of Christ relates to that perfectly."

Evangelical groups offer college students security, sincerity, community and friendship, members say. The campus groups are youth-oriented, and for some, are simply jazzier and livelier than mainstream churches.

Most of the groups have less than 100 members. Members tend to socialize with each other outside of Bible meetings. Members and pastors tend to be young; the majority of the pastors are under 40. And teachings are based less on tradition and more on action than mainstream religions, members say.

Marilynda Tremba, a junior human resource management major and a member of Great Commission for about two years, said she was drawn to the group by the friendliness of the members. Tremba, who was raised Lutheran and attended both Lutheran and Baptist schools, said she likes Great Commission teachings because of its emphasis on having a personal relationship with God.

"At the Lutheran church, it seemed like there was more concern with doing good works to get you to heaven," she said. "Also, many times you would do things, not because you want to, but because it's tradition.

"Now I feel like there's a direct line between me and God."

Lori Kleinschmidt, a senior pre-med and zoology major, said she joined Chi Alpha two years ago for much the same reason. Kleinschmidt, a former Lutheran, joined the Pentecostal group because she had always felt there was more to being a Christian than going to church on Sundays, she said.

For her, being a Christian now includes being "born again" and a belief in speaking in tongues and healing. For her, God is alive and well and is still performing miracles.

However, the closeness and commitment among evangelicals has come under criticism by some: Zeal can become zealotry, high standards can become intolerance, faith can become credulity — churches can become cults.

Many evangelical groups are absolutist and by their very nature, cannot tolerate questioning, said Paul Sites, emeritus professor of sociology and anthropology who has studied KSU students and religion.

"(Evangelical beliefs) put the world together for them in the ultimate sense," he said. "If you question the ultimate, you lose it."

Sites said that this may not be an ideal situation for a college student, who should be learning and questioning in the university environment.

"If your faith is strong enough, nothing is going to shake it, so why not consider everything before making up your mind?" he said.

But Sites also pointed out that such reasoning isn't limited to religious groups. Academics can be just as prone to accepting preconceived notions. "Even sociology can be an escape," he said.

The Rev. Charles Graham of United Christian Ministries said such absolutism can be dishonest. He said he was disturbed by the creationism sponsored by several evangelical groups because some of the information quoted in the advertisement was taken out of context or was later retracted by the scientists who said it. "That is intellectual dishonesty," he said. "That can be dangerous."

Graham said it can be particularly dangerous when absolutism is combined with religion. "If you question, you are a sinner."

According to Dave Marsteller, a senior journalism and international relations major who said he has friends in several of the evangelical groups, the groups do help students deal with their religious needs. But the group leaders may unintentionally be making decisions for the students.

"They don't seem to give people credit for making their own decisions and moral judgments," he said. "You have to go to them for 'approval.'"

"That's not totally wrong. But you have to be responsible for yourself. You need 'approval' from one and only one person, and that is God."

Discipling, a teaching method used by several evangelical groups on campus, has come under the scrutiny of psychologists and religious leaders for alleged repressiveness. In a discipling program, a newer member is paired up with a
more experienced member. The newer person goes to the "disci­pler" for advice on everything from prayer to dating.

All of the members of the evangelical groups questioned said their discipling programs were not repressive.

However, Great Commission is at least one group on cam­pus whose national organization has been dogged by the cult label for its discipling methods. Ex-members of chapters at Ohio State University and Ohio University said the group’s discipleship program is authoritarian and repressive. Barb Lloyd, a member of the group for five years until 1987, calls Great Commission a cult.

Lloyd joined the group in 1982 as a freshman at Ohio University. She said she was impressed by the warmth and friendliness of the members. She was discipled for about a year then became a discipler herself. Disciplers told members who to date, who to live with and who to marry, she said.

“It was very subtle,” she said. “It was always masked in the idea that it was all for God: God led us to do this. To dis­obey us is to disobey God.

“Then every week we would tell the leaders what they said. It all goes to the top.”

Lloyd said she began to question the group’s methods after a friend left the group and the church leaders wouldn’t allow Lloyd to speak to her.

“But if you tried questioning, they always put it back on you,” she said. “‘You need to work on this.’ It turned the focus away from them, and they would never answer your questions.”

Martin, Great Commission pastor, emphasized the volun­tary nature of discipleship and said that any large organization is going to have its detrac­tors. “It’s not for everybody,” he said of discipling. “You’re not beat into the corner or forced to believe something you don’t want to.

“Unfortunately we continue to be labeled a cult when we simply teach commitment (to Christ).”

Jacobs said it is hard for a newcomer to tell if a particular group is cultic or merely committed.

“The impressions are the same,” he said. “Watch for ‘lovebombing,’ an overwhelmingly artificial expression of love to strangers. Watch for the leadership style: You should be able to ask questions and differ with a leader. Listen to your feelings if you feel uneasy or uncomfortable.”

Jacob also advised gathering information about a group from a variety of sources before deciding to join.

Cultic or not, conservative religious groups cause main­line religious leaders, psychologists and psychiatrists to get more upset than they need to be, said Paloma of Akron University.

“Young people are looking for answers; these groups offer them,” she said. “They may not be the right answers, but they’re answers.

Mainstream religions have another reason not to fear. Con­servative groups aren’t converting that many students, according to a 1986 study of KSU students’ attitudes toward religion by Sites.

Only 2.5 percent of students in mainline Protestant religions and 4.2 percent of Catholic students surveyed had become in­volved in more conservative groups while on campus, Sites discovered. Most students who join evangelical groups while on campus were already members of a conservative religious group while at home, he said.

“There seems little ground for concern on the part of some mainliners and even some Catholics who have a tendency to believe that the conservative/evangelical groups are proselytizing large numbers of their college students,” he said in the study.

Evangelicalism’s methods may even be producing a back­lash against conservative religion at KSU. About 25 percent of the students in the study made derogatory remarks about the meaning of being “born again” in an open-ended question.

Marsteller said evangelical groups may even be misre­presenting Christianity and driving away potential con­verts.

“It does God no service to represent him as a condemna­tory God who burns people in hell,” he said. “Would you want to accept God if someone told you he was going to burn you in hell?”

But most KSU students aren’t concerned about hell and the hereafter, according to Sites’ study. For the majority of KSU students, religion has little influence on their daily lives and most are “adrift in terms of a commitment to anything of real substance.”

“Students tend not to base their friendships on religion, do not base their meaning systems in religion, with family being more important here, and, for the most part, do not report reli­gion as having a high degree of influence in their lives,” Sites said in the study.

The majority of KSU students didn’t hear Josh.
The majority didn’t see Sy Rogers.
The majority avoid evangelicals in the Hub.
The majority don’t read the Christian flyers on the bulletin boards.

Inside 137 Bowman Hall, the lights burn brightly. The room is filled with singing and fellowship.

Outside, the hallway is dark. The rest of the campus goes about its business.

For most students, Room 137 Bowman Hall will never be a church.

This story was compiled by the Burr staff.
Don't call her Muffy

Student Laura Gaines discovers the meaning of being a student leader

By Jennifer Perez

When Laura Gaines' parents dropped her off in front of Stopher Hall in August 1985, she was excited about her first year at college. She was also more than a little scared.

As she sat in the tiny cubicle that would become her home, the boxes and bags and some preconceived ideas piled up around her. She asked herself, "What do I do now?"

In her life today, a packed agenda offers numerous answers to the question.

A change in Laura began when she needed work to help defray college expenses. She applied for a work-study grant and was given a job at the Alumni/Development Office, even though she at first dreaded the idea of working there.

They would wear monogrammed sweaters with Peter Pan Collars, have perfect blonde locks and wear pearls — always pearls.

Laura wasn't sure she wanted to work there.

While this description now sounds stereotypical to the 22-year-old rhetoric and communications major, that was her picture of student leaders when she came to Kent State. And unfortunately, many new students have this image of student leaders, she says.

"After working at the office and seeing everyone and everything they did, I decided to try it," she says.

After taking the job reluctantly, she actually liked it.

The effort led her to become president of the Student Alumni Association and a student ambassador. In her year as Student Alumni President, Laura learned much about the university.

As Student Alumni president, Gaines promoted campus organizations and coordinated the Homecoming king and queen selection committee. She also did what she likes best, helping people, with activities like volunteering for the United Way.

Laura stepped down as Student Alumni president after a year and concentrated on being a student ambassador, which requires a long application and interviewing process. She was appointed as ambassador in spring of 1986, and appointments are more or less permanent. Laura was most active her first two years in the role.

An ambassador’s main role is that of liaison between students and faculty and the administration, Laura says.

Laura also give campus tours for alumni, future students, senior citizens and anyone who just wants to see KSU, she says.

"I really like to give the tours," she says. "For new students, I can show them the real Kent State, not just what's in the brochures. With alumni, it can be like a 'blast from the past.' It's nice to see them remembering the time they spent here."

She also serves on panels that tell minorities in high school about the university. She chose to work on the minority panels because she wants to prove to others that a little hard work and an optimistic attitude can help change the cycle of poverty and discrimination that prevent equality in society.

"I try to get underprivileged students to realize the importance of an education," she says.

Her mother, Patricia Gaines, also helps the underprivileged by volunteering in programs like Meals on Wheels. She and Laura spend Christmas and Thanksgiving serving the homeless in various Cleveland soup kitchens.

She says coming to KSU from her former home in Mishawaka, Ind., was good for her daughter.

"She was a bit irresponsible as a child," she says. "But working with the university has helped her become an outgoing and much more responsible adult."

But although Laura has plenty of experience in the leadership role, she is not just a leader. She’s a student, too.

"I'm not the typical student leader," she says. "I think a lot of students think leaders must have a 4.0 GPA and never struggle. I don't have a 4.0, and I've had to struggle to get through four years. I just worry more about always learning, growing and progressing more than grades."

Laura’s father, Leslie Gaines, attended KSU in 1953-54. Throughout Laura’s life, he has given her advice she will never forget, she says.

"My dad told me to do whatever makes me happy," she says. "And if I think I’ve done a good job, done the best that I can, then that is all that matters."
Northeastern Ohio has to face up to it sooner or later. The environment is important. And it's worth every bit of energy that Ohioans put into the fights for decent wages, safe streets and good schools.

Preservation of our environment needs to become a community issue.

The Burr looked at how the Kent community was both hurting and helping the future of our environment. We found courage and apathy; progress and setbacks; hope and discouragement.

The issue is controversial and confusing. It would be easy to wait out the warnings to see if they do indeed come true.

But dead fish and 200 million annual tons of garbage should be enough to make people at least question what's happening.
ACID RAIN: A coal-burning Ohio sends deadly showers up, away and eastward

By Sammie Chan

When you turn on a light switch, microwave a pizza or turn up the heat in your dorm, you are helping to kill trees and fish in New York.

Living in Kent and using electricity means producing acid rain in New York, New England, Maine and lower parts of Canada, according to a Kent State chemistry professor and others.

R. Thomas Myers said about 90 percent of the coal burned in this country is used to generate electricity. In this region, most of the electricity comes from burning high-sulfur coal.

"A lot of our coal burning in Ohio ends up as acid rain in New York, New England, Ontario and Quebec," Myers said. "They are the ones to suffer when we turn on the light switch."

Eighty percent of the sulfur pollution in the United States is generated east of the Mississippi River, according to Dennis Bush, unit supervisor for the division of air pollution control for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. He said the concentration is in the Ohio River Valley. Burning high-sulfur coal produces sulfur dioxide, which is spewed from the smoke stacks of power plants. If the stacks are short, the pollution falls back to the ground near the source as small percentage will combine with rain or snow to form acids. A small percentage will combine with rain or snow to form acids.

But if the power plant is large, its stacks will spew the pollutants up into the prevailing winds. The sulfur dioxide will travel for hundreds of miles over several days.

Myers said most of the prevailing winds in this area flow from west to east. Therefore, Ohio's sulfur dioxide that becomes acid rain does not hurt Ohio but goes toward the east and northeast area of the continent.

The sulfur dioxide is transformed chemically into sulfuric acid in the upper atmosphere. It combines with water vapor to fall as acid rain.

Myers said many plants and water creatures cannot live in a highly acidic environment. But many times, it is not just the acid rain killing the trees and the fish.

A joint study by Dartmouth College, Syracuse University and Cornell University reported some of the fish that are dying in lakes and streams of the northeastern United States are not killed by acid rain directly. Instead, they die in a multi-step process in which rain reacts with aluminum in the soil to produce toxic aluminum acids that wash into bodies of water.

Acid rain can also strip leaves of their waxy surfaces and expose them to diseases. The aluminum acid formed in the soil can damage root systems of many trees and inhibit their seed germination.

What KSU is doing

Researchers at Kent State are studying a recently developed technique that eventually may lower the costs of protecting the environment while burning coal.

The Kent State chemistry department received a $50,000 Edison Partnership Program grant in December 1988 from the Ohio Development Department to analyze a coal cleaning process patented by Sanitech, Inc. of Twinsburg.

Under the terms of the agreement, Sanitech will also spend $50,000 in research on the project. The company has sent the chemistry department test samples of flue gas, some from the Ohio Edison Gorge plant and some created synthetically by Sanitech, said Carl Knauss, director of the department's rheology and coatings laboratory.

The traditional method of neutralizing the toxic gases created by burning coal is to spray a wet "slurry" of either powdered limestone or lime and water into the flue. This material then mixes with the gas released from the coal, said Sidney Nelson, president of Sanitech.

But this technique does not prevent the release of nitrogen oxides into the atmosphere. Nelson said. Moreover, mixing the slurry with sulfur dioxide produces a large volume of sludge that becomes a pollutant when disposed into bodies of water. Unlike more common methods, Sanitech's coal cleaning process is a dry method that produces no sludge. It employs a clay called vermiculite coated with magnesium oxide, Knauss said. The magnesium oxide collects the sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides on its surface and forms a new compound.

By heating this compound to 900 degrees centigrade, the sulfur dioxide is driven off and can be collected for conversion into sulfur, Knauss said. The magnesium oxide can be reused. The vermiculite can be recycled up to 15 times, vastly reducing waste materials produced. Depending on the level of toxicity remaining in the vermiculite, the clay may be returned to the soil.

Nelson estimated that the vermiculite process could reduce the cost of cleaning coal by almost half. Knauss and Richard Ruch, associate professor of chemistry, are co-directing the project. Also researching the project are consultant William Bacon and senior chemistry major Scott Miller.

Nelson said his company has sent a proposal to the U.S. Department of Energy to test this technique on Kent State's heating plant. If the Energy Department approves the proposal, such a test may occur in a few years. —

John Ervin
Our Environment

Bacteria that decompose humus are also retarded by acid rain. Myers said this allows molds, fungus and other parasites to kill.

David Wooley, assistant attorney general for New York State, said 54 percent of the lakes in New York and the New England areas are considered acid rain crisis areas. More than 360 lakes are dead or permanently damaged.

In the past, the Celeste administration has resisted attempts to restrict sulfur dioxide emissions in Ohio, calling the evidence insufficient to link sulfur dioxide to ecological damage. But last June, Gov. Celeste and Gov. Mario M. Cuomo of New York proposed an amendment to the Federal Clean Air Act.

“We may not totally solve the problem here, but we know enough to begin solving it,” said Ted Ford, executive assistant for environmental and natural resource issues of Celeste’s office. “And we feel this proposal will do that and safeguard Ohio’s economy at the same time.”

The proposal calls for a 50 percent cut in emissions of sulfur dioxide and other gases by the year 2004. This would cost Ohioans $800 million to $1.8 billion per year, Ford said.

Utilities in Ohio oppose the Celeste-Cuomo proposal; they argue consumers in the Ohio River Valley would have rate increases up to 30 percent a year. Ralph DiNicola, director of Public and Media Relations for Ohio Edison, said the company’s executives worry about spending a lot of money on emission control equipment that may not help solve the problem.

“We don’t want to spend hundreds of million of dollars and see our bills go up 10 or 20 or 30 percent and then going back to customers and say, ‘Sorry, everybody was wrong,’” DiNicola said.

He said Ohio Edison has spent more than $1.7 billion on environmental control since 1975 and has reduced emissions by 30 percent.

“We put our money where our mouth is as far as the environment goes,” DiNicola said. “We just want to make sure anymore money that goes out is money well spent.”

Kent State’s heating plant illustrates many of the economic problems of dealing with acid rain.

The Celeste-Cuomo proposal would force small plants like KSU’s heating plant to install large amounts of new equipment or switch over to another fuel.

Thomas Clapper, director of the heating plant and energy conservation on campus, said that if passed, the new legislation will force the university to stop using coal.

“If you keep imposing legislative restriction on the utilities, their alternatives are either to meet them and pass the cost on to you or to try to make an alternate power source,” he said. “In our case, we’re going to an alternate fuel source. “We can’t comply with this stuff (the proposed legislation). We’re going to have to burn gas.”

The heating plant has four boilers. One uses either gas or oil; the other three are coal burners. The heating plant has been converting its three coal-burning boilers since 1974 to comply with the current Clean Air Act, and expects to finish the last boiler in 1990.

Clapper said he is against the proposed legislation that will require installing scrubbers to the stacks.

“For me to put one scrubber on these boilers, I would have to triple the size of this building,” he said.

Clapper estimated the cost of installing one scrubber system at $15 million to $25 million.

He said he wants to keep tuition down by keeping with the current configuration of the heating plant. The heating plant generates 90 percent of its steam with coal. The cost to the university is under $1 million a year to heat and cool about 4.7 million square feet. Gas burning will cost the university $3.5 million a year.

“The effects to Kent State are a lot of dollars, a lot of tough decisions,” Clapper said. “If you burn more gas, the student fees will have to be raised to cover the cost.”

Both Myers and Richard J. Ruch, associate professor of chemistry, agree that conservation of energy is one way to limit acid rain.

“There is a tendency for people in the United States to not realize how much energy they waste,” Ruch said. “We all know unless you have some kind of scare or danger of a shortage . . . only then would the people start paying attention.”

Myers said he and Ruch go around the chemistry building (Williams Hall) turning off lights.


“So who is causing acid rain?” he asked. “It’s us.”
SOLID WASTE: Recyclers try to pick up the load as landfills shut down for good

By Claire Sullivan

Americans manufacture solid waste at a daily rate of six pounds per person. Most of us market and package this product the same way: Each week we place it in garbage bags or cans and put it outside our homes for a consumer we’re sure of — the garbage man. We have no doubts about this routine; it’s happened every week in our memory.

But how would we cope if one week that consumer stuck us with our own product? What if he never showed again? Where would we find a new market?

This dilemma is a possibility in the near future for American households. According to a report compiled by Ruth Meade, director of the Kent Recycling Center, trash production in the United States has doubled in the last 25 years, totaling more than 200 million tons per year. And today, almost 90 percent of that waste is being dumped in landfills that are closing across the country at the rate of one per day. Space is running out quickly and there are no easy solutions.

Lack of landfill space has caused the price of disposal to skyrocket. The recycling center’s report states that the current landfill-dumping rate in Ohio is $37 per ton. It can cost up to $60 per ton to bury solid waste and up to $120 per ton to burn it, depending on available space and costs in each location.

Despite these figures, solid waste disposal remains less expensive in Ohio than in other states. For this reason, it has become a dumping ground for other states’ garbage. According to Ohio Environmental Protection Agency data, in 1987 more than 1 million tons of solid waste was dumped in northeast Ohio, about half of it from out-of-state. The EPA estimates that northeast Ohio has approximately 21 years of landfill capacity left.

Meade said Willow Creek landfill imports twice as much solid waste as the County produces. At this rate Willow Creek, one of the largest landfills in northeastern Ohio, will be full in eight years.

The situation, however, is not hopeless. There are solutions, though implementing and sticking to them present some difficulties.

Recycling is one way to reduce the amount of household refuse. Recyclable materials are
processed and used as raw materials for new products. About 50 percent of household waste is readily recyclable, though it requires separating bottles, cans, cardboard, newspaper, high-grade paper and plastics from the rest of household garbage.

The Kent Recycling Center has been operating full time since 1978. Over the past eight years it has tripled the amount of material it recycles, reflecting a great increase in community participation. The center provides bins at the center for residents to drop sorted refuse and has commercial cardboard bins and labeled trash cans located throughout the community.

"Recycling will save Kent residents money in the future," Meade said. "The increasing disposal fees we see today are just a beginning; recycling will be one way to help control costs. Kent is a leader in Ohio. Few communities in the state have recycling programs."

Meade said Kent State has contributed about 50 tons of cardboard, 48 tons of computer print-out and high-grade paper, four tons of glass and two tons of cans to the center annually since 1984. These materials are separated at 27 campus locations that produce large amounts of recyclables regularly, although there is no organized campus-wide recycling effort.


A&B Refuse has one of the two landfills in Portage County, on Summit Road a few miles east of Dix Stadium. According to A&B's Carl Henderson, the company uses 400 to 500 yards of the landfill's space everyday; it will be full in less than two years. A&B often informs the Kent Recycling Center of available recyclable material, especially corrugated cardboard.

"We've always cooperated with the Kent Recycling Center even though we lose money on the waste products we direct to them," Henderson said. "We're interested in helping with recycling in Portage County in any way we can."

M&M Service, a local division of Waste Management — the largest private garbage collector in the United States — also advocates recycling de-
Despite its loss of income on recycled waste, Eddy Miner, operations manager of M&M, said, "In the long term recycling is good because landfills will last longer."

Still, recycling is only effective if done continually and consistently. And in 1988 only 7 percent of the total solid waste produced in the city of Kent was processed at the center.

Waste-to-energy incineration plants offer another possible solution to excessive solid waste production. About 70 of these facilities operate in the United States today, burning refuse to produce steam and electricity. The plants then sell their product to private industry, municipalities, or power plants, who in turn charge their customers for energy consumed.

The Akron Recycle Energy Plant burns collected waste to generate steam for heating and buries the resulting ash and non-burnables. Akron produced 400,000 tons of solid waste in 1987, and the Akron plant processed 255,000 tons —- over half the city's refuse.

"If we didn't have this facility, Akron would pay three times what they do now for garbage collection, which is about $6 per household monthly," said Kelly Dobson, the plant's customer service representative. "The Hardy Road landfill would have been closed by now."

Dobson also said the plant works closely with the Ohio EPA, which frequently gives unannounced inspections of the plant. An ash treatment center is planned for this year to neutralize the lead and toxins in the ash before it is dumped in the Hardy Road landfill. The plant is also expanding its recycling of solid waste.

The waste-to-energy solution is not problem free, however. Original costs to build a plant total about $200 million. The rate to burn waste at the Akron plant recently rose from $12 per ton to $39 per ton, and rates in other states range up to $120 per ton. The anti-pollution devices needed to control the amount of acid gases and heavy metals being released in the burning process keep prices high. And the burying of ash residue in toxic waste landfills, which are considerably more expensive than regular landfills, further contribute to the cost.

Last summer the Ohio legislature passed a law on solid-waste management, requiring counties or multi-county districts to form 10-year solid-waste management plans. The plans, to be completed by 1992, must include specific figures on amounts of waste generated and inventories of recycling and disposal, projections of future waste and waste disposal, and inventories of recycling and disposal. The law also creates fees for the generation and disposal of wastes.

Anne Filbert of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Office of Litter Prevention and Recycling, said fees and raising dumping prices are the only ways to discourage waste importing into Ohio.

The EPA is now working on a statewide solid-waste management plan, which will provide guidelines to help counties form 10-year plans.

"It's up to each waste district to set and reach their own goals," Filbert said. "There's no way the EPA's recommendation of 25 percent solid-waste reduction can be enforced. They can only present guidelines and suggestions."

A Kent solid waste management ad hoc committee proposed a mandatory curbside recycling program for the city of Kent in February. Its recommendations include household source separation of recyclables, city responsibility for collection, and higher fees for those who do not recycle.

The program requires the city to provide color-coded containers large enough to hold an average household's glass, cans, newspaper and cardboard for a month. Waste haulers would be required to charge customers who don't recycle by the amount of waste generated. Businesses would also be required to separate recyclables.

The committee's recommendations also include composting and chipping programs for organic and yard waste, an industrial waste exchange program, a semi-annual household hazardous waste collection, and city cooperation in purchasing recycled materials and eliminating non-recyclables from the marketplace.

Meade said the Kent Recycling Center will be able to handle the increase in business if the city implements the program. She also said others are prepared to help.

"Both BFI and A&B are willing and interested in participating in recycling," Meade said. "If the recycling program passes, both said they prefer to charge customers a per container fee for collection of non-recyclable garbage rather than the flat rates they charge now.

"'Haulers could avoid the cost of disposal at a landfill by bringing recyclables to us. It's free to bring material to the KRC.'"
Catch the wave

WKSR's Ebony Waves fills the air with urban contemporary music

By Tim Hahn

ou got the basics, Carl?""

In the cramped broadcast booth of campus radio station WKSR, Lori Beverly leans over the silver and blue control panel, explaining the use of each panel switch to Carl Hogges.

Tonight is Hogges’ debut as a disc jockey for Ebony Waves, the station’s urban contemporary program, and for the last 15 minutes of Beverly’s 8 to 10 p.m. shift, he’ll be riding the airwaves solo.

Placing Luther Vandross on a silver turntable to his left and dropping the album cover atop records of Paul Jackson Jr. and Alex Bugnon, Hogges reclines in his chair and softly sings to the music.

“It’s a very low-key station,” Hogges says about his abrupt in-studio training that occurred minutes before he signed on. “There’s not a lot of formal training because there’s really not much to know besides how to operate the controls.”

With students limited to a few functioning campus transmitters, not many are able to enjoy Ebony Waves’ mix of urban contemporary, jazz, rap and hip-hop.

But enthusiasm makes up for a limited audience, and the upbeat mood that emits from the third floor Music and Speech studio has kept Ebony Waves on the air for 15 years.

“I have a lot of fun being a DJ, so it doesn’t bother me too much that few people hear the show,” says Beverly, a sophomore in her third year as a member of Ebony Waves. “I did get two requests tonight, but I couldn’t find the records.”

The concept of urban contemporary radio at KSU developed in 1974 when Jim Wims and Arsenio Hall created “Black Sabbath,” a one-day-a-week show devoted to the music.

As the show matured, its broadcasting hours and staff expanded, covering a nightly timeslot from 8 to midnight when the show reached its apex in 1984.

Mykal Thomas, a senior in radio and television and a five-year veteran of the program, remembers the decision to rename the program that year.

“We decided to change the name of the program because Black Sabbath was a different era,” Thomas recalls. “We decided on Ebony Waves because ebony is our heritage and a wave comes at you and hits you, just like our music.”

It was around this time that WKSR’s building transmitters slowly died out, says Ebony Waves president Paul Richmond. Transmitters in the basements of residents halls used to function.

“Because (of) the lack of output and that Kent is a suitcase college, we cut back our programming to Sunday through Thursday,” says Richmond, adding that the program now has 14 members.

Centered in the department of Pan African Studies, Ebony Waves caters to those who enjoy urban contemporary music, Richmond says.

“The disc jockeys are free to play whatever music they like, providing it fits in with our format,” Richmond says. “On different days, we may play all rap or jazz.”

Richmond says the show is planning to add new programs spotlighting black student leaders, faculty and professionals.

Back in the broadcast booth, Hogges flips through the shelves of albums that cover two walls. Confident after five minutes on the air, he moves to the music while making his selections.

“I was always kind of curious about disc jockeying,” Hogges says. “You hear them on the radio, laughing, giggling and having a good time, so I thought I’d give it a try.

“Being a DJ is like being a comic. You say things that you know people will laugh at, but you also play the music people want to hear.”

Susan Kramer contributed to this story.
An inexhaustible love

By Paula Ryan

I have always wanted to know who owns the cars that I see crowding Kent State’s parking lots. I certainly don’t.

For the last three and a half years, I have mooched rides downtown, to the Laundromat and, on occasion, to the airport to make that crazy trip home to New Jersey.

To most drivers, a car is just a necessity for going to work or getting about town. But then there are the special breed who devote entire afternoons to their precious babies’ upkeep and appearance.

My friend Mike, a member of the first category, was telling me how he treats his green 1980 Chevy as a work truck, even if he does like the feeling of looking down on other drivers.

Just then, a friend of Mike’s walked over to our table, and Mike introduced me to a man obsessed with his car.

Bob, a perfectionist, owns a white 1984 Trans Am with silver stripes and black T-tops. He locks it away in the winter and only drives on familiar roads.

“If I don’t know what the roads look like, I won’t drive on them,” he said. “I’ll idle along an unfamiliar road because I don’t know where the potholes will be. If I have to go somewhere in town, I’ll take the route that won’t get my car dirty. I won’t drive on anything that can fly up and chip the paint.”

“Melanie,” his love machine, was a gift from his parents when he turned 16. He didn’t even want the car, but his father insisted. He remembers the day he picked it up — May 17, 1984, a Thursday. He didn’t touch it for four days.

He even has specialized plates. TA 5150.

“Trans Am, of course, and the 5150 comes from a Van Halen album,” he said. “The 5150 is a Los Angeles police code for the criminally insane. Basically, I’m a nut with a Trans Am.”

A fish tale

By Linda Sharkey

When senior Steve Fowler lived in Dunbar Hall, his room was often the center of attention. It wasn’t his posters on the walls, his beer can collection or even his television set that drew students’ attention.

It was his pet fish, Groover.

“On Friday or Saturday night in the dorm I would get 10 to 15 people from the party down the hall in my room watching me feed my fish,” Fowler said.

As Fowler held live goldfish above the water for his pet to eat, women would squeal and men would chuckle. Faithfully, Groover would jump out of the water and swallow them whole.

Groover is an Astronotus ocellatus, a type of fish commonly known as “Oscars.” In captivity they can grow to up to 20 inches long and weigh several pounds.

Oscars have been growing in popularity as pets with the college crowd. The colorful personality of the fish has led many students to consider Oscars as an ideal alternative to owning a mundane goldfish.

Owners say the Oscar’s uncanny tendency to react to them and the fish’s purposeful behavior are characteristics making it a desirable pet.

“They just don’t dart around like little fish when you come into the room,” Fowler said. “They get happy and come up to the glass.”

Scott Backer, a senior aerospace flight technology major, found out about the species while he was selling guppies to a pet store.

“They have personalities,” he said. “Other fish are like chickens. They eat, go to the bathroom, and if you click your fingers, they run around the tank.”

Two Oscars entertain patrons at the Stuffed Mushroom. On the shelf behind the bar sits an aquarium with two small Oscars, an iridescent shark and a placastanis (algae eater).

“People love to watch them,” said Manager Kathy Foster. “People come in and watch them for hours.”

Once the new fish are big enough (about six inches in length), patrons will be able to buy goldfish for a quarter to feed the fish, Foster said. But tricks won’t be allowed, she said.

“People think they’re cute when they jump out of the water,” she said. “(But) when they get bigger, and jump and knock the lid off and out on to the floor, it’s not so cute.”

Illustration by Wes Bedrosian
It's 12:30 a.m., a time when most Kent State students are studying or sleeping. But a few find the night a perfect opportunity to gather the high-top tennis shoes, old sweats, a few friends and venture out into the dark to play ... basketball.

Granted, this is not for every sports enthusiast — these athletes are devoted. The criteria for playing are simple. Before the night, the day is nice, or at least dry, which adds to the incentive to be outside.

Also needed are a basketball and at least two players. For some, though, a game of solitaire can be soothing.

The final requirement — darkness.

They may not have the moves of Magic Johnson, or shoot as well as Larry Bird, or even the KSU basketball team, but they reach that lofty goal of having fun.

"I like to go out there and have a good time," said Scott Morgan, a freshman criminal justice major. "I still like to win; I always play to win."

Morgan said it is also very easy to lose track of time and play well into the next morning.

"We've played until 5 a.m. a couple of times. That's probably the latest I've played," he said.

Paul Strnad, a sophomore business major, has also had some late nights.

"It was finals' week last semester, and we played about three hours straight and lost track of time," Strnad said. "We stayed a lot longer than we ever anticipated, but had we not had tests to study for, we would have stayed out there all night."

Strnad also finds that playing at night is a great way of relieving stress.

"It's more of a way to take a break, and I find it easier to study after I go out and play," he said. "I won't study if I have a lot of energy in me, and it's a great way to relieve tension and stress."

Morgan said he has found himself playing more often during finals' week.

Sophomore business major Paul Strnad drives to the basket against opponent Dave Myers during one of their many midnight games.
'We get pretty physical. No blood. No foul. It’s just street basketball...'

"It’s a great way to take off the stress from studying," he said. "We take off for a few hours during finals’ week and just play non-stop."

Strnad said the games are always physical as well. "Sometimes I really get into it," he said. "We get pretty physical. No blood, no foul. It’s just street basketball, without referees and a lot of fouls."

"It’s more of a rougher game compared to officiated games, and you get cut a lot easier."

Strnad said he usually plays once or twice a week, depending on the weather conditions, the amount of players he can find and how badly they want to play.

Morgan has found the competition is better at night, providing that there are more than two players. "It is usually more competitive outside than indoors," he said. "It depends on how many guys you get. It’s hard to be competitive with just a couple of guys."

Strnad said the courts near his dorm are crowded during the day, and the gym is always full, which forces him outside. "It’s easier to play at night," he said. "There aren’t many courts around where you can play, and with the basketball leagues and courts being reserved for volleyball, it just isn’t worth the hassle."

Sometimes the urge to play is overpowered by the inhospitable Kent weather. But, if the temptation is there, along with the finals and everyday stress of school, the weather no longer remains a factor. "We play a lot and go out in just about any type of weather," Strnad said. "We’ve played in snow, and even temperatures below 10 degrees.

Freshman criminal justice major Scott Morgan attempts a dunk. Morgan and his teammates play on the courts between Rhodes and Loop roads.
Eight students, six respirators. The instructor holds numbered slips of yellow paper and fans them out for students to choose. The highest numbers win the draw.

Three pairs of pink and gray acid-resistant rubber gloves are on the table in company with plastic jugs, bottles, protective glasses and splash goggles.

The students gather their plastic-wrapped supplies and take them to their seats. They try the gloves and glasses.

The class is Photographic Practicum, better known to the 10 students enrolled as “platinum class.” The senior-level class introduces students to the art of platinum/palladium printing. It is being offered this semester by Greg Moore, an assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, for the first time in nine years.

The materials needed for the class make it seem dangerous, but Moore says it’s no more hazardous than other photography classes. Students must take the extra precautions because they mix the chemicals themselves. In regular photography classes, the students work with mixtures already diluted.

The resurrection of the class occurred during photo illustration major Carol Morra’s junior year.

Morra, 21, wins a respirator in the lottery and models the equipment ensemble for the class.

“Gloves are the booby prize for those who don’t get respirators,” Moore says.

Along with the materials, the cost of the class may be intimidating. Each student must spend about $220 on protective equipment and photo lab chemicals. Moore said the class isn’t much more expensive than other photo classes.

“Other classes will nickel and dime you to death,” he says. “This is one chunk.”

The process itself may be more costly, he says, but students should get a few hundred prints from the chemicals they purchased.

For example, platinum costs about $17.50 per gram but is mixed with palladium (less than $10 per gram), and only a few drops of the liquid mixture are used for each print.

“The class has the essence of being expensive,” he says. “I like to keep it that way. It seems more exclusive.”

But the process itself has become less elusive. Platinum/palladium printing (palladium is next to platinum on the element chart) is about a century old. Moore says the technique had a resurgence about 15 years ago in response to the “crummy” photographic paper offered on the market. Manufacturers are finding ways to use less silver, and the printing paper has suffered for it.

The process begins with painting emulsion on high-grade paper and drying it with a hair dryer instead of simply buying photographic paper. Then, instead of using an enlarger that holds the negative above the paper and projects an image onto it, the film and paper are placed in a vacuum while the image is transferred to the paper.

Students use four-by-five-inch sheet film instead of regular film. Contact with the negative is made for five to 15 minutes, as opposed to the average 10-to-12-second exposure time of normal printing.

Finally, the image left is platinum, which won’t fade. The picture could even sit in sunlight and wouldn’t change color, Moore says. The prints are used mainly for exhibit. This gives them archival value.

At the end of class, Moore critiques students’ prints and explains the quality of negative they would need for platinum printing. Then he shows some of his work. The students crowd around the table and ask how and where he got certain shots, eyeing the work.

“God, I can’t wait to print,” one says.
The eyes have it

By Robin Henry

If your eyeglasses kept you from getting love notes in third grade, it's time to take revenge.

Once just a method of improving eyesight and killing a love life, glasses have joined the ranks of high fashion, sometimes making 20/20 vision less than desirable.

Preppie frames top the list of popular styles among college students, according to area eye wear centers.

"Plain old plastic rims called 'preppie glasses,' which come in all different colors, are very popular," said Deirdre Stebbins, receptionist at For Your Eyes Only in Ravenna. "We even sell them in colors like green."

Ann Cordle, an optician at Diamond Optical and Hearing Aid in the Stow Kent Plaza, agreed.

"The preppie look is really in with the kids," Cordle said. "A lot of college students will get these glasses even if they don't need them, just to get the preppie look."

But the preppie look is not the only style that is increasing in popularity. The round gold frame glasses made famous by John Lennon are also popular among people who wear glasses, according to area eyewear centers.

Also, blacks and browns are out, and bold, bright colors are in.

"Brighter colors are really popular because people aren't afraid to wear glasses anymore," Cordle said. "So all the (eyewear) companies are trying to outdo each other. Reds are popular - a cool red - and burgundy are popular for men."

So where do college students pick up these trends? It seems the most popular medium is television, with magazines coming in second.

"Usually television is one of the main sources of new trends," Cordle said. "Like when Don Johnson wore those sunglasses, and everyone wanted a pair like his."

"There is no way we can tell where the trends are going. We are just as surprised as anyone else is." -

Round gold frames made famous by John Lennon are the latest in fashion eyewear.

Vintage glasses, above, and more contemporary frames are available at Diamond Optical and Cosmetic Center in Stow.
Enjoy our elegant garden setting and tableside cuisine.

Student Center, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio 216/672-2583

Reservations Requested: Sunday Brunch, 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.
Lunch, Mon.-Fri. 11 A.M. - 2 P.M. • Dinner, Tues.-Sat. from 4 P.M.