The Chronicle

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Committed to Care
Breaking Disability Barriers

By Debra Druesedow

Barriers disabled persons encounter are both physical and attitudinal and Kent State-Stark Campus is committed to identification and removal of both, according to Betty Ann Fouk, director of student services.

"The reality is that disabled persons have special needs and we are trying to overcome them," Fouk said.

Working closely with Joanna Gartner, Kent Campus' disabled student services director, Kent Stark's administration is willing to attack these barriers as they arise, Fouk said.

KSU-Stark is attacking attitudinal barriers too, Fouk said. An awareness workshop is scheduled for March to "break down some of the fears people may have about someone who looks, speaks, or acts differently."

Fouk and Sister Mary Noel are interviewing each disabled student, asking them what physical and attitudinal barriers still remain.

The student services director also identified the walkways between buildings and the front doors of the SSA building as barriers that need attention. She said plans are in the works to repave the walkways and a solution is being sought for the doors.

"We are aware of physical problems," she said, "such as double-parking and are taking steps to eliminate them. A door-opener was installed in the lower level of the SSA building and handicap spaces were designated behind FFAC when we realized the need."

Other efforts have been made to defeat the barriers, she said. The testing center has hours set aside for helping disabled students take tests, the elevator control panels were lowered for easier access and a console was built to make the language lab accessible.

Fouk said something needs to be done to make the LRC more accessible.

One problem Fouk said she learned from an interview is that the elevators are often too crowded to allow room for people in wheelchairs, which causes a long delay for disabled students.

"As we identify the problems we are trying to overcome them. But some are more difficult to remove because they will require funding," she said.

"They won't ask people on the elevators to make room or to get off and let them on, she said, so they just wait.

"Both Dr. Bitle and I are pledged to identifying and removing as many of these barriers as possible," she said.

Bill, Tommie & Celia
Identifying Barriers

by Terry and Kelly Shonk

Kent Stark's Campus has a wide variety of students. Some have jobs, some have families, some live at home, some have children, some ride the bus, some drive their cars, some are able-bodied, some use aids to help them move around.

Bill has attended Kent Stork for 2½ years. He is pursuing a degree in business. He said he is taking business in hopes of becoming self-employed. With flashing brown eyes, Bill advised he is a militant handicapped person.

He feels most everyone at school has been cooperative and helpful to him. Problems he now faces at school are related to the cut in hours in Interfaith and limited Testing Center hours.

Tommie is a smiling, quiet lady whose favorite TV program is Jeopardy. She says she watches it every night at her Eashing Hills residential home. Tommie has attended Kent Stark for two semesters. She wants to be a counselor for people "like herself."

After her many experiences with poor counselors, her friends convinced her she could do a better job.

Tommie also said she had an experience with a doctor who was very blunt and negative. He would only tell her you can't do this, you will never do that — nothing positive or sympathetic.

She said she had been warned what to expect from him but the experience still upset her and her mother.

Celia is a cheerful, bubbly lady who lives alone. She has her own apartment which she decorated herself and is proud that she can care for it without help.

Getting to school has been a problem for Celia. She does not drive and must either take public transportation or rely on a driver.

Celia is seen all over campus, talking in the snack bar and giving advice in the library. She is very easy to talk to and enjoys people.

Though these people may have difficulties moving around in their environment, they use a time to look beyond the exterior and see the intelligent, sensitive people going to school here.

Kirks Stark will be offering several new courses in the spring.

They are as follows:

History of Poland, an upper-division course, will be taught by Dr. Tom Sosnowski.

An English upper-division course, the Bible as literature, will be taught by noted authority Dr. Lansbury.

Backpacking, a two-hour PE course will be taught by Mr. Jerry Carleton of Stark Trumbull.

Two rarely offered English upper-division courses are scheduled for spring — Readings in Romanticism and Intro to Linguistics with Dr. Terry Sosnowski.

Two Graduate Level Education courses will be offered: Advanced Theories of Education and a course in Special Education called Exceptionality.
The Chronicle

About the elevators...

by Debra Druesedow

Elevator access is a problem disabled students attending Kent Stark face every day. The elevators are small and the problem is especially bad in the SSA building. But, it is a problem we can do something about.

When riding the elevator, how many times have you noticed someone in a wheelchair waiting to get on or the elevator stopped between floors? If the elevator was crowded, that person probably did not get on... instead, the doors closed and you went on to your destination while the person in the wheelchair waited. If it was in between classes at a busy time of day, how long do you think that person had to wait?

Please, give this some serious thought, then ask yourself... "could I have walked instead?" If the answer is "yes," keep that in mind. The elevators are intended for people who really need them, not for those going up only one floor or down any number of floors (this includes the fourth floor).

Of course, disagreeing or physical limitations are not always visible and I have no quarrel with anyone using the elevator for a legitimate reason. But ask yourself the next time, "Is this trip necessary?" or would it do you and others more good if you simply walked.

Throw some consciousness on it for the new year.

Ask

Dean Bittle

By Carol Boreman

Q. What would you consider one of the most significant problems facing universities today?

A. Coping with demographic change. We are seeing more non-traditional students in colleges today because the population of 16-year-olds is declining. We are constantly grappling reduced enrollment of these younger students.

Q. What social amenities does Kent Stark offer?

A. Take a look at the campus calendar. For example, we have four plays a year, and our artist and science lectures, which we are justifiably proud of, give us a wide variety of entertainment. Also, we have an instrumental ensemble, sports and many student clubs. KSU Stark Campus has developed some very fine leaders.

Halley's Comet

Star Gazer's Heaven

by Steve Jackson

After a 76-year absence, the great comet has once again returned. On Nov. 26, Halley came within 27.5 million miles of Earth and is getting closer every day.

The comet, which swings by earth approximately every 76 years, is named for Edmund Halley, the English astronomer who used Isaac Newton's gravitational theory to determine the comet's orbit.

Halley, who lived during the 1682 appearance of the comet, predicted it would return. The comet was sighted in 1759, 17 years after Halley died, and close to the arrival time which he had calculated. It has been known as Halley's Comet ever since.

For centuries, man has been fascinated with the great comet. Believed to have been sighted as early as 240 B.C., it continues to carry with it both mystery and excitement.

It has been portrayed as the star of Bethlehem at the time of Christ's birth. Its appearance was thought to forecast the death of a king, or the triumph of battle.

In the Middle Ages, the comet was believed to be the ignited evil of man's sin rising up from the earth. And as always, even today, there are those who believe the great comet will collide with Earth, bringing an end to mankind.

Who is the silver-haired gentleman in a wheelchair that has been studying in the LRC most every day this semester? His name is Bill Barton and he will be a freshman here this spring.

Bill has spent this semester preparing for the academic challenge he faces in the spring and if hard work and dedication are indicators of success, Bill will succeed.

But the challenge Bill faces is not only academic; he faces a physical challenge as well. Though he needs a wheelchair to get around, that's not really the problem.

Bill's challenge, instead, is overcoming limited dexterity and speech capacity in an educational setting.

It is important to realize that though Bill's speech may take a little longer to understand, his thinking process is in no way limited. Bill is a very bright man and is really easy to understand when you get to know him.

The only profound difference between Bill and other people is that he is a little friendlier than most and has an unstoppable sense of humor.

Bill is very aware that his speech and appearance may make him seem different. He is concerned that people will not take the time to see through these superficialities and find out who he really is.

Bill's other major concern, in beginning college is taking notes in class. Though the normal procedure is to have someone in the same class make a simultaneous copy of lecture notes, Bill is a little afraid that no one will be willing to do so.

Also, Bill could use some volunteers to help him with writing homework assignments. Anyone who is interested in spending a delightful hour or two a week with him should contact the Student Development Center, Ext. 363.

Volunteer tutor Mr. James Dabney and Bill Barton.

Happy Holidays!

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Talent Hunger Show a Success

Congrats to participants

Record Review:

John Cougar Mellencamp

by Frank Vazano

"There is nothing more sad or glorious than generations changing hands." John Cougar Mellencamp offers on the introspective of Scarecrow. I can't decide whether that's profound or if it only sounds that way (given Mellencamp's previous tendency to write juvenile lyrics). At any rate, one listen to Rain on the Scarecrow or Minutes to Memories makes the meaning of it, at least, quite clear:

Mellencamp began getting serious on 1983's Uh-Huh, whose best songs reflected the loose-yet-tight rhythms perfected by the Rolling Stones and gave the singer's hostilities some focus. On Scarecrow, though, Mellencamp appears to have developed a completely new world view. No longer is he the Springsteen imitator with a chip on his shoulder we saw on earlier albums, but a compassionate human being who clearly sees America in two ways: the way it is and the way it ought to be. And that doesn't mean the old "I fight authority, authority always wins" routine, but reflects the ideals of a thinking person who has just stumbled into adulthood.

Take, for example, Minutes to Memories in which a young man encounters a 77-year-old former steelworker on a Greyhound bus who explains his life, values and the importance of close family and friends. Almost before this can be absorbed, the listener is slapped with a chorus filled to the brim with insinuation: "Days turn to minutes and minutes to memories. Life sweeps away the dreams that we have planned ..." The young man, at first skeptical of the old man's vision, gets old and winds up telling the same things to his own son. It's all very potent (especially when one ignores the lead guitar passage directly lifted from Jeff Beck's Freeway Jam), and Mellencamp - if I may risk sounding cliched - sings it like he means it.

And speaking of cliché, there is one particular did on Scarecrow - R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A. - that's so dumb I get embarrassed when it comes on the radio.

It is subtitled A Salute to '60s Rock, though it could more aptly be called an ode to MTV insipidness. At first I was amused by the Wild Thing flute break, but then I realized that the Troggs were English, which makes the whole thing all the more irrelevant and insulting. Anyway, it will probably be a hit single.

Elsewhere on Scarecrow Mellencamp convincingly tackles the plight of the American Farmer (Rain on the Scarecrow), asserts the need for romance in the face of mediocrity (Lonely Of Night), and even gives us something to strive for (Between a Laugh and a Tear), which is the toughest wimpy song I've ever heard (Bicke Lee Jones' backing vocals add a touch of elegance.)

Besides being Mellencamp's lyrical zenith, Scarecrow reaches some musical peaks as well. The record breathes dynamics, as guitars - electric and acoustic - weave a sonic tapestry and Kenny Aronoff's blistering snare drum snaps through the textures like a machine gun. Small Town is catchy and close to perfect - the guitar progression is inseparable from the melody, which is inseparable from the lyrics, which in turn are inseparable from Mellencamp's voice.

And then there is Grandma's Theme sung by Mellencamp's grandmother, which is touching in its deliberate corniness. Best of all, though, is Justice and Independence '85, a pensive allegory that rocks along like the great AM classics of the '60s, but actually becomes GRAND with a series of wallowing drum fills.

In addition to all this, Mellencamp's voice is passionate throughout, often to the point where he virtually recites his emotions (as Bob Dylan did in his prime). Face of the Nation even smacks of Van Morrison inspiration.

While Mellencamp's characters lack the focus and depth of Springsteen's or Dylan's, they nevertheless represent a vision and are always intriguing, perhaps because they reach for something they know they may never find.

Ain't that America?
Women's Volleyball

The Kent Stark Cobras' Volleyball Team placed fourth in the Ohio Regional Campus State Tournament.

The Kent Stark Women's Volleyball Team took fourth place in the Ohio Regional Campus State Tournament after finishing its '85 season with a 13-2 record. The women were up against area teams from Mount Union and Walsh Colleges as well as five other Kent branches and Community Colleges. The only two teams able to beat the Kent Stark Cobras were Walsh College and Niagara Community College.

Eight women participated on this year's team, putting in daily practices and two to three games a week. The women signed up for volleyball as they would any class and got one hour of academic credit for their participation. Coach Rafaelides is looking forward to next season; several players are returning and more have expressed interest in playing. She encourages anyone interested in participating on next year's team to contact her at HPE.

The Mechanical Universe

The Mechanical Universe, a two-hour physics course, will air on WDAC-TV 67 Saturdays from 6-7 p.m. beginning Jan. 28.

This televised course includes six class meetings with Dr. Bernard Richards for discussion, questions and examinations. Video tapes of the aired sessions will be available in the media center if students must miss a program.

For more information on this unusual course offering, contact the registrar's office at 499-9600.

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Make Fitness Your Resolution

by D.H. Merrill

While sitting in the cafeteria gazing out the windows have you noticed a large, ominous building on the hill? While driving down Cobb Road has a large shadow engulfed your car?

The building that casts that shadow is the gym, otherwise known as the Health and Physical Education building. But don't let outward appearances fool you because, inside, it is a hub of activity. Many students don't even know about the HPE building or what it has to offer. Besides being the home for the Cobra volleyball and basketball teams and physical education classes, it provides an important service to you, the student.

Throughout the week the gym and its facilities are open to all KSU students. The facilities include basketball and volleyball courts; an area for running; exercise rooms; a weight room with Universal and Nautilus machines and free weights; and locker rooms. Organized exercise classes are also held throughout the semester.

So what if it's winter right now? By the time summer rolls around and you're lean and mean you'll be glad that the HPE building was available. If you're feeling shabby and flabby the thing to do is drag that weary body up the hill and start getting ready to do some serious head-turning in the summer of '86.

Kent Stark Theatre's second production of its season will be a musical about pregnancy titled Baby. Baby focuses on three couples of varying ages and how pregnancy affects their lives. The couples include a pair of unmarried college students to whom pregnancy comes as a complete surprise, a pair of young marrieds to whom pregnancy comes as no surprise and a for-tytwo pair with grown children to whom it comes as the greatest surprise. But, for the eager middle couple, the pregnancy report is wrong and for the rest of the show, the audience views their reactions and actions along with the other couples over their nine-month wait.

Performance dates for Baby are Feb. 27-28, March 1-2, and March 6-9. Admission prices are $6 for adults, $5 for students, and $3 for children under 12 and senior citizens. Curtain time in 8 p.m. except for 2:30 p.m. Sunday matinees. KSU students may attend any Thursday or Sunday performance for $1 with a valid KSU I.D.

See You
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Kent Stark Cobras' basketball.

Men's Basketball Team players. (Photo by Viv Addicott)

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