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Winning Ohio

story by S. Michael Babbo

Bumper stickers, posters and political rallies are hallmarks of every election year, but the 1992 presidential election brought something else to Northeast Ohio — the candidates.

Both party candidates, President-elect Bill Clinton and President George Bush, visited the area while they were on the campaign trail to court Ohio's 21 electoral votes. Independent candidate Ross Perot visited neighboring Pennsylvania.

No candidate has ever won the presidency without winning Ohio, and this year was no different. More than 60 visits were made to Ohio by Bush and Clinton, their running mates and their wives. Ohio Secretary of State Bob Taft called Ohio the number one battleground in the country in terms of appearances by the candidates.

John Irvine, president of KSU's College Democrats, said Ohio played a significant role in the Clinton campaign. "Ohio has a very good sample of the type of people the campaign wanted to attract," Irvine said. "He wanted to appeal to middle America."

Ray Yonkura, president of KSU's College Republicans, said Ohio voters historically vote the same way as the nation in presidential elections. "Ohio is sort of like a benchmark for the nation," Yonkura said. "That is why both parties take it so seriously."

Irvine said the Democrats ran an intelligent campaign. "There was a mass revitalization," he said. "The Democratic Party really came together this year. They decided to do it this time."

Perhaps the greatest benefit of the numerous campaign stops in Ohio was the large voter turnout. More than 75 percent of Portage County's registered voters went to the polls on Nov. 3 — a 7 percentage-point increase from the 1988 figure.

Yonkura said the number of college students involved in politics is increasing. "The whole youth movement has really grown," he said. "In the past (college students) really didn't take it seriously. We now realize that we can and do make a difference."

Kent State photojournalists followed the candidates in their race for Ohio voters and the White House.
Retiring to the Classroom

Senior students are enriching their lives as well as the university

story by Stephanie L. Johnson

photos by Jean Angelo

Charles Walker strides with an air of confidence to the front of the lecture hall. He is well prepared to deliver his presentation. He is wearing a shirt and tie, pleated pants and a cardigan sweater. And he has a neatly trimmed beard that accents his distinctive facial features.

After he finishes, a boom of applause fills the classroom. Although Walker is used to a warm audience response from his experience in the theater and public speaking, he said he still found the class’s response overwhelming.

"After delivering a general reading for a radio broadcast class, the class broke into applause," Walker said.

Walker, as well as many other retired persons around the area, is enrolled in the Senior Guest Student program at Kent State. The program is designed for Ohio citizens 65 years or older, but people who are 50 years or older and retired also qualify. The program allows those who meet the age requirements to enroll in free college courses, the same way as traditional students, but on a space available, non-credit basis.

Marvin Koller, a professor emeritus of sociology at Kent State and original director of the Senior Guest Student program, said the two specifications, space availability and no fee, were very important in designing this program.

"We would never want to cut off paying students from getting courses they request," Koller said. "We also requested it to be a fee-free program. These citizens have already paid their share of taxes, they’ve sent their children to Kent State or other state-funded schools, and they are out of the work force. I was pleased that most of the people (in the administration) agreed with this stipulation."

Koller thought of the idea of starting this program after studying gerontology (the study of aging) at the University of California at Berkeley in 1959. Gerontology was an unknown science at Kent State at the time, Koller said.

"In some places, I heard of older people taking courses, too," Koller said. "At the University of Kentucky I met with some of the Donovan Fellowship scholars, those 65 years and older, and who were awarded grants to attend the university for free."

Kent’s program originated as a one-day workshop, called the Gateway Seminar, in 1974. It was advertised in the local newspapers, radio and television stations and through brochures. The Ford Foundation’s Viking Fund Grant funded the event’s advertising. The seminar, which 50 people attended, served as an orientation to the campus and registration. Koller also gave a mini-gerontology course. The seminar closed with a graduation where each of the students received a certificate that said they were now prepared to enroll in university courses.

In 1976, Ohio State Rep. John Begala took interest in the program. He brought the proposal to the state legislature. The proposal required all state-funded universities to provide this type of program for senior students. It passed in the same year.

Koller volunteered his time as director of the Kent Senior Guest Student program from 1974-80. The program has come a long way since it started in 1974 and is much more formal than in the past. Koller said a 15-member council made up of original Senior Guest Student members was installed to further strengthen the program.

Members of the Continuing Studies department are always brainstorming for ideas for additional programs. One of the programs on the drawing board is one in which emeritus faculty would teach special courses to seniors. Carl Brahce, the current director of the program, said a fee of $50 or so would be assessed to the students for the instructors’ salaries.

Brahce said after a questionnaire was sent to the seniors in the Senior Guest Student Program, a favorable response...
was tabulated.

"This program would utilize the wonderful teaching skills of the emeritus faculty," Brahce said. "We're just in the planning stages, but we've had positive response.

"This program would be beneficial in that there may be fewer classes available to the Senior Guest Student program because of budget cuts. Hopefully this program will be ready for next fall."

In 1979, one of the first years that enrollment in the program was recorded, the Senior Guest Student program had 37 students. During the Spring 1992 semester, 172 students enrolled in the program. Of those 172 students, 53 were new registrants, and more than half were women. Twenty-three of these students had attended Kent State as traditional students, and 81 of the students sent their children to KSU.

The program gives some seniors who are forced into early retirement a chance to explore fields they may have never had the chance to get into, Brahce said.

Evelyn Krause joined the program in 1989 because she wanted to take elective courses that she wasn't able to take when she went to college the first time. Krause said now she can relax and enjoy learning.

"When I went to school, I was very career oriented," Krause said. "I worked my way through college in two and a half years, through summer school too. I never had the opportunity to take electives then.

"I think it is a privilege to take the courses in the subjects I never had. The Senior Guest Student program is a wonderful opportunity to go back to school and enjoy the learning process."

Krause said when she first went to school, women were only offered the career options of nursing, or elementary and secondary education. Through continuing education, women are offered courses in fields like the physical sciences and mathematics.

Some other popular courses out of the 150 offered to the seniors through the program include social sciences, art history, English literature, foreign languages, history and physical education and recreational dance courses. The physical education classes range from weight training to sailing. Golf and swimming also are popular.

For the past 17 years, Walker said he has registered primarily in the history and social science departments.

"I have an undying interest in history," Walker said. "I prefer to take early or late afternoon classes. I select my classes according to the time."

Brahce organizes programs such as the Coffee Hour Registration for the senior students. This program gives the seniors the opportunity to speak about a course to professors who either teach it or are from the college it is in. During this coffee hour, the seniors register for classes using the same schedule books as traditional students.

Evelyn Krause, a senior student, does a little studying before class.
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students. The students list the classes they want on a special registration form. Later, the registrar's office mails the students' schedules to their homes.

Suzan Yurik, a junior English major, said the program is an excellent opportunity for seniors, but the university should allow them to get credit for their accomplishments.

"I don't agree with the policy that they take the classes and don't get a degree for their work," Yurik said. "I don't believe it would strain Kent State to allow them to get a degree without paying for the courses."

The title of the program was well thought out, Koller said.

"We named it the Senior Guest Student program because those involved are older and mature, because they are our guests and are very welcome on the campus, and because they are really students — they are studying, learning and growing," Koller said.

Guest students also can get involved in other outside campus activities. Walker not only joined Sigma Chi fraternity as a senior, but he has also been active in Theatre Kent.

"I have a great interest for the arts," Walker said. "I've performed in several productions here (at KSU)," Walker said. "I was a dying old man in The Seagull by Chekhov."

Brahce said research shows seniors can be as active in their senior lives as they were when they were younger. The program helps the seniors adjust to all the changes occurring in their lives.

Walker, and many senior students, feel the program gives them a sense of belonging, a place they can hang their hat.

"I feel at home at the university because of what springs from my childhood," Walker said. "From living in the South as a child, you have those close feelings, which are carried out in this program."

Some join the program because they've seen how much their friends or loved ones have benefitted from it, like Bert and Donna Raffeth, a married couple from Stow who are also involved in the Senior Guest Student Program. Donna said Bert had been in the Senior Guest Student program for two years when she became interested in it.

"My husband enjoyed the program so much I decided to enroll," Raffeth said. "We're both now in our fourth semester of Spanish. We're taking an honors Spanish class with Senor Williams."
The senior students sometimes serve as role models for younger students and thus are popular among these students, Brahce said.

"The program has value to the younger students as well," Brahce said. "The Walker fits naturally into the university environment as he walks across the Student Center Plaza toward the library.

"The program is a product of all support - including the (younger) students - they have opened their hearts to the seniors."

Jeff Goldstrom, a junior art major, said that some of the seniors add a different perspective to the discussion in the classroom through their own life experiences.

"I think it's great," Goldstrom said. "There really isn't any age restriction for learning. Seniors add a totally different perspective to the class. I like diversity in school. There's a lot of cultural diversity on this campus, but it's good to see age diversity. I've learned a lot from them."

The program, on a whole, is supported by the entire university. Without the university's support, it would never survive, Koller said.

"The program has value to the younger students as well," Brahce said. "The senior students bring their personal viewpoints into the classroom. It's important that the students can learn that seniors can be active and intellectual."

"The program is a product of all support - including the (younger) students - they have opened their hearts to the seniors."

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Another

International students discover life in America is no soap opera

story by Cheryl Powell
photos by Chris Zimmer

Americans lounge around their million dollar estates in expensive suits and sequined gowns sipping champagne and nibbling caviar. More than a few are unfaithful to their spouses, prone to amnesia and have evil twins. Although it may be a bit exaggerated, this soap-opera image is not far from the one many international students have of Americans.

Some students, such as Palestinian Iyad Ajwa, said their only impression of the United States came from soap operas and glamorous TV dramas.

"I didn't know that there were blacks here," said Tunisian graduate student Zineddine Boudhraa. "This was the mistake of Dallas."

For international students entering the classrooms of Kent State as both graduate assistants and students, it doesn't take long to figure out American culture. But this acclimation period often proves challenging.

Boudhraa, who is studying mathematics and computer science, said he didn't understand common American greetings such as "Hi, how ya doin'?" when he arrived at Kent State two years ago.

"I didn't care," he said, laughing. "I knew it means something nice so I smiled."

For Yaser Dhaher, a Palestinian mathematics and computer science graduate assistant, the American academic week took some getting used to. In his native Israel, Palestinian students attend school Saturday through Wednesday. After arriving in America, getting up and motivated for classes on Thursdays and Fridays was difficult.

International students have varying reasons for leaving their friends and family to come to Kent. Some say it's Kent State's prestigious programs that draw them. Mahmoud Yousef, a Palestinian graduate student, said his American brother-in-law recommended the math program.

Likewise, Xiaoyang Huang, a graduate assistant in physics, said the internationally renowned Liquid Crystal Institute drew him and his wife, Li Yang, away from China.

Some students simply knew they wanted to study in America, and they narrowed their applications down to a specific region.

"I wanted to study in the north," Ajwa said. "The weather down south is bad. It's always hot and humid."

Dhaher agrees the weather is better in the north. That helped him decide on Kent State.

"We have summer and winter at home. Here, you have the four seasons as they should be."

Giovanna Jackson, director of International Student Affairs, said 158 of the 442 international students at Kent State this year are studying mathematics and computer sciences or physical sciences. Another 48 students are majoring in business management.

One of the most common problems international students face is overcoming language barriers.
At least in the technical areas, the graduate assistants can just write out the information on a blackboard, said Ajwa, a computer science and mathematics graduate assistant. Technical fields, it seems, provide them with an international language that crosses national boundaries. Even though his English is clear now, Boudhraa said he knows some students may have difficulty understanding him. That's why he always tells students up front, "I know I have an accent." Boudhraa laughed as he remembered one particularly frustrating encounter with an uncooperative student.
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“...I had one student in college algebra. I didn’t hear him answer. He looked at me and said, ‘three,’ real slow,” Boudhraa said, sticking three fingers up in the air and waving them to imitate the student.

Episodes such as these used to make him feel angry. But Boudhraa said he’s learned that with some students he just can’t win.

Yousef said his accent hasn’t proven to be a major problem so far. But he agrees that, with some students, you can never tell what may happen.

“I remember one student assistant where the math students didn’t understand his accent and they went to complain,” Yousef said, a smile spreading on his face. “But he was American. He was from the south.”

Aviad, an Israeli in the business administration masters’ program, speaks English fluently. (He can only be identified by his first name because his embassy forbids him from revealing his surname to the media for fear of terrorist attacks.) However, people sometimes comment on his accent. When this happens, he just laughs.

“I have an American friend here who studies Hebrew,” Aviad said, shaking his head. “If you think our accent is funny, you should hear Americans studying other accents.”

International students are often asked what language they think in. Aviad said it depends on the situation.

“Sometimes I speak in English and think in English,” Aviad said. “But sometimes the mind thinks at a different speed in Hebrew than in English. When I’m doing something difficult, I will translate it into Hebrew and work in that language.”

Outside the classroom, international students can find many language and cultural barriers.

Huang recalled his confusion in a grocery store.

“I wanted to find some laundry detergent,” Huang said. “I knew enough English, but not for this specification. A woman came out and said, ‘What are you looking for?’ I told her, ‘Something to wash clothes.’ And she showed me some laundry detergent.”

Language difficulties aren’t the only problems these graduate assistants face. Different cultures have different approaches to problems, and this sometimes leads to hurt feelings.

Huang said that in China people say something nice before criticizing. He said
I find the alcohol problem in the United States is that students go out for the sole purpose of getting drunk.

Sometimes religious beliefs lead to uncomfortable situations. Yousef explained that the Muslim religion requires people to be modest, especially when it comes to sexuality.

"When I came here, I used to live in Terrace Hall," Yousef said. "In the shower, I'd see people just naked, and they'd start talking to me because (they were) my friends. This made me feel uncomfortable. I'd shower by myself at six o'clock, when no one was there."

As a Muslim, Yousef is dedicated to leading a strict lifestyle. This means, among other things, no drinking, no smoking and no dating.

Yousef said that although he isn't supposed to date ex-Chinese graduate student Xiaoyang Huang helps his student Carey Kuchenbecker with a near-frictionless air track experiment in the physics lab.
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Where they come from

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students per country appears in
parentheses.

1 N. AMERICA-
S. AMERICA
Canada (31)
Mexico (3)
Argentina (1)
Chile (1)
Ecuador (1)

2 EUROPE
Greece (15)
U.K. (8)
France (5)
Poland (4)
Germany (4)
Spain (3)

3 AFRICA
Cameroon (4)
E thiopia (3)
Kenya (3)
Ghana (2)
Libya (2)
Tunisia (2)

Source: Office of International Student Affairs, 1992

cept for the purpose of finding a wife, he
and other Muslim students do go out with
women as friends. Through this expe-
rience, he said he quickly realized
American women are much more asser-
tive than he's accustomed to.

"When you come here, you can talk to
women," he said. "I think we had no idea
about it before."

In his homeland, women are more sub-
dued, according to Yousef. Men and
women usually only talk if they are
related or married.

Ajwa, also a Muslim, said he and his
friends do go out to movies and other ac-
tivities. And occasionally, despite their
native customs, they do date, but on a
purely platonic basis.

"We have women friends we go out
with," he said, adding with a grin, "We
are not homosexuals."

But often these graduate assistants are
too busy grading tests, preparing lessons
and studying for their classes to go out.
As Dhaher said during an interview in his
office early one Friday evening: "If we
dated, would we be here on a Friday
night?"

Other students, though, believe so-
cializing is an important part of their ex-
perience here. Aviad and his wife, Tali, an
architecture major, try to make time to be
with friends during the weekends.

Leisure activities for Israelis are the
same as for Americans. Movie theaters,
bars and restaurants are the most common
hangouts, Tali said. Aviad does, however,
cite one major difference — alcohol use.
In Israel, college students do drink, he
said. But Israelis drink as a secondary ac-
tivity.

"When I was a teen-ager, going out to
get drunk was not my sole purpose,'" Aviad said. "It sometimes happened, don't get me wrong. I'm not a saint. But I find the alcohol problem in the United States is that students go out for the purpose of getting drunk.'"

Dhaher said that attitudes toward family are different for Palestinians than for Americans.

"I was renting this apartment," Dhaher said. "When my mom came to visit, I asked my landlady if she could stay with me. But to us, visits don't mean a week — it means a year. I told the landlady my mom was going to visit for a year. She said, 'Why does your mom want to stay for a year?' She made me pay more rent. In my home, this wouldn't happen.'"

Sometimes problems arise when international students realize not every Kent State student is as well-mannered as some television personalities.

"I had this idea that people in general in America were like Bill Cosby," said Dhaher, rolling his eyes. "Four o'clock in the morning, this guy comes with his amplifier in his car -- DUM DU DE DUM -- so the whole building shakes."

Despite these problems, these international students agree that the Kent State community has welcomed them.

"In general, most of the people are very friendly," Ajwa said.

Dhaher said he has come to love America and Kent State. But like most international students, his family, friends and roots are calling him back home.

"I left Palestine in '82 and ever since I've been away. I'm not going to be here long. I'm going to enjoy the weather and the scenery and things I will not have a chance to see at home.'"
Upward Bound

Step by step, American women are climbing the political ladder

story by John Horton

Twelve years ago when Kathleen Chandler was asked to run for a vacant Kent City Council seat, one thing crossed her mind.

"My first reaction after being asked was to see if my husband wanted to do it," Chandler said. "I just didn't really think of myself as being able to hold the position."

Chandler did end up running for council — running and winning. Today she serves as mayor of Kent.

Women such as Chandler have been making small steps up the political ladder for years, gaining positions at the local, then the state levels of government. But this election year marked the most significant climb in politics for women. Labeled as "The Year of the Woman," 1992 is the breakthrough year for women candidates at the national level.

In the November election, 11 women ran for seats in the U.S. Senate, while 108 women did so in the U.S. House of Representatives. Both totals represent all-time highs.

Many reasons have been given for the sudden explosion of women onto the national political stage. Some point to the outrage expressed in the wake of the decision in the Clarence Thomas confirmation hearings before the U.S. Senate last year. Others look to highly publicized rape cases, such as the William Kennedy Smith trial in Florida.

But the Year of the Woman began long before anyone knew of Anita Hill, or any accusations were made of events at the Kennedy estate. It has been in the works for years.

"One of the things that annoys me is that people attribute this all to Anita Hill," said Gertrude Steuernagel, coordinator of Kent State's Women's Studies program and an associate professor of political science. "Yes, the hearings acted as a catalyst, but for 20 years work has been going on in the trenches to recruit women to run for office. What we're seeing now is the culmination of 20 years of effort."

Women have gradually been moving up in the public administration ranks since the early 1970s. Almost 20 percent of all state legislative seats and elective offices are now held by women, according to a report from the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP) at the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University.

"Women running for office has been going on at the state and local level for years," Steuernagel said. "Now these women are in the pipeline. They're coming through the state legislatures and taking what has always been the traditional path to Congress. These are women with the experience and qualifications to run for and win these offices."

The city of Kent serves as an example of the influence of women in local politics. Chandler serves as mayor, Priscilla Blanchard is the city manager and Donna G. Lightel is the superintendent of schools. In addition, Kent State President Carol Cartwright was the first woman selected to lead an Ohio public university.
Although she replaced Nancy Hansford as mayor of Kent, Chandler said the path she traveled to her position was not a well-worn one. Along the way, she saw a change in attitudes toward women in power.

"When I was in high school, the role of the woman was narrowly defined," Chandler said. "You basically had three career choices — homemaker, nurse or teacher. And because of the way society was arranged at the time, I really didn't think that was wrong. It was the thinking of the day."

So Chandler settled into the "traditional" woman's role. She raised her three children, served as head of the PTA and led her daughter's Girl Scout troop.

During those years, Chandler also became involved with the League of Women Voters and several civic organizations. In 1968 she joined the board of directors of the Portage County Chapter of the American Red Cross, and in 1980 became chairwoman. This sort of involvement gave Chandler the confidence to enter local politics.

"By far the biggest barrier for women leaders is that they don't think of themselves as leaders," Chandler said. "Much of that is from the way we were all brought up. But society is slowly changing its views, and women are making on many fronts what appears to be significant gains."

One woman who has been at the forefront of the women's movement is Hillary Clinton, the wife of Democratic president-elect Bill Clinton. Since receiving her law degree from Yale Law School in 1973, she has twice been named one of the nation's most influential lawyers by The National Law Journal and is actively involved in national issues concerning children and education.

During a campaign visit to the University of Akron, Hillary Clinton said women have adjusted their roles in society and are ready to move forward into national government positions.

"There are just more women who feel confident to hold themselves out as public candidates," she said. "Women are saying to themselves, 'This country is not working for myself or my children or my husband,' and they're going out to do something about it."

Although Hillary Clinton has not run for a public office, Steuemagel said not to
discount her effect on women’s issues. She said Clinton serves as a role model and representative for many women.

"Hillary Clinton is the archetypal early baby-boomer," Steuermagel said. "She had to create her own way because there were very few role models for her to follow. She’s had a career and been a successful attorney and raised her daughter at the same time. She’s been through a lot of the same conflicts many women have and understands."

The recent political movement has created new opportunities for many women. For the next generation of women, the road to national government or other upper-level positions in the work force should be a much smoother ride.

"These women are opening doors for my generation," said Colette Propri, a Kent senior majoring in political science.

"It sets it so society as a whole can see women can be effective leaders. People can see women can be in Senate or the House or even be president.

"Women in national politics today are emerging in large numbers because they have worked their way up. Now that the door is open and women in office have established themselves, hopefully (the movement) will be taken further."

The women who ran for office this year received tremendous financial support. Since last year, there has been an unprecedented increase in the amount of money raised for women candidates and in membership in national women’s organizations.

According to statistics from CAWP, EMILY’s List, a donor network for Democratic women, has tripled its donations and increased membership six-fold. The National Women’s Political Caucus, a grass-roots membership organization that has a federal political action committee (PAC), and The Women’s Campaign Fund, the oldest women’s PAC in the country, have each more than doubled membership and donations.

"Women have been outraged by the way they’ve seen government work in the last year,” said Lucy Baruch, information services coordinator of CAWP. "They saw the U.S. Senate not take charges of sexual harassment seriously and, for the first time, realized the Senate was predominantly an all-white, male body. I think the outcome of the Thomas hearings made people see that for the first time."

With the number of women who ran for both the Senate and House, they easily
gained more seats than last term. Only two women served in the Senate and 27 in the House in the 1992 Congress. After the election, those numbers rose to six in the Senate and 47 in the House.

The increased presence of women in politics has proven to affect policy priorities and the political process, said Debra Dotson, a senior research associate with CAWP. The center conducted a major research program aimed at gauging the impact of women in government.

Women tend to concentrate on issues related to their traditional role as caretaker, such as health care, family and child care.

"Those are the experiences many women are bringing with them to government," Dotson said. "They have different life experiences than men, and they give issues relating to those experiences priority. Women in politics have helped reshape the public policy agenda of our country."

With more than half the population being women, Chandler said it only makes sense to have better representation in national government. She thinks the addition of more women in politics can only gain positive results.

Associate Professor Gertrude Steuernagel has kept a watchful eye on the political scene for years.

"A shared male and female government will allow each to bring certain strengths to the office," Chandler said. "Both are capable of making significant contributions to society and it brings out a better balance of representation."

Now that the doors have opened and women have entered the realm of national politics, it is unlikely they will leave.

"We're beginning a new phase that's been 20 years in the making," Steuernagel said. "There's going to be some resistance, but it's here to stay. You can't stop it once it's started."
The experience of kayaking whets the appetite for thrill and excitement

story by Stephanie Storm
photos by Lee Marriner

As the snug, almost confining boat glides into an awaiting rapid as swiftly as the fin of a shark, there are thoughts of fear, anxiety and wild excitement that compete to take precedence in the kayaker’s mind.

There is no hungry defensive lineman just drooling to get his hands on you, or a pitcher throwing his hottest stuff past you at 90 mph. Just the swiftly flowing water underneath your kayak that can be your friend one minute and your enemy the next.

“When you’re first entering into a rapid, it’s a little scary,” explains Adam Tucker, a junior member of the Kent Kayak and Canoe Club. There’s butterflies in your stomach, and it’s like you’re looking down a ski slope of water. Water is spraying every which way, and briefly it’s like chaos. All you can do is try to make sense out of it.”

Three years ago, the Kent Kayak and Canoe Club almost went out of commission as an intramural club. All of the serious members had graduated, and there was no one to take over the reins. Kayaking? Who was interested in kayaking?

But before the program was canceled, a freshman came along who was indeed interested in kayaking. To keep the sport alive at Kent, he took on all of the managerial responsibilities of the club.

Mark Carris, that ambitious freshman, is now a senior history and geography major and is still president of the Kent Kayak and Canoe Club. But Carris admits what he did three years ago was no heroic deed.

“Honestly, I didn’t know what I was doing,” Carris said. “I had absolutely no idea how to advertise for new members to join the club or that you had to turn in all kinds of paperwork to the intramural office. But I did know that I wanted to kayak, and because I couldn’t afford all of my own equipment, I knew I had to do something.”

Luckily for the club and Carris, Dave Toothaker, the club’s adviser, helped lead Carris through the first few weeks.

Carris enjoyed his role as president and has kept it ever since.

“I couldn’t just be in the club and be a member,” he said. “I’ve always been the kind of person who likes to have control over things. I want to do the paperwork and schedule the trips. I want to be the one in control.”

While some members believe kayaking puts them at the helm and therefore in control, others, such as senior therapeutic major Heidi Harding, think the sport is exciting because of the lack of control.

“When I’m in the boat, I feel out of control, and that’s the excitement,” Harding explained. “I don’t know what’s going to happen next, but somehow I’ve got to handle it.”
Mark Carris yells triumphantly after a good lift at "the airport" waterfall.
The kayakers pay homage to a large rock they call Gilligan. They say it is the river god. Passing by Gilligan without paying proper respect is believed to bring bad luck during their trip down river.

Harding, who has been a member of the club for two semesters, is anxiously anticipating her first ride down a river in a kayak.

"There's a lot to learn before you can go out on a real river, so I've just been practicing in the pool," Harding said. "I think I'm ready for the real thing though, but I'm a little nervous about tipping and forgetting what to do."

Tucker, the club's treasurer, has been kayaking since the age of 13, when his father first introduced him to the sport. He knows how dangerous, yet exciting, the water can be.

"Even if you always went down the same river every time you went out, the experience is never the same," he said. "It's different every time because of the water levels. It's a different adventure every time you explore the river."

In the sport of kayaking, there are five classifications for the conditions of the water. Class one describes moving water with slight ripples and small waves. It is easy kayaking.

Class two water has waves up to three feet, wide channels and easy rapids. High, irregular waves with narrow passages describe class three water. Class four water has long, difficult rapids with rescue being difficult. Finally, class five water has the most dangerous rapids and is described as being life threatening.

"When you're in the river, regardless of the class, you're nothing but a toy to the river," Carris said. "While you can have fun and play in it, it can crush you at any minute. So don't ever think you're better than it."

Carris, who has kayaked in class four water, said he feels much more comfortable in class three water.

"Class three is great because it gives you a fear, a rush," he said. "Four is just a little overboard because it is really potentially dangerous."

While unique in many ways, kayaking is like other sports in that it is prone to its own set of superstitions. Tucker explained the ritual of pleasing the River God before embarking down the river on a trip. According to Tucker, every river has a God. One of the club's favorite is Gilligan, the River God at Slippery Rock, near New Castle, Pa.

"The first rock you come to at Slippery Rock is a big rock that has a pool behind it," Tucker said. "We call this Gilligan's Island, and we have to baptize ourselves by doing an Eskimo roll to satisfy Gilligan to be able to have a safe trip."

Beyond Gilligan, the Kent Kayakers have become familiar enough with particular parts of the river that they have names for them.

The kayakers call one part of the river "wild water rapid and
salmon" because they have to paddle up it like salmon. "Maytag" is a part of the rapid similar to a whirlpool. Tucker said "maytag" can take kayakers for an extended spin cycle. Other nicknames the kayakers have for parts of the river are "flight lessons" and "airport." Use your imagination.

The different water classifications cause kayaking to range from an exciting sport to a test of survival. It leaves many wondering why anyone would want to risk their life for the mere experience of going down a river.

Tucker agreed that there is danger involved in the higher water classes. "That is definitely up here," he said as he points to his head, "when you're out on the water. And occasionally, you are scared because the water can really intimidate you. But that's part of the thrill of the sport.

"Why do people bungee jump or skydive? It's the thrill of the unknown, that you just don't know what is going to happen. You don't know if you can completely handle the situation."

With all of this talk about dangerous rapids, kayaking may not seem at first glance to be a sport for just anyone. But, in fact, the exact opposite is true at Kent. Inexperienced students are encouraged to join the club, and there are always experienced instructors willing to help new club members.

All equipment is provided by intramurals, and student are taught the basics in the pool after every Thursday night meeting. Once the students feel comfortable that they have learned the basics, they are taken to the Cuyahoga River at a site in Ravenna to try their newfound skills on running water. At this site, the Cuyahoga is rated as a one-to-two class river and is therefore perfect for new kayakers.

For those that feel they are ready, the club takes two or three weekend trips a semester to such places as Slippery Rock. There the club gets to enjoy camping as well as kayaking.

Carris thinks that everyone interested in kayaking has one thing in common. "Anyone can look at a river and admire its beauty," Carris said. "But in the sport of kayaking, looking at the river isn't enough, you want to grab a piece of it, you have this desire to experience it."

Mark Carris (red kayak), John Bistransky (blue kayak) and Adam Tucker (top) move their kayaks from their campsite to the river to start their trip.

John Bistransky (below) takes a nap on his kayak the morning after their trip. Later that day he and Carris made another trip down the river.
You would expect to see a Hell's Angels biker wear one to go with his "Born to Be Wild" ethic and way of life — the Harley-Davidson, the road-worn leather and the dusty beard.

Completing the road warrior's essential outfit is a tattoo. This image is fast becoming a stereotype, because tattoos aren't only for bikers anymore. Many college students are getting them.

"Big Jeff" Watson is a professional tattoo artist who is the backbone of Smokin' Tattooz on South Water Street in downtown Kent. He said about 30 percent of Smokin' Tattooz customers are students, and some of them are women who really do not fit the stereotypical "biker babe" mold.

Jerry Martin has been Big Jeff's mentor since the store opened last March. He is responsible for business matters at Smokin' Tattooz.

"There's nothing bad about skin art, especially when it has moved into really good artwork and good workmanship," Jerry said. "People are getting tattoos who never got them before."

The atmosphere at the shop is friendly and laid back. The blues of Muddy Waters, the Seattle grunge rock of Nirvana or even the drug-hazed sound of The Doors is the background music of choice.

The most striking feature about the "body shop" is the artwork that covers the walls and offers suggestions for patrons.

New visions and images of power — snakes, dragons, hellions, mythological heroes — all straight out of "Conan the Barbarian," are pictured.

"It's a mile to your first tattoo but a minute to your second," says a sign that hangs on the wall at the shop. This phrase tells of the addictive nature of getting tattoos, which is illustrated by Jennifer Loffredo, a student at the University of Akron.

Jennifer visited Smokin' Tattooz once to get an "ankle bracelet" — only this piece of jewelry can never be removed. Upon returning to Smokin' Tattooz, she went for an elaborate and intricately drawn dragon that slithers down her hip.

One Kent State student, who was getting her first tattoo, was at the shop to get an angel embossed on her buttocks. She asked that her name not be used to protect her privacy.

Her friends were there, but they were never needed for emotional support.

"I'm a big girl, now," she said.

She went behind the closed door that the shop uses for privacy. Her boyfriend jokingly told her through the barrier that her parents can more easily identify her at a morgue because of her new tattoo.

University of Akron student Jennifer Loffredo shows off her tattoo done by tattoo artist Big Jeff Watson (in background).
for those who have heard horror stories, forget about it."

But not everybody can handle getting a tattoo. David Bates, another Kent State student who went to Smokin’ Tattoooz, David, however, is a seasoned veteran. He got his other tattoos at different locations, but the current work is a black design resembling a Japanese scripted letter. The design will someday cover his entire right rib cage. He is getting the custom design done a little bit at a time because of the cost involved.

Prices can range from $40 to $60 for fraternity letters, and small artwork can be done for less than $100. Larger designs can exceed the $100 mark.

It is important to check out the place you plan on getting your tattoo before you go.

Big Jeff emphasized talking to someone who knows, such as himself or another tattoo artist, before getting a tattoo. Big Jeff has two apprentices, Eric Page and J-rome Bragg.

Eric showed the needle used in applying the tattoo. The needle was in a sterilization bag. The method of sterilization is called autoclave, Big Jeff said. Autoclave uses pressurized steam in the same way that hospitals sterilize needles. Big Jeff said every customer gets a brand new sterilized needle.

"We dispose of the needles when we're done with a customer," Eric said.

Big Jeff said his shop can handle about 15 customers per day.

"Most tattoos can take about an hour, depending on the size," Big Jeff said.
Tattoos are permanent because of the method of application. A machine penetrates to the second layer of skin, and the design becomes permanent there. The top layer of skin is basically transparent.

It's impossible to remove a tattoo without leaving a scar, Big Jeff said.

"I don't condone (removing tattoos)," Big Jeff said. "Why not get a nicer tattoo to cover it?"

Even though some students and professionals are now getting tattoos, there's still something about them that is not quite socially acceptable.

"Yeah, there's a stigma about getting a tattoo, but it's usually the Bible freaks who object," Big Jeff said. "The Bible doesn't say that you can't decorate your body — just that you can't do it to remember the dead. If your body's a temple, why not paint it?"

Customers have a rainbow of colors (above) to pick from when getting a tattoo.

Big Jeff (left) wears surgical gloves to prevent the transmission of disease during the tattoo process.

Potential customers (below) Steve Stiboro, a junior studio art major, and Natalie Velkoff, a junior business major, browse through a catalog of tattoo designs supplied by Smokin' Tattooz.
It's noon and the Kent State University Student Center is packed with the lunch crowd. Students bustle about, laughing and talking with friends.

She stands by the cafeteria, covered in blue spandex from head to toe with only her slightly red face showing. She is wearing a red cape. She is passing out condoms.

Students giggle as they pass, reluctantly grabbing handfuls of the little, brightly colored packages. Some point and laugh, while some stare in total disbelief. She is Captain Condom, champion of sex education.

She is also Casey Thuman, and she is pleased. She may have saved a life today.

Thuman is a member of Peer Awareness With Students (PAWS), a group of Kent State students who give presentations about a variety of sexual issues including date rape, sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS.

Thuman is a strong advocate of sex education and awareness. Her brown eyes light up as she talks passionately about her work. Dressed in a pink sweater and a denim skirt, she looks like an ordinary college student. Her dedication to her work and her ability to make others listen are extraordinary. Thuman's message is not new, but her method of reaching students, from freshmen to seniors, is.

"We (PAWS) don't sit there and say, 'This is sexual assault and these are the precautions you can take,'" Thuman said.

"We use videos and role plays. We try to make our presentations as humorous as we possibly can. We want the controversy. We want debate because we know people are believing the myths that perpetuate sexual violence in society.

"Peers listen to peers on these issues. They don't want to be preached at because they often resent authority figures. They'd much rather have a safe environment where they can find out the information for themselves."

Thuman, 22, has been providing that safe environment for four years. Her programs, which have eye-catching titles including "Uncontrollable Urges," "A Safer, Sexier Spring Break" and "Genitalia Under the Influence," in which members of PAWS take the roles of male and female genitals, have caused laughter and tears across campus.

Thuman, a former president of PAWS, presented her first program on sexual assault when she was a freshman. She says the sexual assault of a fellow dorm resident and her own childhood experiences led her to believe there was a desperate need for sexual programming on campus.

"I was sexually abused as a child by other peers," Thuman said. "I was fondled by boys in my neighborhood from the ages of 4 to 8. It started as a game of playing doctor, but it went way too far. I really didn't come to terms with that. I totally blocked it out from my memory.

"When I got to Kent my freshman year, I was once again forced into a situation where I was one person in this ocean of people. I felt like I didn't have control over the situation and started to use some of the same coping mechanisms I had used as a child, like disassociating myself from my situation."

The reaction of fellow dorm residents to the date rape of a girl on her floor in Prentice Hall, along with her own feelings of insecurity and anger, prompted Thuman to get involved with peer education.

"Peer reaction really bothered me," she said. "People were saying things like, 'Couldn't you have been more careful?' All of a sudden the memories came back from my childhood experiences, and I realized I had to deal with it. My outlet was doing programs."

Thuman said her first presentation, in which she revealed her
painful experiences with sexual abuse to her peers, opened her eyes to the widespread effects of sexual assault.

"That program was the first time that anyone, other than about two people in the world, knew what happened to me," Thuman said. "That was the hardest thing in the world for me to do. It's still difficult. I was absolutely stunned because after I gave that testimony, about one-half of my audience shared their experiences. That's when I realized the statistics I had read were true. I never realized that other people had gone through the same things I had."

Identification with other victims was a crucial part of Thuman's healing process, which included almost two years of counseling. It's important for women to work from being a victim to being a survivor, she said.

"When you're in a room with four or five other people and two of the assault experiences were exactly like yours, it does give you some vindication," Thuman said. "It says, 'It's not my fault, and this did happen to me,' and it gives you the ability to say, 'It's OK that this happened to me. I'm not the only person in the world. There's something I can do about this, I can fight it.'"

Thuman presented programs on sexual abuse for two years before joining PAWS. The group has done programs for residence halls, the New Student Orientation Department, branch campuses, fraternities, sororities and classes. Thuman has been the driving force behind PAWS this year, said PAWS adviser Renee Axiotis, a health educator for the Office of Student Health Promotion.

"Casey is very committed," Axiotis said. "When she believes in something, she'll follow it to the ends of the earth. She never ceases to surprise me with the things that she'll suggest. She'll go out on a limb to make a point."

Axiotis said Thuman creates an atmosphere where students can feel comfortable discussing sexual issues.

"I think one of the things that make her really effective as a peer educator is that she's very passionate about her subject, but she doesn't preach," Axiotis said. "She's not overbearing. You know she's very committed and she believes what she's saying, but she still lets you make up your own mind about it. She can create an atmosphere where people can consider their own decisions as opposed to only considering hers."

Thuman manages to make important, complicated issues easily understood, said Jeff Gosnell, a former KSU student and PAWS member.

"Her message hits home," Gosnell said. "Casey has taken PAWS to a higher level than it's been in the past. When you've seen Casey speak, you can't help but gain respect for her. Casey is a wonderful role model. She's a wonderful example of what everyone has inside them."

A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Thuman said she gained insight from her mother, part-time sociology instructor Maureen Thuman. She credits her mother with helping her become a peer educator.

"I had an upbringing where a mother was going back to school and breaking all kinds of social norms," Thuman said. "A lot of things she studied through sociology were treatment of women and gender issues. I got a lot of information from her and through her experiences at college."

Thuman said her family, including her mother, her father, Skip, and her older brother, Michael, has been supportive of her role as a sex educator. Maureen Thuman said her daughter's work toward sexual awareness is invaluable.

"The first time I heard Casey speak I cried," Maureen Thuman said. "I think I cried out of pride, out of the sense that she was doing something so important. If she prevents one rape on this campus, it's worth it."

Thuman's boyfriend, Jeff DeCristofaro, a psychology major, said he was intimidated, at first, by her role as a sex educator.

"When I first heard Casey did date rape programming, I, like a lot of people,
immediately thought she was a male-basher,” DeCristofaro said. “She’s not like that at all. It’s really not that popular to do programming about safe sex or date rape. People don’t care. Casey wants people to care, she makes them care."

A secondary education major with a concentration in social studies, Thuman said she would like to continue being a sex educator in some capacity even after she graduates.

In the entrance to her apartment, an oversized calendar covered with appointments outlines the numerous presentations she gives in a single month. Though it’s difficult to juggle the demands of school, her job and her responsibilities as an educator, Thuman said she will continue to dispel myths about sexual violence.

“Women are totally perceived as sexual objects,” she said. “Not by all men, and not even by most men, but, unfortunately, the men who have those beliefs are portrayed most by the media. When I go do programs, I find that 70 percent of men don’t think that way, but they think 90 percent of other men do. The myth perpetuates itself.”

She discusses not only the vulnerability of women to sexual assault, but also the vulnerability of men.

“When we say men can be victims of rape, men get this fantasy of 10 cheerleaders surrounding them and forcing them to submit to sexual behavior,” she said. “We have to make them realize that nine times out of 10, it’s another male that’s going to rape them.”

“It is indeed most often not a homosexual experience. Their aggressor will probably identify himself as heterosexual. Rape is a crime of violence, not a crime of passion.”

Though she enjoys her work, Thuman said the role of a sex educator can be challenging. She says she remembers a bright-eyed freshman asking if abstinence was sold in pill or liquid form. She has received phone calls at every hour of the night from terrified victims who were haunted by nightmares of their attackers and afraid to fall asleep.

As an educator and a resident advisor in Korb Hall, she has not only dealt with the victims, but also with persons who have committed crimes of sexual violence.

“I’ve had men come up to me after a program and say, ‘I think I did this to someone,’” she said. “They can’t believe they’re in the same category with someone who puts on a ski mask and hides behind a bush. That’s how men think of rape.

“I don’t have a lot of anger toward them. I have a lot of pity. Sometimes I think that the man just totally perceived the act the wrong way. They crossed the line where they did not respect a human being, and they used physical force.”

After the last program she presented, Casey remembered a young woman who approached her that was very shaken up by the presentation.

“She was confronted by a lot of things she had blocked out since she was 14,” Thuman said. “To be able to give her the phone numbers she needed, to give her the affirmation that what had happened wasn’t her fault and to have her come back two weeks later and say she was in counseling and doing well, that was wonderful. It makes me want to go out and do 100 programs.”

In the Health Center basement, future sex educators learn the “Condom-Banana Race,” which they are encouraged to practice in their programs.
Expressing Themselves

Modern dance redefines traditional roles of men and women

story by Michael Pistella

photos by Kurt Myers

A woman in a long dress walks onto the stage, moving her arms and legs as if alternately experiencing pain, joy and sadness. Then she stops, giving way to a second woman in a long dress who moves in a similar fashion and stops.

A man, also wearing a long dress, then comes on stage. He approaches the women and tries to force their still bodies to move like his. He grabs their limbs and tries to make them bend and turn the way he did. The women resist the man, punching and pushing him. They run off the stage and leave him to stand alone.

Left alone, the man begins to make the same movements the first woman made. The women return and continue dancing with him for the rest of the piece. They often mirror each other.

Because of societal perceptions that dance is a largely female activity, male dancers traditionally have been considered less masculine than men in other fields. Societal perceptions have also branded dancers as a profession filled with homosexual men.

Modern dance has challenged the stereotypes of men and women by not assigning specific gender roles to dancers and allowing men to express their thoughts and emotions through dance.

“In dance, one finds a freedom to explore all the gamut of emotions.”

Christina Anderson, who is minoring in dance, practices a solo she has in one dance piece.

“The piece is about prejudice and stereotypes,” former Kent State artist-in-residence Vincent Brosseau said of the dance piece, “Quietly Private.” The piece was part of the university’s Dance ’90.

“As soon as they begin dancing together, the audience forgets who is the man and who are the women,” Brosseau said. “The question of gender is not there anymore.”

To audiences familiar with more traditional forms of dance, modern dance may come as a surprise. While classical ballet assigns strong, aggressive, unemotional roles to men and delicate, precise, expressive roles to women, modern dance challenges traditional male-female roles. Likewise, while costumes in ballet are gender-specific, costumes in modern dance are androgynous.

According to John Crawford, an assistant professor of dance at Kent State who has done research on perspectives of masculinity in dance, the expressiveness needed to dance is the key factor why society tends to perceive male dancers as being effeminate.

“Dance is like any other art form,” Crawford said. “Art is about expanding and not about limitations at all.

“In dance, one finds a freedom to explore all the gamut of emotions: tenderness, anger, fear, aggression and joy. It’s just as appropriate for a male dancer to dance in a way that shows
Crawford said there is a logical comparison between athletics and dance. "The physicality it takes to play sports is similar to the physicality you need in dance," he said. "But the expressive nature of dance gets in the way."

Crawford added that dancers strive to make themselves better artists, not win over segments of their audience. Not having that competitive goal makes some men uncomfortable. This leads society to view dance as a passive profession.

Darwin Prioleau, associate professor and dance coordinator of Kent State's School of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance said she agrees with Crawford that the physical demands of dance are similar to those in athletics.

Prioleau recounted when she was in Greensboro, N.C. a few years ago, and football players from the University of North Carolina took a class at the dance company where she performed. "The power and strength that is needed to dance is no different than what a football player needs," Prioleau said. "You don't need the brawn, but the power and strength is very similar."

But, she said, many men can't see beyond the tights, being a minority among women and movements they perceive as feminine.

All of these elements lead many people to think male dancers are homosexuals. There are no statistics that detail how many homosexuals are in the dance profession, and there is no need for it, Prioleau said.

"The issue is not whether you are homosexual or heterosexual," she said. "The bottom line is the quality of the work and the difficulty, hard work, commitment, physical stamina and strength that is needed to be a dancer."

Prioleau said she believes the negative perception of male dancers being homosexuals goes deeper — into issues of homophobia.

"Society is so afraid of homosexuality, they have to label people," she said. "Not all male dancers are homosexuals, but it doesn't matter if they were."

Crawford agreed with Prioleau. "There are homosexuals in every profession, whether they are out of the closet or not," he said. "People of all sexual orientations are involved in dance, just as they are involved in any other occupation. It is not something that is specific to dance."

"Dance is both a masculine and fem-
Training for the future

Greg grabs his books, folders and tights, shoves them in his bag and runs off to class.

As a man training to become a dance professional, Greg Winters, a second-year dance major, has to face the stereotypes and economic uncertainty that accompany his chosen profession. Winters said that many people tend to think of dance as a recreation, not a profession.

"People have asked me, 'Would you rather be the rich person who pays to be entertained, or do you want to be the poor person who entertains them?'" he said. "That says a lot about how the world has become and how the arts, instead of being an art form, have become recreation.''

Being in a dance profession does not mean a person will starve, but it does require a certain amount of risk taking. Winters is daunted by employment and economic uncertainties.

"Anything you do in college is a risk, a gamble," he said. "If you are going into the performing arts, it's just a bigger risk.

"If you are going to be a dancer, I don't think you can be motivated by money. It has to be separate."

Finances scare a lot of people away from dance, Winters said. But he thinks that if the person is afraid of not making money, the person must not be very committed to dancing.

"I've paid for my own education, and I know that six months after I graduate those loans will come back to haunt me," Winters said. "But as a dancer, it's a risk I'm willing to take.''

Winters also faces perceptions that male dancers are less masculine than other men.

"It's not about gay or not gay or masculine or not masculine, for me because I'm not insecure," he said. "I feel that because dance is a very sensitive thing to do, it fits the female stereotype a lot easier than the male stereotype, and men get a lot more flak for that."

But it is about being gay or not for some people. Winters remembers one day when he was standing outside the studios in the Memorial Gym Annex. A group of men walked by him. He heard one ask, "Did you see that faggot?"

"I don't think about the issue until I am forced to think about it," Winters said. "Like walking into the locker room with my tights on, I feel like Moses parting the Red Sea.

"People tend to move out of my way. People will walk by and look, turn their head, and look again. It's the second glance that pisses me off."

Winters has an off-stage relationship with his girlfriend, Rebecca Drury, a second year dance major.

Drury said she sees Winter's ability to be sensitive on and off stage as a great attraction.

"There is a sensitivity about him that a lot of people don't let show through because they feel it's not masculine," she said. "But Winters doesn't worry about that."

The issue of masculinity does not come up in his relationships with female dancers, Winters said. "It's beyond that," he said. "They have the attitude, if you can lift me and I feel safe, then it doesn't matter."

Winters said he finds the male-female relationship on stage special.

"It's one of the most beautiful things to me," he said. "To watch the differences, strengths and weaknesses of both, and how they complement each other."

--Michael Pistella

Greg Winters works on a routine at the dance studio.
Shannon Preto, a musical theater major, takes a drink during a break in rehearsal while choreographer John Crawford works through some new moves with Anderson.

Undergraduate Student Senate Services include:

- The U.S.S. Ticket Office
- The Computer Lab
- Video Camera for Student Use
- Long-Distance Telephone
- Vehicle insurance
- Fax Machine

The Undergraduate Student Senate is an organization committed to the highest form of student representation. The U.S.S. represents the undergraduate student body in all matters of common interest.

The people with the least exposure to dance are the people who have misconceptions about it, Prioleau said.

"Stereotypes are set by people who have not been in an environment where they can experience what goes on in dance," she said. "The more people are exposed to something the less likely they are to gravitate toward stereotypes."

Prioleau, a member of the Dance Education Planning Committee for the Ohio Arts Council, said her group would like more dance education in schools, from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Even students with learning disabilities can benefit from dance, Prioleau said. She said there have been cases where dance and creative movement have helped these students perform better academically.

Prioleau and Crawford agreed that the more aware people are of dance, the more men will choose to become dancers.

"The 90s male can no longer run around smashing beer cans on their heads as an attribute to manhood," Prioleau said. "It will be OK to be expressive and emotional and retain their masculinity."
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Married with Classes
Kent State couples who juggle school, work and family

story by Angelica Semler
photos by Sharon Cekada

Diana starts work at 8 a.m. She readies herself for eight hours on the job, followed by two evening classes. She dresses her 2 year old for day care followed by a few evening hours with the baby sitter at the Alpha Xi Delta sorority house. Bill works long hours, but he will do what housework he can. When he gets home late that night, his daughter might still be up. Diana will probably be studying.

College and marriage are two of the biggest steps in our lives. Students prepare for college throughout high school. When many get to college, they search for that someone special to settle down with after graduation. Some Kent State couples, however, tackle college and marriage simultaneously. This is no easy feat.

Handling two phases of life at once is difficult. Those trying are the first to admit it.

Diana and Bill McGonigal married three years ago after dating for nearly five years. They have a 2-year-old daughter named Merilyn.

Diana is a broadcast journalism major with a graphic design minor. She hopes to graduate from Kent State in 1995. Bill owns and manages Hudson Autobrokers in Stow-Kent.

"It's really tough," said Diana, who carries about 12 credit hours a semester and works full-time in the College of Continuing Studies office. "You feel like you're being pulled in so many directions."

Diana worries about missing time with her daughter. Merilyn is in day care during the day and with a baby sitter during part of the evening. Diana said she often feels like a less-than-perfect mother.

"I always feel very guilty," she said. "In the long run, it's going to pay off. I'm going to get a job that I like. It'll benefit her in the fact that I'm going to be more happy. Hopefully, I'm going to make more money so I can pay for her to go to college. She won't have to go through what I have, making her own way."

Full-time students Angie and George Maxey have also been married for three years. Their son Raymond is 17 months old.

Angie, an elementary education major, plans to graduate in May 1993. George looks to graduate in May 1994 with a degree in secondary education. Angie and George said they usually handle married life and college life with ease, but they did have a tough semester when Angie was pregnant.

"That was a lot on my mind," George said. "Taking care of everything and getting everything ready."

Fortunately, the couple was graced by a late delivery. Raymond, who was expected in mid-April, was born the week after finals.

Angie and George rely on their strong religious beliefs to cope with everyday stress.

"You keep hope. You study. You get to class," explained George, who is a volunteer assistant coach for the Kent-Roosevelt freshmen football team and is involved with the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. "We try to be in class everyday. Organizational skills really play a part in it. Your priorities are really straight."

Jennifer and Chris Behal met in September 1989 and married in February.
They agreed that it's difficult to manage a family, school, a household and work. "It's a constant juggling act," Jennifer said. "We constantly have to prioritize. It seems like something always gets left behind."

"Every minute is planned for you," Chris added. With so many responsibilities, it's difficult for the couples to squeeze enough hours from each day.

Laurel and David Hurst married a little more than two years ago after dating for almost four years. Their son, Jacob, is 3 months old.

Laurel graduated from Kent in May with a bachelor's degree in music. She cares for Jacob and teaches private voice lessons. David is hoping to graduate in May 1994. He is taking chemistry as his major and Asian studies as his minor.

Before Laurel graduated, it was not unusual for her to spend 48 hours without seeing David. When the weekends finally arrived, Laurel and David wanted to spend time together, but their in-laws wanted to see them.

"Between both of our parents, they always wanted us to do something with them," Laurel said. "We were just exhausted."

David, whose grades dropped slightly after he married, has trouble finding time to study.

"Since I'm busy, unless I actually take the time, it's easy to put it off," he said.

Diana agreed that finding time to study is challenging. "You have to pack studying in wherever you can," she said.

Diana often goes out to study because she is distracted by too many things at home — a stack of dirty dishes, for example. Bill stays with their sleeping daughter. Because of guilt, Diana won't go out until Merilyn is asleep.

Angie and George have encountered conflicts between caring for their son and attending classes. One of George's professors became angry when George missed a class to take Raymond to the doctor.

"School is second or third on your list," Angie said. "In our life, God comes first, then family and then school. It's hard for professors sometimes to realize that." Jennifer and Chris have trouble finding time together. "It's very hard," Jennifer said. "We just try to make the most of the time we do have." Regular sleeping patterns disappear first when commitments overrun the amount of time in a day.
David’s full-time job begins at 4 p.m. His shift is supposed to end at 12:30 a.m., but he often has to work late. On many nights, he crawls into bed at 3 or 4 a.m. only to wake up a few hours later for early morning and afternoon classes. Diana often functions on fewer than five hours sleep on weeknights. She runs on coffee and fast food, a habit that worries her.

Angie and George, however, are asleep by 11 p.m. every night. George wakes up at 7 a.m. to exercise, this is his only daily opportunity to be alone. Angie has morning classes so she can be home in the afternoon. Laurel and David said they married for happiness.

"If you could be happier married, and you can still go to school and finish, why not be happier?" said Laurel, whose parents persuaded the couple to delay the marriage for one year. "Why do you have to finish school in four years? What are you hurrying for?"

"I’d rather be married because I can be with my wife all the time," David said. "If it takes me a long time to get through school, that’s okay. I can work the rest of my life."

Diana and Bill married earlier than they planned when she became pregnant. They eloped to Maui and were married on a beach during sunset.

"I was in love," Diana explained. "I met Bill, and he was just so different and so considerate. He was just perfect. We had planned to get married. We were just going to wait a year."

The mythical "love at first sight" united Angie and George. Angie was a mentor for incoming freshmen during the Orientation Week of her sophomore year. George spotted her when he walked through Prentice Hall in search of a job in the cafeteria.

"We just ran into each other, and the rest is history," George said. "The Lord blessed both of us. We were meant to be together."

Jennifer and Chris married because of their daughter.

"I never wanted to be a parent this young," Chris said. "But it’s one of the greatest things to have a daughter. Some of the things she does just make you feel so good." Experience often makes people wiser and more qualified to give advice.

Laurel doesn’t discourage the idea of marriage for young couples. She said she is supportive when the pair is in love and knows they will be together forever. And they don’t consider divorce an option.

"If you’re not really committed to being married forever, doing this would break you," she said. "If you’re really enthused about school, it helps, too. I get really psyched. I like going to class."

Although Angie firmly warned that no marriage is perfect, she said communication and understanding make her marriage work.

"One person always has to listen while the other one is talking," Angie said. "You both can’t be talking. Somebody has to step back and say, ‘Okay, I’m going to listen this time.’"

"You have to be tolerant to (your spouse’s) needs," George added. "You have to be real tolerant to their happiness."

Chris doesn’t recommend marrying young.

"I’d advise against it," he said. "I think you should have fun while you’re in college. I don’t think it would work out if you think you can have the same lifestyle you did before you were married." The young couples have not completely eluded tragedies.

Laurel and David suffered through two miscarriages before Jacob’s birth.

"You worry about money and getting your homework done, but that’s so insignificant when you consider something like that," Laurel said. "As long as you’re happy and healthy and together, I guess that’s all that matters. You’d go crazy if you tried to worry about everything there is to be worried about."

David enjoys being married.

"I wouldn’t do anything different," he declared. "And I’d do it again. A lot of it being hard or being difficult is attitude. If you know what to expect, then you just do what needs to be done."

Diana wasn’t as self-conscious after she married. Putting off college until five years after graduating from high school and being married has made her appreciate college more. And Bill serves as a study partner as well as a husband. "It’ll be midnight," Diana said, laughing, "I’ll have a history exam the next day, and I make him drill me."

"He also gives me encouragement in subtle ways," she added. "The other day one of his friends told me that he was bragging about my going to school. It really made me feel good."

Besides encouragement, spouses can also provide understanding.

"When you’re upset, they’re somebody you can be mad at because they’ll understand," George said of Angie. "And then they can say, ‘Are you done?’ And then you say, ‘Yeah, I’m done. Thank you.’" Jennifer said marriage and parenthood have opened her eyes.

"It’s really put life into perspective," she said. "I really feel like I know what’s important now. I know that going to the bars isn’t important. The family is important."

"It’s definitely made us more aware, too," she added. "I didn’t used to care about politics that much, or health care. And things like that have really become important."

Laurel, Diana, Angie, George, Jennifer and Chris discovered another reward when their grades rose.

Jennifer and Chris believe their daughter is the reason.

"It’s now not only our future," Jennifer said, "but it’s Sarah’s future, too."
Jason Carter reflected in a car window (above), checked out Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity but later chose Sigma Chi.

Members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon show off their fraternity letters in tattoos (above).

Paul Banz, (right) the president of Theta Chi fraternity, gives an informal presentation of his fraternity to prospective pledges.
What a Rush
Taking a look at Kent State's fraternity rush week

story by Rob Sabetto
photos by Patrick Burk

Students outside the Greek community often have visions of being forced to eat goldfish or drink until they pass out when they hear the word "rush." Actually, fraternity rush week is alcohol (and goldfish) free.

"Formal rush is for people who don't have any idea which fraternity they want to pledge," said Ed Breedy, a member of Phi Delta Theta.

According to Carlton McHargh, student activities coordinator for Greek affairs, fall fraternity rush usually draws about 300 rushees. Fraternities also hold an informal rush in the spring with about 60 participants.

With so many people going through rush, it's tough to remember even the most basic things about each person.

"It can be tedious and overwhelming because you can't remember a lot of names," said Breedy.

Rush week may be tedious and overwhelming, but it's a necessary rite of passage for fraternity members.

Rushees do not go through rush week on their own, a "Rho Chi" acts as a guide. Each Rho Chi is a member of a fraternity, and his mission is to take six or seven potential pledges under his wing and introduce them to the various chapters. The Inter-Fraternity Council guide book states that Rho Chis "provide support and friendship" during rush week.

Rho Chis are required to keep their fraternal affiliation secret so rushees won't be influenced.

On the first night of rush week, rushees gather at the Student Center and are put in groups led by Rho Chis. For three nights, candidates get 20 to 25 minutes to chat with prospective brothers. The candidates do not visit all of the fraternities at Kent State, only the ones that interest them. This visitation period is primarily an opportunity for fraternity brothers to influence potential members.

The degree of formality during rush week differs between houses. Some frats serve steak or shrimp, while others keep it simple and serve pop and pizza. Some houses hold group question-and-answer sessions and some show slick video presentations about the fraternity. One frat even has a miniature golf course set up throughout the house so that rushees can play a quick game of putt-putt while chatting. Either

Rushees visit most of the fraternity houses during rush week. Here a member of Delta Tau Delta welcomes a rushee into the house.
way, rushees are supplied with information, entertainment and food.

On "preference night," rushees narrow down their choices by picking up to four fraternities they would like to join. The rushees are reorganized into another set of groups based on their preferences. Representatives from each chapter load hopefuls into cars (one frat even rented a white limo) and take them to their respective houses.

Now it is the rushees' turn to persuade the chapter members. Since every member votes on who gets in and who doesn't, the object is to stand out enough for them to remember you. If they can't remember you, they won't put in a bid for you.

Some fraternities videotape each rushee during his visit and view the tape before voting.

Rush week culminates with "bid pick-up night," held at the Student Center. Here the rushees find out which of their preferred chapters have (or haven't) bid for them as a new member. "Primarily (fraternities) look for scholarship and service in new members," McHargh said. "But there are so many different groups they all look at different things."

Sorority rush varies a bit from fraternity rush. Sororities have been known to have more elaborate house visitations than fraternities.

But rush week serves the same purpose for both Greeks and rushees. It gives those who wish to become part of the Greek system a chance to meet with those who already are.

As Ed Breedy stated, "We all just try to be ourselves."
Kent students leafing through a copy of The Burr magazine may not realize the changes this student publication has undergone through the years. However, the staff of the first edition, which was published as a yearbook, recognized the tradition they were beginning.

The following passage appeared in the 1914 first issue of The Chestnut Burr yearbook, published by the Walden Dramatic Club of Kent.

"To the generations of young men and women, who in succeeding years will receive training in the Kent State Normal School, this first annual is dedicated."

Although rising production costs and a lack of interest in a yearbook resulted in a change to magazine format in 1986, Kent’s earlier history was recorded by student produced yearbooks.

The first issues contained pages of jokes, short stories and essays, as well as senior pictures. Throughout the years, The Chestnut Burr, now published by the students at Kent State, continued to preserve the history of KSU.

It was announced in the 1929 issue that Kent’s name had been changed from Kent Normal School to Kent State College. The 1936 issue recorded the updated name of Kent State University.

As the college grew, photos of the new buildings appeared. The original campus consisted of only the auditorium, Merrill, Lowry and Kent halls. Lowry Hall was at that time a women’s dormitory. By the year 1931, The Chestnut Burr featured color photos of Moulton Hall, the newest dormitory, and Rockwell Hall, which housed the library. Other new buildings included the power plant, Wills gymnasium and Franklin Hall.

The Chestnut Burr also covered Kent’s growing tradition of political activism. According to an article in the 1985 issue of The Burr, which looked back over the years, students protested on campus for the first time during university President Engleman’s term of office (1928-1938). The 1,200 students who participated in the mass demonstration against the National War Preparedness Program carried banners reading “No More War.”

Of course, Kent State made national headlines in 1970 with the May 4 riots and shootings, but The Burr covered more than just this day of tragedy.

This political concern was shown again as recently as the spring 1991 issue, when KSU students protested the Gulf War.

Although concern over political activities has not varied through the decades, past issues of The Burr show how priorities have changed.

The spring 1986 issue featured “Graduation to Marriage,” and “Conquering the Beast,” a story about women and car repairs.

For all its efforts at accurately chronicling life at Kent, The Burr and its staff members have won many awards.

Over the past five years, nine Burr writers and one designer have won national awards. In 1989, the magazine was awarded the Best All-Around Student Magazine Mark of Excellence Award by the Society of Professional Journalists.

In 1990, The Burr won second place as Best Student Magazine from the Magazine Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. It received third place in 1991 for the same award.

As the first dedication hoped, The Burr continues to provide coverage of the issues important to the generations of young men and women receiving training at Kent State University.
Enjoy our elegant garden setting and tableside cuisine.
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