

FOR RELEASE: INTERMEDIATE

Mailed April 9, 1987

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Youngstown State University's Planetarium has opened a new show, "Starglass."

"Starglass" examines how new advances in science and technology are providing a clearer, more colorful vision of the heavens. Through radical new designs in optics and telescopes, man is able to seek out extraterrestrial planets, quasars and black holes.

"Starglass" will also take a look at the promises of, and the threats to, future astronomy and how these tools will allow worldwide participation and cooperation in astronomy.

Planetarium shows are free and open to the public, but reservations are required due to limited seating capacity.

Reservations may be made by phoning the Planetarium at (216) 742-3616. Reserved seats will be held only until five minutes before showtime. All programs begin promptly and latecomers will not be admitted once the show has begun.

Because the subject and setting are inappropriate for them, pre-school children will not be admitted.

Dates and times for "Starglass" are:

April 10	8 p.m.	May 1	8 p.m.
April 11	2 and 8 p.m.	May 2	2 and 8 p.m.
April 24	8 p.m.	May 8	8 p.m.
April 25	2 and 8 p.m.	May 9	2 and 8 p.m.

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YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Youngstown State University's planetarium lecturer, Ted Pedas, was coordinator of a cruise trip that took 500 travelers to Yucatán, Mexico, to view the once-a-year equinox from ancient Mayan ruins.

Among scientists and experts of astronomy, archaeology and anthropology who accompanied the Sun Line Cruise group was Dr. Warren Young of Farmdale, chairman of YSU's Department of Physics and Astronomy.

The highlight of the trip occurred on March 21 at the vernal equinox. As the sun set upon the Castillo pyramid at Chichén Itzá, the north stairway darkened with shadows except for triangles of sunlight that ran the length of the pyramid to form what resembled a serpent. At the bottom of the stairway, a massive snake head emerged.

"It was absolutely phenomenal," said Pedas, who lives in Farrell, Pa., and is director of the Farrell High School Planetarium. "It's the kind of thing you read about, but don't think you'll ever be there in person to see it."

This extraordinary event drew people from all over the world. According to Pedas, nearly 50,000 people were present at this occurrence.

Answers are still being sought as to how and why these ancient people constructed the temple/pyramid in such a manner as to highlight the equinox.

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