

YSU's constitution celebration continues

Speaker cites value of ordinance

By BRIAN J. MACALA
Jambar Sports Editor

The week-long Bicentennial Commemoration of the U.S. Constitution and the Northwest Ordinance by YSU continued yesterday in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center with an address by Dr. Phillip R. Shriver on the Northwest Ordinance.

Shriver is a president emeritus of Miami of Ohio University and is chairman of the Ohio Bicentennial Commission for the Northwest Ordinance and the U.S. Constitution.

Shriver explained to the audience in the Ohio Room that the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, which set up the governing process for the territory Northwest of the Ohio River, is one of the three fundamental articles of freedom in our nation's history, along with the Declaration of Independence and the federal Constitution.

Shriver commented, however, that unlike the other two great documents, the Northwest Ordinance does not enjoy instant name recognition, probably due to the complex way in which it was written.

"This nation has many birthdays, and it's well that we celebrate each one of them," Shriver said. "We were born at many times and at many places."

Shriver said it has been a struggle to get people educated on the Northwest Ordinance due to the little name-recognition it has held over the years. He cited an example of a person from Washington state, today's Northwest, calling him and asking why the state of Ohio would be celebrating a document concerning the Northwest. Shriver explained that the Northwest Ordinance concerned the Old Northwest, the present states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, but indirectly effected the admission of 31 of 50

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Hear ye, hear ye: Town crier Richard Kepley, junior, telecom, hands a flier promoting the bicentennial convocation to take place at 8 p.m. Tuesday at Powers Auditorium to Kathy Prosser, senior, F&PA. The crier was in action yesterday in front of Kilcawley.

Bicentennial themes highlight of forum

By STEVE SIMBALLA
Jambar Reporter

The United States Constitution and the Northwest Ordinance were the featured topics of three oral presentations as the latest Faculty Forum session addressed bicentennial themes Thursday evening in DeBartolo Hall.

Dr. Frederick Blue, history, spoke first on "The Other Bicentennial." Blue offered a brief history of what he called "Ohio's first constitution," the Northwest Ordinance, which is also celebrating its 200th birthday this year.

The Northwest Ordinance, said Blue, established a charter for the area north of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi River and also provided a three-stage process by which the in-

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states into the union, not just the ones in the Old Northwest.

The Northwest Ordinance was written by the Congress of

the Articles of Confederation to set up a system for the government of new territories, and specified how these territories would go about applying for admission to the Federal Union.

"The Northwest Ordinance set up a whole new colonial

policy unlike any the world ever knew," Shriver said. "It allowed for a colony to become an equal of the mother country, something that had never been done before. In addition it said that it must and will be done."

Shriver spoke about Ohio in the days prior to the influx of settlement following the passage of the Northwest Ordinance, saying that the state was 95 per cent

covered by trees and the rest by high grass.

Shriver explored specific articles of the Ordinance, calling them the nation's first bill of rights.

From 1965-81, Shriver served as president of Miami University. He has served as member and chairman of the Cincinnati Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

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cluded territories would attain statehood.

This process, according to Blue, was intentionally long and drawn out, mostly due to the fact that the thirteen original states did not wish to share their power "and were fearful of too many states (being added) too quickly."

In Ohio, noted Blue, the process was further complicated by our first congressionally-appointed territorial governor, Arthur Sinclair. Nicknamed King Arthur I by an unhappy populace eager for statehood, Sinclair purposely delayed Ohio's entry into the union

At the same time the Constitution was being framed in Philadelphia, Congress was working on the Northwest Ordinance only 90 miles away in New York City. It is interesting

to note, said Blue, that while "the legality of slavery was recognized in three separate clauses in the United States Constitution, it was to be banned in any future state provided for by the Northwest Ordinance."

"Themes in 20th Century Constitutional Interpretation" was presented by Larry Esterly, political science. Remarking that "we are all touched and affected by the application and interpretation of the Constitution," Esterly listed four major themes manifested in the 20th century "that have had dramatic impact and altered politics and our very lives."

The first theme, according to Esterly, was the "nationalization or incorporation of the Bill of Rights in 1925 under provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment." Prior to this time, Esterly said, American citizens were not guaranteed the same rights by

the states as they were guaranteed by the federal government.

Esterly's second theme of "equal protection under the law" occurred in the mid-1950s when state laws allowing discrimination based on race, sex, religion and age were knocked down.

"An increasingly broad interpretation of the Commerce Clause, allowing for more governmental regulation of interstate trade" was Esterly's third theme and "allowing further growth of presidential power" was theme number four.

Dr. Anthony Stocks, economics, gave the third and final presentation on "The Constitution and the American Economy." Stocks said that the framers of the Constitution sought to promote private enterprise and foster capitalism and thus sought to limit the individual power of the states — "establishing a sort of common market between them." Prior to that it was common for states to negotiate their own treaties, trade laws and even mint their own currency, said Stocks.

Stocks called the Constitution "a rather impressive document to have the flexibility to permit the dynamic changes that have occurred" in history. Stocks noted in particular that the Constitution was originally written for an "agrarian economy in a nation of four million people with a gross national product of \$4.3 million." It has remained in effect through an entire transformation as a manufacturing economy to the service economy prevalent now, Stocks said