

Campus 2000 project goals now underway

By **BOB THOMAS**
Staff Reporter

Plans are now being finalized for a long-term campus development strategy that will produce a number of changes at YSU and in several adjacent neighborhoods over the next 10 years.

President Leslie Cochran has unveiled his Campus 2000 plan, which includes the acquisition of three large tracts of property by YSU and the planned construction of as many as seven new buildings.

The project is based on two concepts: extension of the pedestrian-oriented campus to ensure a desirable learning environment and the creation of an extended-campus concept by producing an interactive environment between YSU and surrounding areas.

According to Cochran, the idea began to take shape while planning for the new College of Education. After noting the decline of several areas bordering the campus and the fact that YSU "had defined itself very narrowly as a commuter campus," Cochran said he saw a chance to expand this project.

"The campus has to have a vision of what it's going to do if we're going to create our own future," said Cochran.

Campus 2000 is one of three planning initiatives intended to turn vision into reality by projecting YSU's appeal beyond the traditional commuter radius and providing facilities and services to meet anticipated growth. The other two plans will involve academic restructuring and additional services for students.

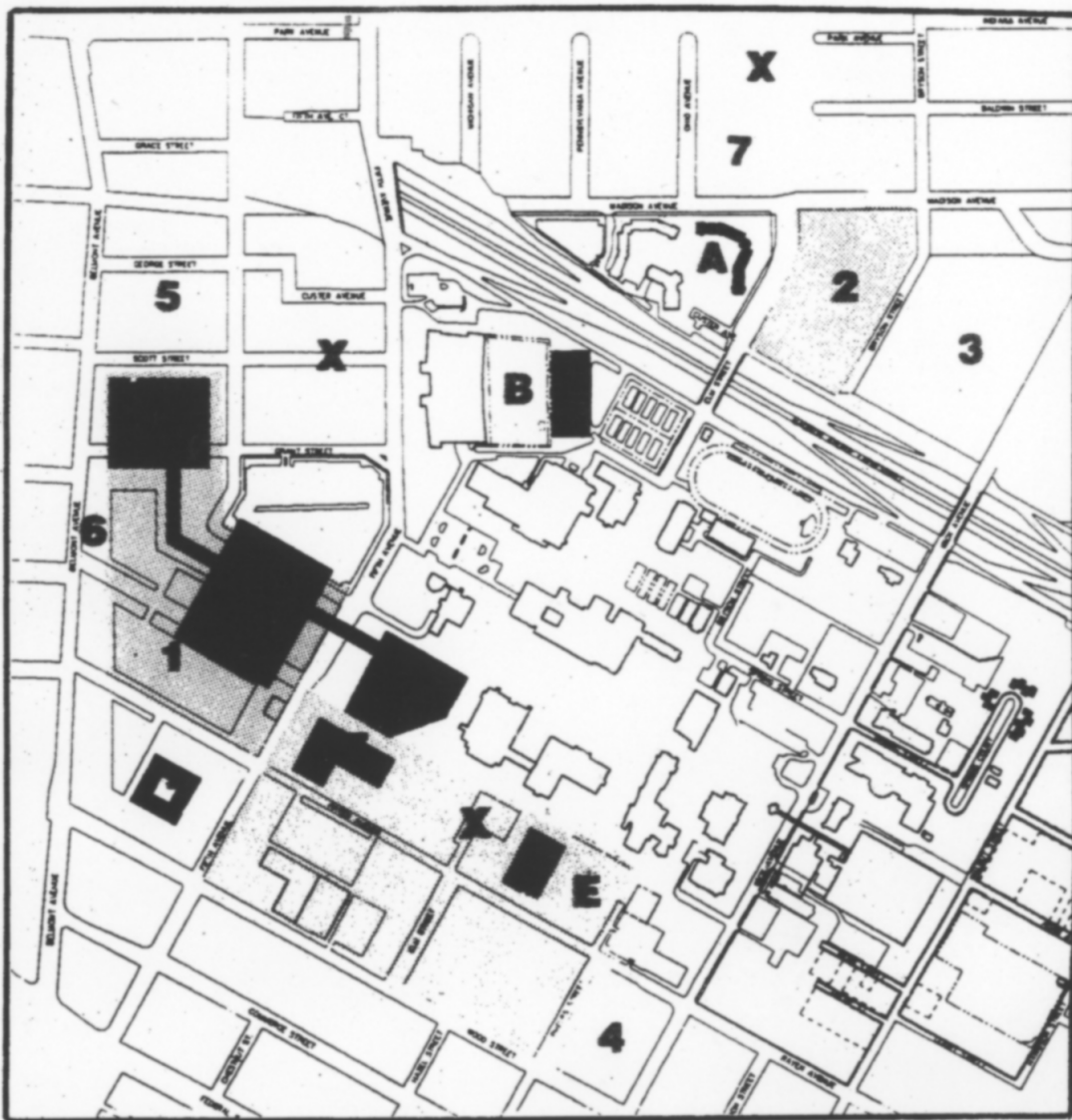
The initial steps of Campus 2000 will be to cooperate with the city in developing a mutual-aid plan that will increase police coverage in areas surrounding the campus, extension of the pedestrian campus within current campus boundaries, to encourage the formation of a campus-community neighborhood to enhance the living environment of the areas surrounding the campus and to form a Campus Community Council to promote the implementation of Campus 2000 goals.

These initial steps are currently in varying stages of development. Although the long-term goals of Campus 2000 have been outlined in detail, YSU administrators are stressing flexibility. Dr. Charles McBriarty, vice president of Student Services, said, Campus 2000 "may not look like what we think it will, but I'm pretty optimistic about something happening."

The specific goals of Campus 2000 are a result of four planning sessions held by the Campus 2000 Task Force. The 31-member committee consists of both YSU and community representatives selected by Cochran.

Plans for the north side of campus include improved visitor parking and a University Visitor Center that will most likely be located in Coffelt Hall. The pedestrian campus will be extended by closing Spring Street from Bryson west to Elm and closing Elm from Spring to the north side of Fedor Hall. Also, the Central Services Building will be removed.

Lyden House Phase 2 will be an
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KEY: The numbers on the above map correlate with the target zones in Campus 2000. An explanation of these numbers can be found in the accompanying story. Letters represent proposed sites for new buildings. A-Lyden Phase 2; B-Addition to Stambaugh Stadium; C-Multi-purpose recreational facility; D-Parking; E-Possible locations of future building projects. Areas marked with an X are the sites of business enterprise zones. Grey areas mark land acquisitions.

Campus

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Honors Residence facility and is scheduled to open fall '95. Stambaugh Stadium will be expanded on the east side to provide additional seating. The Campus Police will be closed and split into two stations, one on the north side of campus at Madison and Elm, the other on the south side at Lincoln and Fifth. The city fire station will be vacated and cul de sacs will be constructed on several streets north of campus to limit through traffic; fraternities and sororities will be encouraged to relocate between Madison and Illinois Avenues.

The west side of campus between Fifth and Belmont will be used primarily for additional parking. Private investors are being sought to construct additional eating facilities along Fifth Avenue north of Grant.

The new College of Education will be located on the south side of campus between Lincoln and Rayen. The pedestrian campus will also be expanded in this area by closing the majority of Lincoln Avenue between Fifth and Wick. The Elm Street area will be developed as an enterprise zone for private businesses

that provide services to students.

The east side of campus is the area of lowest priority in terms of future development. Tentative plans include construction of athletic facilities and improved parking in Smoky Hollow.

Seven Target Zones have been identified to facilitate implementation of Campus 2000 (see map). The purpose of the target zones is to link YSU with its neighbors to create a better environment for all of the institutions and businesses in the area.

The University is requesting that the current limits of land acquisition be expanded to include Zones 1 and 2.

Development of parking facilities in Zone 1 will eliminate one of Youngstown's worst drug and crime areas, greatly improving the University's image. Zone 5 has already been cleared and will be the site of a new community health facility. Zone 6 is projected as sites for privately funded student housing and commercial buildings. This effort is being coordinated by the Belmont Redevelopment Corporation. Parts of Zone 7 are already occupied by a number of successful businesses.

Acquisition of Zone 2 will eliminate another high-crime area and extend YSU to the edge of Zone 3 which is owned by Ursuline High School.

There are no plans to expand into Zone 4. This area is occupied the Youngstown Public School central offices and several churches and businesses.

In short, according to Vern Snyder, executive director of University Development, "Campus 2000 is designed to move the blight away from campus."

"[Cochran] has a vision for the campus and I think it's a good vision. Campus 2000 is going to benefit both YSU and the surrounding community," said Snyder.

Campus 2000 will be funded from a variety of sources. The University already has \$1.5 million available for property acquisition to provide additional parking. Funds for the new College of Education have already been approved by the state. Lyden Phase 2 will be funded by a combination of University bond issues and private donations and the stadium will be privately funded.

Any improvements beyond YSU's perimeter will be initiated and financed by private investors.