

# President to be installed Friday

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For the first time since 1966, YSU will formally install its president, with a ceremony 1 p.m. Friday at Beeghly Center.

Dr. David Sweet's installation — a ceremony to formally recognize him as the university's sixth president — marks the first time a president has been so honored since the installation ceremony of Dr. Albert Pugsley. Dr. John Coffelt

was formally introduced, but not installed, as president in 1973.

"This is a tradition that most all universities have," Sweet said. "I want to restore the tradition of installation at YSU. I have no idea why there were no installations for the fourth [Dr. Neil Humphrey] and fifth [Dr. Leslie Cochran] presidents."

The event, scheduled to last about an hour, will feature music from Dana School stu-

dents and keynote speaker Lee Schulman, president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Sweet said money for the ceremony will come from private donations and his presidential discretionary fund.

"We're keeping it modest," Sweet said. "The University of Akron had a weeklong series of events for its installation. For us, the primary expenses are programs and invitations."

Sweet said it was his idea,



**SWEET**

with support from faculty members and the Board of Trustees, that led to planning of the installation. Sweet chose Dr. William Binning, chair, political science, to spearhead the committee responsible

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process," University President Sweet said. "There was a man running for president by the name of Adlai Stevenson, whom I deeply admired. He was charismatic — he had a vision."

But despite his penchant for politics, Sweet moved on to education. Instead of being inaugurated as president of the United States, Sweet will be formally installed Friday as the sixth president of YSU.

"I wanted to find a profession that I'd enjoy," Sweet said. "Politics is one of those things in life where you say you're happy you did it."

In a recent interview, Sweet said the biggest inspiration for his future as YSU president will be the past. Spending much of the interview talking about the history of YSU, Sweet mentioned he had been looking through old yearbooks and other documents of the university's past and expressed the desire to set a positive tone with his actions.

"Traditions are sort of ties to our past ... our history," Sweet said. "They sort of serve as a foundation of what we want our aspirations to be."

While he said he hopes Friday's installation will help YSU students and faculty recognize the school's history, Sweet did assess what he needs to do to keep YSU moving forward.

"My biggest challenge was

to put a team in place that could work together effectively," Sweet said. "Now that the team is there, our priorities are clearly the issues of enrollment, diversity and partnerships."

Though Sweet acknowledged success in boosting enrollment numbers for the academic year, he said it is still a "big challenge" his administration faces.

"What we are now committed to is retention," he said. "We need to make sure we have programs and classes attractive to students in order to keep them here, and we need to make sure we have effective faculty."

As a young man still deciding what he wanted to do with his life, Sweet joined the Ohio gubernatorial campaign of John J. Gilligan. Gilligan won, and Sweet was offered a job working for the state as an economic development director.

"I was trying to sell ideas to decision-makers," Sweet said. "I moved from selling my fraternity in college to selling a state."

Now, he is seeing things from the other side. Another major problem Sweet said YSU will face is that of Ohio's education funding. With a grim tone, Sweet discussed how the state's fiscal concerns will affect the university.

"We've got the state's financial situation ... the bot-

tom line is the state funds higher education," he said.

Currently, Sweet said YSU operates with the state on a guarantee that suggests the university must show more results to receive more money. With the allocation of state funds a concern, Sweet said it is now, more than ever, important to "grow out of that guarantee."

Sweet also admitted Friday's installation could help separate his administration from previous ones. Members of several labor unions on campus have been critical of Sweet's predecessor, Dr. Leslie Cochran. Sweet said restoring the tradition of installation — which was not done for Cochran — is symbolic of a new attitude.

"Obviously, another cornerstone of my aspirations as president is to bring positive change," Sweet said. "I clearly hope to set a tone ... I know we have work to do; that work is not yet facilitated."

Sweet also said he will work to resolve differences between administration and faculty.

"We are a community, and we are part of a community," he said. "To be successful, we must collaborate. We'll have disagreements ... and I know there are lingering resentments. But there are too many opportunities. We cannot waste time on counterproductive activities."

Keeping with his admitted respect of university history, Sweet said another goal of his is to build a university archive in Maag Library. He said he has talked with Thomas Atwood, library director, about setting up an archive to include books, papers and other YSU memorabilia from former students.

"Alumni will be targeted for things for the archive ... this would be a part of our legacy, for those wanting to better understand," Sweet said.

Though he remains mindful that the YSU Board of Trustees decides his tenure as president, Sweet said he is planning as far ahead as 2008.

"I'm all geared up and planning for the centennial," he said. "But I think that the president serves at the pleasure of the board of trustees; that's something you basically have to be respectful of."

But he also said he's come a long way from the undecided college student he said he sees in many students on campus.

"Like many students, I wasn't clear what I wanted to do," Sweet said.

Installation Friday will not change his presidency, Sweet said. He'll continue to pursue his agenda and said he feels comfortable with how he has performed so far.

"I'm having a lot of fun. I think I'm making a lot of progress."