

# Free tuition offered

By: Bill Rodgers  
NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University announced that it is opening its doors to college students displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

YSU Provost Robert K. Herbert said students who were enrolled in one of the universities impacted by the hurricane could attend YSU for free for the fall semester.

The student applying on a transient basis for the fall would not be required to pay tuition or class fees for the fall semester. University housing will also be provided at no cost, if available.

Herbert said that YSU was going to open what it had to the displaced students.

"If a seat in a class is empty, it doesn't cost anything to fill it," Herbert said.

Earlier last week, Roderick G.W. Chu, chancellor for the Ohio Board of Regents, gave public universities in Ohio the authority to waive tuition and fees for Ohio residents whose semester had been interrupted by the hurricane. The OBOR opened a college access hotline for displaced students to call for information.

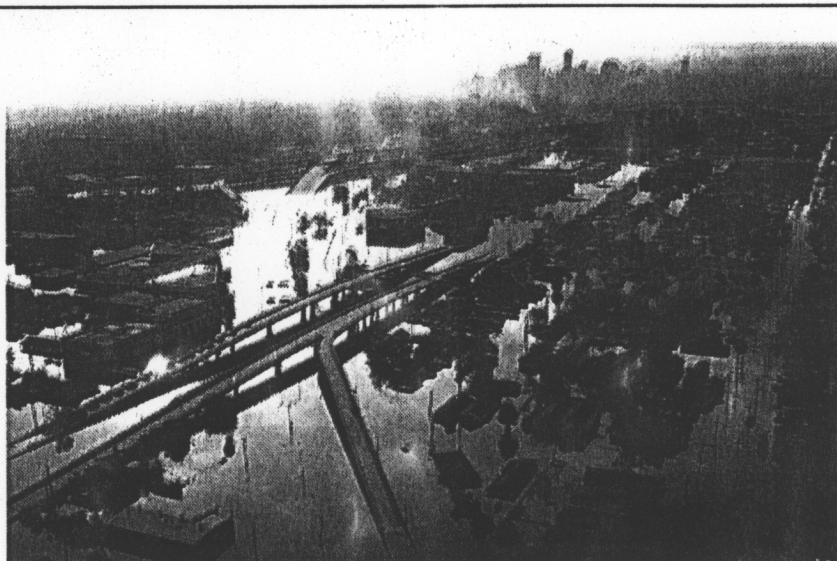
Herbert said that YSU extended the invitation to include displaced students who weren't Ohio residents.

"We extended our offer across the board. We're inviting anyone be they from Ohio, Maine, Louisiana or West Virginia," Herbert said.

He said that the displaced students would have to show some proof that they were enrolled in one of the universities affected by the hurricane. He said something as substantial as a bill from the previous semester would be enough for the displaced student to attend YSU.

"We'll work with all kinds of scraps to

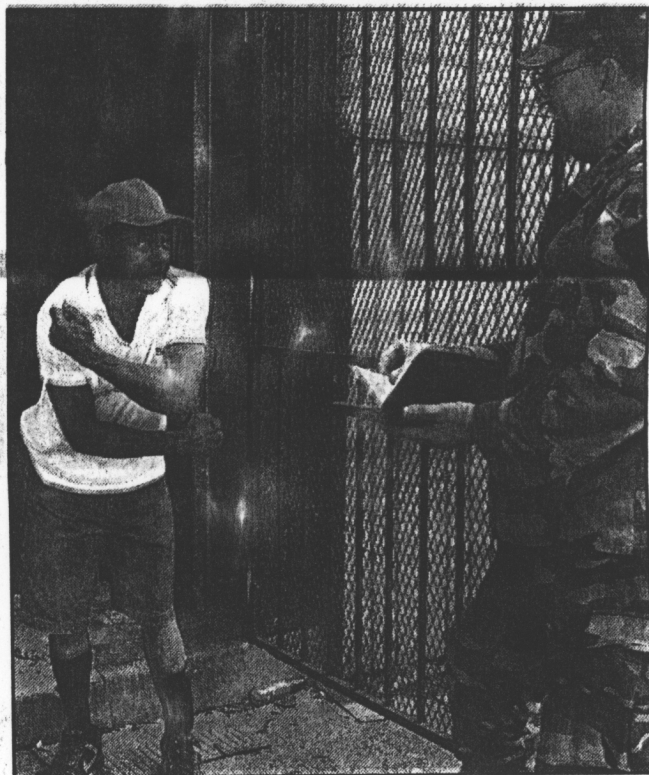
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**ABOVE TOP:** This is a view looking from the west toward downtown New Orleans on Tuesday morning, Aug. 30, 2005.

**ABOVE BOTTOM:** The same scene is shown as flood waters recede on Sunday, Sept. 11, 2005.

**RIGHT:** Randolph Roosevelt, 69, flexes his muscle Sunday to show Capt. Gene Mastin of the Oklahoma Army National Guard that he is healthy enough to stay in his home.



Photos / KRTCampus

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show they were enrolled. A bill from the last semester would be good enough, so would a student ID. The problem with documentation is that the university offices are all closed," Herbert said.

"These students left their apartments or dorm rooms thinking they'd be back in two days. They might not have access to their books, clothes or bills," Herbert added.

Herbert said that Ohio State University has received some inquiries into the free semester's tuition. Herbert said that YSU would send a press release to be shown on emergency Web sites the affected universities operate. Herbert said YSU had been corresponding with Tulane University about posting the release.

"You run into a problem again with the universities being deserted," Herbert said. "The regular webmasters for the university sites aren't responding," Herbert said.

Student Government Association President Bob McGovern said he was happy to hear that YSU was making the offer to displaced students.

"I think this will be a big help to students from those schools that have had to cancel their semester," McGovern said.

McGovern said that, since all state universities in Ohio are allowed to make the same offer, students would have many choices of where to attend in Ohio, but McGovern said he believes that some will attend YSU.

"Though there's no telling how many will at this point, because some schools haven't actually cancelled yet," McGovern said.

*Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.*