

No record kept for this year, no plans for next

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Staff Reporter

Due to YSU budget cuts, students will have to sacrifice an important internship program and a piece of literature memorabilia.

YSU's yearbook, the *Neon*, has been cut from the budget, as well as an internship program offered to worthy students.

This would have been the first year the *Neon* offered internships for their staff members. Internship experience was offered in technical writing and editing, graphic design, photography and desktop publishing.

Michelle Donley, who would have been the editor-in-chief of the *Neon*, was notified of her termination in July. Donley expressed her sentiments about the internships. "The people we had on staff were incredible. Their work was amazing. We had a good staff together, but unfortunately we didn't have the chance to work together," Donley said.

Donley was lucky enough to acquire a job on *The Jambar* as assistant copy editor, a job similar to the one she lost. Unfortunately, other members were not so lucky. Donley said they had to get jobs in areas that don't deal with their skills.

Kathy Leeper, the *Neon's* adviser for the past five years, was also disappointed about losing the internships. The *Neon* advisers and the Student Publications Committee were responsible for developing the internships. Students offered internships would have received class credit and stipends. About the yearbook, Leeper said "it was a great loss."

Leeper was also looking forward to working with the new staff because of how well last year's *Neon* turned out. "Last year's yearbook was, in my opinion, the best we ever made. I was looking forward to seeing what this year's staff could do." Leeper said last year's *Neon* was awarded the Herfeff Jones Showcase's award for best yearbook of the 1991-92 school year.

Leeper also said YSU isn't the only University to have had their yearbooks cut. "Commuter campuses across the board don't sell as many yearbooks as they used to" said Leeper. She said the desire

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for college yearbooks isn't as strong as it used to be.

Student Services Vice President Dr. Charles McBriarty agrees. McBriarty was involved in the decision to cut the *Neon*. He said that few students purchase the *Neon*. He also said that the copies that were sold didn't seem to justify the cost. That was one deciding factor in cutting the yearbook.

Another reason was the decision that had to be made to cut either Student Tutorial Services or the *Neon*. When asked about the decision McBriarty said "a lot more students could be serviced for less money" by keeping Student Tutorial Services.

McBriarty also said that "when an institution faces a budget crunch like we did, there are some services that have to be cut." The *Neon* happened to be "lower on the priority list," he said.

But the decision to cut the *Neon* wasn't done in haste. Alternatives to cancelling the yearbook were discussed. They included doing a scaled down version of the yearbook and doing a video yearbook.



“I feel the main objective for a yearbook is for posterity”

**— MICHELLE DONLEY,
Neon editor on the defunct
yearbook**

Donley said various students were surveyed about the ideas. The students didn't like the idea of a shorter version because they would have had to pay the same \$20 for the shorter version as they would have paid for a regular *Neon*.

"The video yearbook didn't go over well at all either," Donley said. They were sent examples, but they weren't organized and no one particularly liked them. Donley's main concern with the video was the possibility that someday VCR's may become obsolete. "I feel the main objective for a yearbook is posterity. The video yearbook wouldn't accomplish that," Donley said.

But McBriarty blamed a lack of interest for the alternatives not working out. "It boils down to not a great deal of involvement."

About next year's yearbook, McBriarty said his assumption is that "unless someone comes forward with an interest, there won't be a yearbook next year either."

If anyone is interested in working on the *Neon* next year, McBriarty said they can talk to Student Government or Student Publications about some possibilities.