



RONALD PARISE

## YSU grad will ride in Shuttle

By GEORGE NELSON  
Jambar News Editor

Ronald Parise's YSU education has taken him far and will take him farther in about two years — into orbit, in fact.

In June, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced that Parise was one of three scientists who have been selected to train as payload specialists for the Astro mission series aboard the Space Shuttle, which will begin in March 1986.

Parise graduated from YSU in 1973 with a major in physics and minors in mathematics, astronomy and geology. He continued his education at the University of Florida, where he earned both his master of science and his Ph.D in astronomy.

Parise currently is employed by the Computer Sciences Corporation as manager of the Advanced Astronomy Programs Section of CSC's System Sciences Division in Silver Spring, Maryland.

According to Parise, 12 candidates for the mission series underwent technical interviews last September. From that group, 8 candidates were selected to spend two days at Johnson Space Center for a Class Three Spaceflight physical. Parise described the process as a "very rigorous and thorough physical," which also included psychological evaluations.

For the next several months, the seven remain-

ing aspirants were subjected to a security investigation. In early May, the selection committee submitted its recommendations to NASA and the final selections were announced on June 20.

Parise is a member of the research team behind the Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UIT), one of the instruments which will be taken on the Astro missions. The UIT will be used to take pictures of celestial objects in the ultraviolet portion of the electromagnetic spectrum.

The Earth's atmosphere absorbs ultraviolet light to a high degree, Parise said, "In order to look at (celestial) objects in the ultraviolet, you have to get above the atmosphere."

According to NASA, the UIT, which is equipped with special image intensifiers, will permit ultraviolet photography of astronomical objects with a resolution and field of view comparable to that attainable at visible wavelengths with large groundbased telescopes.

The initial Astro mission will include observations of Halley's Comet, as well as viewings of various galaxies, globular clusters and bright and dark nebulae.

Despite problems with the June Discovery mission, Parise was enthusiastic about his upcoming flights. "It's very reassuring to know that the back-up systems work," Parise said.

While the Shuttle missions will definitely be a first for Parise, he is no stranger to flight, possessing a private pilot's license. He is also

See Shuttle, page 6

# Shuttle

Continued from page 1

a licensed amateur radio operator and has been interested in electronics since his childhood.

Parise is a member of the American Astronomical Society, Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific and Sigma Xi.