

# New dean probes future of Bliss Hall

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"Bliss Hall is the best kept secret at YSU," said Dr. Timothy Lyons, the new dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts (F&PA). Lyons wants to explode the secret and have it known around campus, the community, the state and the country.

He believes that once people enter Bliss Hall, they will be thrilled to find out what is going on there. One way of getting people into the building is the idea of a Bliss Cafe, where students can sit at tables in front of the Ford Auditorium and listen to a music ensemble rehearsing or a scene from an upcoming theatre production being polished.

"Unlike most majors, F&PA students go to school 24 hours a day," said Lyons. Because of the time involved he believes that a dorm should be made available for the students with practice rooms and rehearsal halls inside.

Lyons likes to think big. "I'd rather think big visions than back track if I had to and then get something close to it than to ask for one room in Kilcawley's

Residence Hall for F&PA students and go from there."

Another of his "big visions" is to have the F&PA students travel to New York City, since it is the cultural center of the U.S., for a week to see what is going on in the arts firsthand. Possibly an expert in one form of the arts could be a guest lecturer during the students' visit. Upon their return, the students would report for the benefit of others on what they had learned.

Lyons plans to be a visible dean. He enjoys all forms of the arts--lectures, recitals, galleries, theatre productions. Most of Lyons' educational background is in the dramatic arts, speech, broadcasting and film. He was also editor of *The Journal of the University Film and Video Association*. He hopes to attend as many events as possible, especially since Lyons admits he is a "frustrated performer anyway."

Lyons believes the personal touch is very effective from meeting to faculty members of Bliss Hall to inviting different high schools to come to the building to see what it has to offer. He has successfully put his plan into action by meeting all the members of the staff on a one-to-one basis.

After meeting with the faculty Lyons found them to be excellent. "I think students can get a better Fine and Performing Arts degree here because of our teachers. They are so devoted to teaching," said Lyons. He also has found the YSU faculty to be very nice, which is not always true of F&PA faculty, said Lyons.

He is looking forward to meeting people in Arts organizations and local high schools to promote Bliss Hall. He believes that many students do not always consider attending YSU but rather going away to college since they already live there.

Once students have been lured to Bliss Hall, Lyons wants to keep them here. He believes that you retain students in an educational program by not having an excellent program but by having the students play a part in the excellence of that program.

He would like to see the music ensembles traveling and performing more often. "This would benefit the students because they would be playing in front of many different audiences and under numerous performance conditions," Lyons added. "The School of Fine and

Performing Arts would benefit from the exposure and the professionalism of their performing groups."

Lyons has also realized that Bliss Hall is separated from the main portion of the YSU campus and many students are unaware of its existence. Bliss Hall is in need of a larger sign identifying the building as the F&PA building. Lyons suggested the use of sculptures and other forms of art around the building would help identify it as the School of F&PA to bypassers." Ultimately, Lyons would like to

see a computerized sign attached to Bliss Hall that would be visible from any seat at the Stambaugh Stadium.

Because of Lyons large involvement with the cinema, he has considered the possibility of creating a Cineclub Movement at YSU. The Cineclub began in France in the 1920's when a group of people gathered to view films that were not the usual fare at the local theatre, but were viewed for their enjoyment and education. He believes that the Cineclub format can be presented very easily.

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ly at YSU.

"Students are the key to what will be," said Lyons. He believes that students should make use of their Deans more than they normally do. He is very willing to listen to suggestions and input from students. Since the students are on the inside he believes that they may be able to see things from a dif-

ferent perspective than the faculty or himself.

Lyons usually limits himself to a minimum of a three year stay at a university and a maximum of five years. Within that time frame he hopes to emphasize the strengths of YSU's School of Fine and Performing Arts and promoting them, but he also realistically knows Bliss Hall does not provide everything for everybody. "What we can do is offer a better undergraduate education in

the Fine and Performing Arts than other institutions," said Lyons.

Another strength is that the faculty can take the time with the students who are not exactly sure what they want to do when they enter the school, Lyons said. "The faculty is willing to put in the time and effort to help."

Lyons is not sure that he will be able to accomplish all his goals, but he is willing to try.



JOHN GATTA THE JAMBAR

The new Dean of Fine and Performing Arts, Timothy Lyons, takes a weary break from his busy schedule. He is seen surrounded by some of his favorite office decor such as his Charlie Chaplin statue and balloons he received for Boss' Day.