

YSU to receive state funds for handicapped and energy

by Sherry Williams

Dean of Administrative Affairs Edmund Salata explained how part of the \$9,400,000 appropriated by Ohio House Bill 618 will be administered at YSU.

As announced at the Nov. 19 YSU Board of Trustees meeting, \$3 million will be used for projects designed to aid the handicapped, and \$5 million has been appropriated for energy development programs. These monies are to be distributed to the 12 Ohio state universities.

Salata explained that according to a handicapped transition plan drawn up by YSU, the Univer-

sity will need \$250,000 to \$300,000 of the \$3 million to fulfill their plans.

"The transition plan is pursuant to the requirements of the bill passed in 1973 pertaining to the handicapped," said Salata. This federal bill is Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The transition plan has been submitted to the Ohio Board of Regents, but Salata said YSU is still in a "holding pattern" as to whether they will receive the money they have asked for.

The transition plan outlines projects to make University buildings more accessible to handicapped students. Salata explained that most of the improvements are along the lines of making pay phones, drinking fountains, and entries more accessible.

In Beeghly, it also includes making the pool more accessible to the handicapped, and in Bliss,

the elevators to the auditorium will be improved.

Also included in the plan are curb cuts on Spring and Bryson Streets.

\$5 million was also appropriated by Ohio House Bill 618 for energy development programs. Just how much YSU will be receiving of that money is not known yet said Salata because "we are awaiting guidelines from the Ohio Board of Regents as to what the procedure will be for requesting the money."

Salata explained that the \$5 million is to be used by Ohio state universities to investigate possible energy saving programs. After the universities have researched energy projects, federal monies will be used to implement these programs. The federal government has set aside \$500 million to \$1 billion to build these programs, said Salata.