

COLLEGE AID

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school had created the OSU State Grant Replacement to make up for lost grant money for the summer and fall quarters. The \$5 million fund gets \$3 million from the main campus budget and \$2 million from the regional campuses' budgets.

The new grant will cover the difference between what students had been told they would get from the state grant and the amount they actually receive from it.

"Students enrolled through the summer and fall will not be harmed by this, but thereafter, there is a shortfall," OSU Vice Provost Martha Garland said.

Officials at the regional campuses had been aware of possible cuts in the grant program before the state budget was approved last month, but they were surprised that all funding was eliminated.

"We knew it would end up

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MIKE CHANEY

Ohio Board of Regents spokesman

being somewhat less than (\$832 a quarter), but we didn't know how much," said Matt Moreau, OSU-Marion's admissions and financial-aid director. "Nobody ever imagined that the regional-campus students just suddenly wouldn't be eligible anymore."

Last year, 410 students at OSU-Marion received the state grant, and 580 got it at Ohio University's Lancaster campus.

Because many students on regional campuses qualified for federal Pell Grants, which covered the cost of tuition, the state money often went toward transportation, housing and books.

"We didn't have as much money ... so it becomes a matter of priorities," said Mike Chaney, spokesman for the Ohio Board of Regents. "The No. 1 priority is to keep tuition down."

Tuition is increasing at the lowest rate since the state began measuring it four years ago, Chaney said. That, along with the increase in the Pell Grant from a maximum of \$4,731 a year to \$5,350, was the main reason the opportunity grants got the ax.

"My fear is that loans will be more prevalent," said Ohio University-Lancaster Enrollment Manager Pat Fox. "My fear also is that, with the way the economy is, students will be attempting to live off financial aid. That's just not what it was built for."

Kent State University and Miami University, which both run on semesters, have announced that they will make up the lost state money with institutional grants at their main, but not branch, campuses. Miami's plan covers fall semester. Kent State's will apply for both semesters but will cover only those students with the greatest need.

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BERRY

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there's just sort of a nothingness," she said.

The goat cheese? Some thought it tasted like cheesecake.

The testers then dug into sour candies that normally induce a pucker.

"The coating tastes sweet, not sour," said Kevin Pfefferle, the science museum's Web manager.

The berries have been eaten for hundreds of years in Africa and have been studied by Western scientists since the mid-19th century, said Linda Bartoshuk, a professor at the University of Florida Center for Smell and Taste.

In 1969, as Timothy Leary and Ken Kesey experimented with LSD, Bartoshuk and other researchers had subjects swish miracle-berry solutions around on their tongues.

These "flavor tripping" parties are catching on in New York, San Francisco and now Columbus.

"It's so amazing to people like me that it's caught on like this," she said.

First of all, miraculin, the active protein in a miracle berry, works on the tongue, not the brain.

The miraculin binds with the tongue, she said, and links to a few sugar molecules. Those molecules dangle tantalizingly close to sweet receptors. She likens the miraculin to a pole and the sugar to a carrot dangled in front of a donkey that can't quite reach it.

When a sour-tasting acid comes along, it changes the shape of either the miraculin protein or the proteins in the sweet receptors (scientists aren't sure which) so that the sweet receptor and the sugar molecule touch. Imagine the pole dangling the carrot getting shorter, or the donkey stretching out its neck.

The result is a sensation of extra-sweet flavor.



JONATHAN QUILTER | DISPATCH PHOTOS

COSI employee Sonda Robinson adds hot sauce to a chip as she and other employees test the effects of the African miracle berry on the tongue yesterday at COSI.



COSI employee Kevin Pfefferle reacts after popping a miracle berry in preparation for COSI's "flavor tripping" event.

"A single molecule of sugar is tasted over and over again," Bartoshuk said.

Originally, researchers thought that miraculin suppressed sour flavors. But Bartoshuk said the sour is still there; it's just overpowered by sweetness.

Fernando Aristizabal and his partner, Curtis Mozie, grow as much as 150 tons of miracle berries each year on a 60-acre farm in southern Florida. Their company, Miracle Fruits Exchange, sold COSI the berries for its event. Each berry costs about \$2.50.

ON THE WEB

To watch a video of the taste-testing, go to dispatch.com/multimedia.

Aristizabal said he's had other customers in Columbus, but he's not sure whether they've hosted similar parties.

That trend took off last year, he said, when a party promoter in New York approached him about supplying berries for an event. A *New York Times* story and an episode of *CSI: NY* that featured flavor-tripping spread the word.

Tickets to *Flavor Trippin'* are \$20 per adult (21 or older only) and must be bought in advance by calling COSI at 614-228-2674 or online at www.cosi.org. dcarus@dispatch.com

Trash colors

Today gold
Friday gray
Monday navy
Tuesday pink
Wednesday ruby

Ohio Lottery

Numbers for Wednesday, Aug. 12

CLASSIC LOTTO
1 6 22 27 29 38

ROLLING CASH 5
3 8 12 31 38

DAYTIME PICK 3 DAYTIME PICK 4
9 5 0 3 2 6 5

NIGHTTIME PICK 3 NIGHTTIME PICK 4
1 1 5 6 1 1 0

► The Ohio Lottery's Classic Lotto jackpot will be \$34.2 million for the drawing Saturday. There were no tickets with the correct combination in last night's drawing.

► The Mega Millions jackpot will be an estimated \$146 million for the drawing Friday. No ticket had the correct combination in the drawing Tuesday.

► For results of the Ohio Lottery's Ten-Oh! midday and evening drawings, see Dispatch.com/lottery or call the lottery's hot line at 1-800-589-6446.

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CAMERAS

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light runners and speeders. Pole-mounted cameras monitor high-crime areas.

The license-plate readers consist of up to four cruiser-mounted cameras that use infrared and conventional lenses along with optical-character-recognition software to "read" the plates of virtually every car that passes, even from two lanes away.

Police traditionally call a dispatcher to check a plate, or they type a license number into a computer in their

cruiser, but the cameras record plates instantly regardless of vehicle speed.

Offenders, mostly those wanted on traffic warrants, are found daily, Chairez said. "It's almost like going fishing. Sometimes it will go off, and sometimes it won't."

"It's like you partner," said Lt. David Oyer of the sheriff's patrol bureau. "There are how many felony arrest warrants out there? And nobody has the manpower to enforce them all."

Both the Franklin County sheriff's office and Columbus Police Division have been using the cameras for

ON THE WEB

To see a video explaining the license-plate monitoring system, go to Dispatch.com/multimedia.

two years.

"We always look for new technologies to make us more efficient and to better serve the public," said Chief Deputy Steve Martin of the sheriff's office.

Grove City is using about \$25,000 of a \$38,000 Justice Assistance Grant to buy its first camera from New York-based ELSAG North Amer-

ica, one of two major vendors.

"It is essentially doing the job of a police officer, just 100 times faster," said Grove City Police Capt. Steve Robinette.

And the camera can't be accused of criminal profiling or racial or ethnic bias, Robinette said. "The camera cannot see any of those factors."

By the end of the summer, Ohio should have at least 60 camera systems, said Max Maxwell, ELSAG's regional operations manager. The company has sold 2,000 of the systems in all 50 states.

Man dies in head-on crash, 2 women hurt

An Amanda man was fatally injured and two women were hurt in a head-on crash on Royalton Road in Fairfield County yesterday.

Billy Maynard, 28, was pronounced dead at Fairfield Medical Center in Lan-

caster after the 12:35 a.m. collision north of Amanda, according to the Lancaster post of the State Highway Patrol.

Maynard was not wearing a seat belt, troopers said. Maynard was driving east

when his car crashed into a westbound vehicle driven by Samantha Seeger, 18, of Ashville.

Seeger and a passenger, Monica Lewis, 18, of Lockbourne, were taken to Grant Medical Center in Columbus

for treatment of injuries that were not life-threatening, troopers said.

An investigation is to determine which vehicle crossed the center line. — Randy Ludlow rludlow@dispatch.com

REALITY CHECKINGSM

FREE ACTIVITY REWARDS

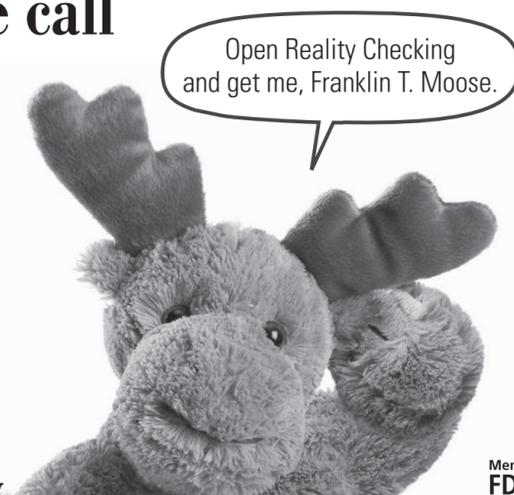
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