

# Prison students show talent



Drawing by JoAnn Fahlgren

He presses the buzzer at the gate. The guard puts him through the metal detector and reminds him no messages are allowed. He walks into the red, brick building, takes out the book, "Fear of Flying", and faces his students.

Penn Magor-Goertzel, a graduate student in elementary education at the University, has been teaching literature and writing to prisoners at Oregon Women's Correctional Center and the Oregon State Penitentiary this year. The Division of Continuing Education sponsors the classes through the Manpower Development project.

There is plenty of raw talent in the classes, according to Magor-Goertzel. "They have a good sense of storytelling," he says. "There are a lot of Vietnam stories and 'junkie' stories, too. The ending is always the same in the 'junkie' ones — the character OD's in the end.

"Like any other students they have fragile egos," he continues. "If you criticize their stories, they think you are criticizing them. It's difficult. They'll challenge your credentials. They say a teacher is literary and can't understand their experiences."

The course, called "Popular Fiction", includes "The Last Picture Show," "Maltese Falcon" and "Dandelion Wine". Magor-Goertzel says that the administration at the men's prison felt uneasy about him teaching Kafka's "In the Penal Colony", but that the atmosphere in the women's classes is relaxed. He says the prison administration wants the program, which earns the prisoner college credit, to succeed.

"The women students are very supportive of each other's works," he says. "The most emotional issue to deal with is estrangement from children, and it's intense.

"At the men's prison it's more paranoid," he continues. "I had one crazy thing happen. One of the prisoners who used to be a roommate of Charlie Manson in California wrote a story about that. He sent it to me and I mailed it back but he never got it. The next thing I knew there was a rumor around how I was selling prisoners' stories and pocketing the money."

But Magor-Goertzel, who earns his graduate tuition teaching these classes, applauds the program. "Despite that rumor, I think bonds of trust have developed, especially in the women's classes." He thinks these programs will be supported since statistically they speak well for the prison administrations.

## Workshops prepare for attack on writing woes

By LORA CUYKENDALL  
Of the Emerald

As national SAT scores plunge and *Newsweek* magazine heralds "a new generation of illiterates," people want to know why Johnny (or Sarah, for that matter) can't write.

Perhaps a better question would be "Why can't Johnny's teacher write—or at least teach Johnny how to do it?"

In the last few months, some members of the University have been aiming programs at the people who are, or should be, giving Johnny that writing instruction.

"Whether we like it or not, we are all writing teachers," says Nathaniel Teich, University director of composition. "If we agree that writing is important, then one of our long-range goals must be to make writing

an integral part of every class."

This summer, Teich and William Trotter, visiting professor of art history, co-directed two voluntary four-day workshops aimed at teaching University faculty the art of teaching writing. The workshops, attended by nearly 35 faculty members from such fields as business, computer science, biology and music, were funded by an Oregon Education Coordinating Commission grant.

And if Teich, who is presently a member of a state-wide ad hoc committee on writing competency, could have his way last summer's session would be the first in a series of such workshops.

"We're not only trying to make professors aware of the importance of writing, but also

to show them how to get higher quality written work from their classes," he says.

Trotter feels this can be accomplished by letting students know exactly what is expected of them in written assignments. "A teacher should give students models to follow and let them know from the beginning that they will be graded on form," he says. The importance of giving clear assignments was a major theme of the summer workshops.

"I often write four or five drafts of a paper assignment before it comes out right," says Trotter. "Writing doesn't come easy to any of us."

Frances Stern, assistant professor of art history, says she is happy with the results of her participation in the work-

shop. "I spend more time explaining to students the topic I want them to cover and the approach to use," she says, but she gets better papers because of it.

The workshops also aimed at enabling professors to make specific criticisms rather than vague comments, such as "unclear" or "awkward," when grading student papers.

Both Teich and Trotter admit that handling a great amount of student writing in large classes is a problem. They suggest having students write more frequent, but shorter, papers.

"By limiting papers to two pages I found I could require three papers a term instead of two," says Trotter. He also allows students to rewrite papers (Continued on Page 8)

## Full class prompts protest

By NICK GALLO  
Of the Emerald

Everyone knows all too well the Kafka-esque journey through Mac Court during registration. Yet soon after, the nightmare is forgotten — the student wakes up and is still a student, not an insect.

Some might wonder if Gregor Samsa got off easier...but to get back to the reality at hand, many, too many, students lose out at registration. It is a bitter pill for the student to swallow when the numbers on a close-out board insistently map out his or her life.

Eighty-four students did not forget. At 12:30 of the first day of registration all sections of Introduction to Imaginative Writing (Wr. 241, 242, 243) were closed out. These students ignored the close-out board and maneuvered

their way to the English table to sign a list for more sections.

Witness their frustration: "This is the third time I tried to get into this class. It made me mad."

"It's totally unreasonable. I'm an English major and I couldn't get into it."

"I really wanted that class bad. I want to write, but I doubt I'll have time for that course before I graduate."

Today the list will be presented to University Pres. William Boyd, Dean John Baldwin of the College of Liberal Arts and Roland Bartel, English department head.

When contacted about the student demand, Bartel warned against bowing solely to enrollment pressure. He said the limited sections reflect "not only the dol-

lars and cents situation, but the concept of our mission as a liberal arts university."

"One important point of view in our department is that creative writing is something you do, not teach... I would lean towards the elimination of these 200-level courses, though we do need some undergraduate writing classes," he said.

David Bradley, the student who will present the list, thinks creative writing is essential to the study of literature. "Of course one cannot be taught to be creative, it is a course in technique," he says. "It helps in understanding the process of putting human experience into words."

The list will be presented but, according to Bartel, "the creative writing department will only expand in proportion to the entire English department."

## Men find bigfoot tracks along Snoqualmie River

North Bend, Wash. (AP)—Jim French says he was skeptical of reports about big-foot, the Northwest's legendary ape-man, until he and a companion discovered 18-inch long footprints Sunday in a river sand bank.

"I always believed it was a bunch of bunk," French, 38, said Monday after he and Joseph Langston, 33, found the four-toed, 8½-inch wide indentations near the south fork of the Snoqualmie River.

French estimated the creature weighed about 400 pounds because of the depth of its prints in the sand when compared with his own. French said he weighs about 180.

The animal's size has not been verified by the scientific community, however.

French said he made five plaster casts of the footprints and he and Langston found hair in some tree limbs along the creature's path.

The hair was found about five or six feet off the ground, he said.

French said he intended to contact University of Washington scientists and let them analyze his findings.

His first reaction Sunday, French said, was that the prints were a hoax.

"I could not believe what I saw," said the veteran outdoorsman. "There was no evidence of any four-footed marks anywhere."

French and Langston consulted three other outdoorsmen. They concluded the prints were authentic.

### EVENTS

#### FARMWORKERS SOLIDARITY DAYS

January 26-28

MONDAY

#### ART EXHIBIT

141 Lawrence  
Tuesday thru Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
and

TUESDAY

#### SPEECH

Philip Vera Cruz: "Filipino Farm Labor, History & Racism."

167 EMU 12:30

#### FILM

"FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES"

Full-length film history of the UFW. Dad's room 8 p.m.  
Sponsored by: Eugene Friends of the Farmworkers

13004.27

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENT MEETING.  
Wednesday, January 28, 7 p.m. in the Long House,  
1806 Columbia St. Free dinner; information on local  
health, social programs; status report on Indian  
conflict with Dr. William Boyd and U of O adminis-  
tration; status report on fund-raising and legal position  
of Indians in higher education. 12949.28

### ENTERTAINMENT

ONLY 9 MORE  
DAYS TILL  
THEATRE OF

the  
open  
eye

"TOTAL THEATRE"

from New York City

February 5-10

Tickets at EMU Main Desk

12999.27

ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6

Dance to  
SHINOLA  
in the EMU Ballroom  
Music begins at 8 p.m.  
Admission, \$1.50

12981.30

CAMPUS YWCA PRESENTS

MAE WEST FILM FESTIVAL

EVERY DAY'S A  
HOLIDAY

Tuesday January 27 103 Fenton  
7 and 9 p.m. 12991.27

CINEMA 7

EUGENE MINI MALL, SECOND FLOOR  
10th and Olive, 687-0733  
Tonight thru Thursday  
WILLIAM GOLDING'S

LORD OF THE FLIES

PLUS  
GEORGE ORWELL'S

1984

Showtime 7:30

13000.29

BIJOU DREAM PRESENTS

JOHN FORD'S

THE SEARCHERS

(1956, 119 min.)

The greatest American film ever made.

8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27 180 PLC

\$1 or by series ticket

13001.27

BLACK FOREST TAVERN

2657 Willamette 344-0816  
Live entertainment five nights a week

MICHELOBE ON TAP 12749.tfn

### PERSONAL

SEX

Would the person who found a soccer ball outside  
of McAlister, please return it to room 119 for a  
reward. 4207.27

MEN'S CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING group. Ac-  
cepting new members. Information 343-6407.  
4206.28

JEAN-PATCHING, SEAM MENDING, button re-  
placing; no time to do it yourself? Let me, 747-0591  
daily, 9:30 p.m.-9:00 a.m. weekends open.  
4139.29

ANTIQUE VALENTINES

At the Dove's Eye. Monday thru Friday, 10-4. 1414  
Kincaid. 12989.26

CONGRATULATIONS T.J., you always had Beta  
blood in you. Love, Dorothy. Let's meet on the right  
side of rainbow. 4209.27

LANE MEMORIAL BLOOD BANK

Blood Donors Needed

|            |         |             |         |
|------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| A Positive | 6 Units | A Negative  | 1 Unit  |
| O Positive | 6 Units | O Negative  | 2 Units |
| B Positive | 0 Units | AB Positive | 1 Unit  |

Please call Lane Memorial Blood Bank, 484-9111,  
for appointments and additional information.

LEX GONZALES—Happy Birthday. Hope Port-  
land was what you want. 4204.27

BONG BROTHERS: GREAT ACTION this  
weekend—we love you, vices and all. Love, your  
STASH RAGGERS 4220.27

DATING COUPLES: IF YOU HAVE BEEN DAT-  
ING 6 months or more and want to gain some  
insight into your relationship and your ability to  
communicate with one another, call the Psychology  
Clinic for information. Phone 686-4954. 4199.30

GREG GIBSON—MY money is on you—RIP  
Bielenberg. (Tuesday night.) 4161.27