

# Cinematographers shoot for excellence

By WENDY BENJAMINSON  
Of the Emerald

Late at night, a woman walks to the elevator in her office building. The elevator doesn't work, so she runs up the stairs, only to find a strange janitor lurking around. A friend, coming after her, discovers the elevator has been jammed by a chair. She, too, encounters the suspicious-looking character.

Then director Mark Robert's film "Circle of Fear" ends.

The film is different from most commercial efforts in two respects.

It's designed to revolve around fear and suspense rather than terror and violence, says cinematographer Ben Neives. And it's not being made in Hollywood, but on the University campus. The makers of the five-minute, black-and-white film are members of the film studies division of the University speech department.

Some students are filming documentaries, while others create entertainment films. And film studies head Larry Wittnebert is working on a drama.

Kris Jensen, an undergraduate film student is directing, producing and filming a documentary called "Company Town." The film revolves around Westfir, Oregon, a town struggling to create a

workers' cooperative against a corporation refusing to sell the mill it owns.

The film, funded in part by the Oregon Committee for the Humanities, will be distributed by Pennsylvania State University.

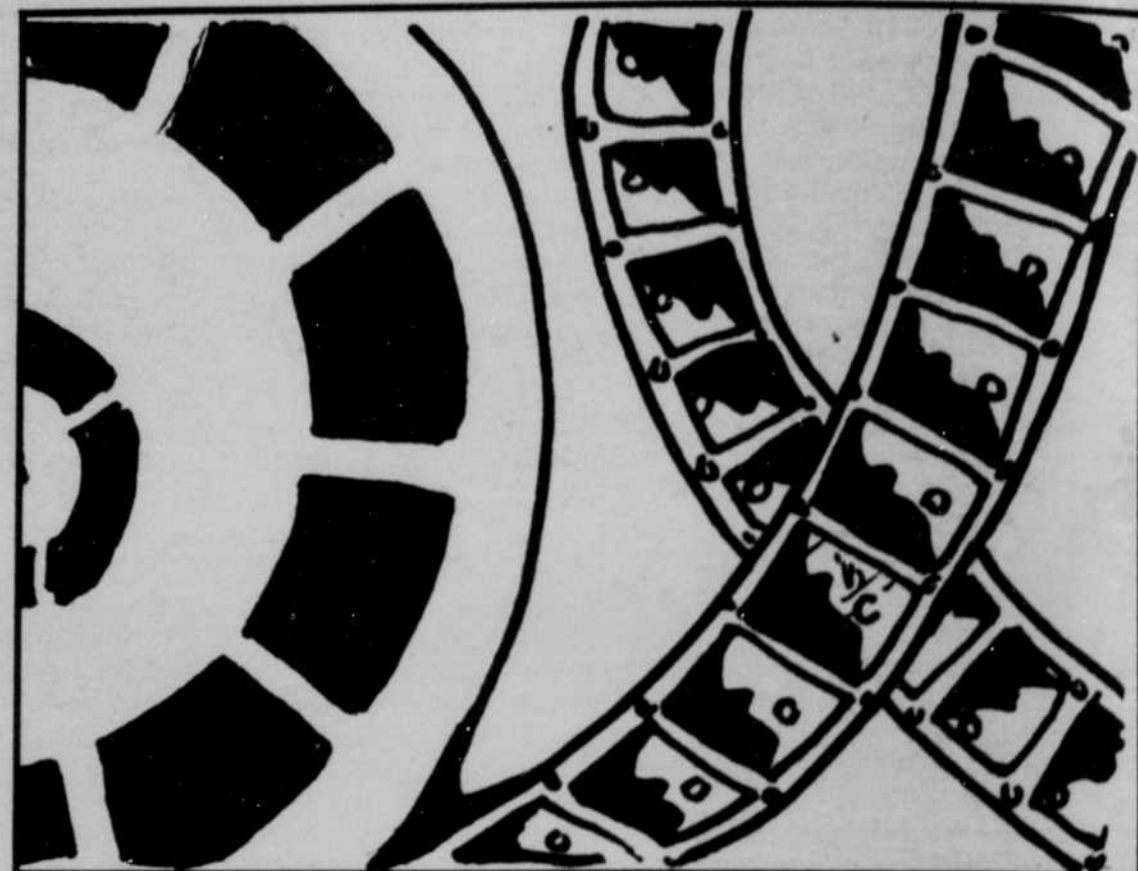
Another documentary, "Burden of Proof" by film student Robert Lundahl, was recently shown on campus. It focusses on the effects of herbicide spraying on people.

In filmmaking courses, visual literacy is emphasized, along with development of the students' imagination, creativity and skills.

"You have the freedom to take responsibility for your own thoughts," Lundahl says. A transfer student from the University of Southern California — one of the better known institutes for film studies in the country — Lundahl says University faculty members are dedicated, unlike those at USC.

The University is being held back from being another USC or New York University by a "shortage of equipment, money, and support by the administration," Lundahl says.

Ron Sherriffs, head of the speech department, says he doesn't think the film studies program is underfunded. "I think we're actually favored." The growth of the relatively new area — film



Graphic by Tom Ettel

studies — is systematic, he says. Students have all the equipment they need. The program received \$12,500 in 1978 for new equipment.

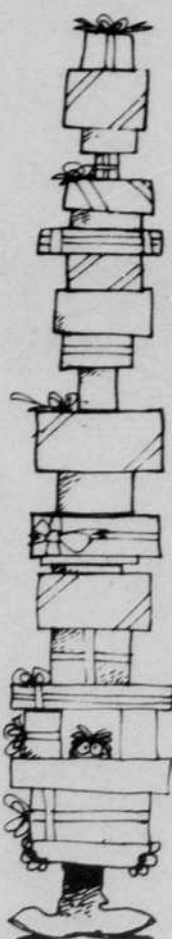
Film studies is one of four areas of the

speech department. The others are telecommunication, rhetoric and communication, and theater. Emphasis in the film studies area is on the history and criticism of cinema.



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## ASUO 80s conference features rights activists

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader and black activist Dick Gregory will be the featured speakers at the ASUO's "Surviving the '80s" conference Jan. 15-19.

Singer-songwriter Utah Phillips and Northwest poet William Stafford are also scheduled for the ASUO introduction to the 1980s.

The five-day conference will deal with three areas, says conference coordinator Dan Klein. "Essentially, the conference will cover what the individual can do to survive the '80s, how he or she can get involved, and how we can establish a better union between the University and the surrounding community."

The conference will help students plan for the '80s, "especially to help them deal with market shifts, energies and dwindling resources," he says.

The first day of the conference will focus on citizen participation in government. Interest groups will discuss popular issues such as nuclear power,

human rights, lobbying, and community involvement, Klein says.

"Food, Health and Shelter" will be the topic for Jan. 16. Urban farming, sexology, nutrition, herb and tofu cooking, and medicine and health are topics of discussion.

The third day will cover "Energy and National Resources." Community and campus groups concerned with energy, recycling, the outdoors and transportation are scheduled to distribute information.

Gregory's discussion of how individuals can promote human rights will occur Jan. 18, along with the scheduled coverage of minorities, labor unions and child development.

"Education and Celebration of the '80s" will wind down the conference Jan. 19. Nader is expected to outline consumer roles during the next decade during his speech titled "The Role of the Consumer: Increased Quality through Increased Accountability."

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