

## L'chaim

### Jewish Student Union striving for campus unity

By MIKE RUST  
Of the Emerald

The University's Jewish Student Union is a jack-of-all-trades.

On the one hand, the union reassures Jewish and Israeli students suddenly immersed in Eugene's mellow-speak culture.

On the other, the JSU promotes and explains Jewish culture to the University community.

And the organization is politically involved because, as JSU director Bill DiMarco puts it, "the very existence of the State of Israel is itself a threat to some people's political thinking."

However, DiMarco is quick to point out that the JSU has no desire to become another obscure participant in the partisan political battles fought with speeches and pamphlets in and around the EMU.

"Instead of counter-demonstrating, we'd like to turn it around and be a force for unity on campus — a group that's known for cooperation with other groups."

In keeping with this goal, the JSU helped coordinate the benefit for Cambodian relief last spring. The organization also has brought the plight of Soviet dissidents to the attention of the University community. Next February, the JSU will bring Edward Kuznetsov, a Jew who left the Soviet Union a year ago, to campus.

JSU members speak to high schools students, church groups or anyone else inter-

ested in Jewish culture. Beginning winter term, JSU classes in Hebrew, Israeli culture and issues and folk dancing will be accredited.

"Around 25 percent of the people attending the classes and social events aren't Jewish, which we really try to encourage," DiMarco says. "We want students to know that the JSU exists for the whole campus."

Among the non-Jewish students of Hebrew are Christians who plan to use the language in their Biblical studies.

However, DiMarco is realistic about the union's identity on campus.

"Jewish culture isn't what most people are interested in. Most people are primarily interested in Israel because of

the Mideast situation and how it affects America."

The JSU provides information about study opportunities and travel in Israel as well as emigration.

While most students associate the JSU with Israel, they probably hold many false stereotypes, DiMarco says.

The organization is "not a nest of Reaganites," nor is it filled with knee-jerk supporters of the Israeli government, he says. Rather, JSU members "support the ideas that established the State of Israel and the formation of a democratic society for all groups in the area."

"There are hotheads and fanatics on both sides. Peace is a definite possibility if problems of leadership are elimin-

ated on both sides."

DiMarco half-seriously suggests that removing the present leaders of the Soviet Union, the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organization, as well as some Israeli leaders, would go a long way to promoting peace in the region.

The Mideast issue aside, most JSU members have no trouble blending into the political landscape of the University. Many are associated with a monthly newspaper called David's Sling that is published in Eugene. The paper endorsed Independent presidential candidate John Anderson in the November election.

Most JSU members consider themselves Zionists, but only under their own defini-

tion. To many American Jews, Zionism "means signing a check," DiMarco says.

"If Zionism is sticking to a particular traditional border without regard to the consequences for innocent people, then I'm not a Zionist," he explains. "But if it means believing that a State of Israel can be set up to benefit all the people, then I'm a Zionist."

While DiMarco downplays the issue, instances of anti-Semitism pop up occasionally in the Eugene area.

Nazi graffiti has appeared, and earlier this year a member of a communist organization shouted "Kill the Jews" at a rally outside the EMU.

"If something like an oil cutoff takes place, it'll be easier to blame it on Israel or the American Jewish community than it would be to blame it on American lack of finesse in dealing with the Arab governments in the Mideast," DiMarco says.

Among members of the campus community, knowledge of the Jewish culture and the Mideast situation is "very rudimentary," according to DiMarco. One small group is very aware and supports Israel, while to another small group it's a "code word" similar to imperialism that evokes a strong negative response.

"Then there's a big middle ground," DiMarco says. "They're not sure where it is. They may have read 'Exodus.' They know the Israelis are good fighters."

## Hanukkah finds new meaning

For eight days beginning today, Jews around the world will light a candle at dusk in observance of Hanukkah.

The "Festival of Lights" celebrates the ancient victory of Jewish patriots over Syrian armies that invaded Israel in 167 B.C. The Jewish uprising in 164 B.C. gave the Jews nearly a century of independence.

Predictably, the holiday has changed since its beginnings.

"Hanukkah was much more spiritual than it is now, especially in the Middle Ages," says Rabbi Myron Kinberg of Eugene's Temple Beth Israel. "Since the establish-

ment of the State of Israel, it has become much more nationalistic.

"For Americans it's really cultural, but in Israel it's more a nationalistic and political celebration."

The commercialization of Christmas also has affected Hanukkah in the United States and other predominantly Christian countries.

Many Jews have adopted Christmas practices — such as sending cards — and many Jewish parents give gifts at Hanukkah so their children won't feel left out.

"In America, to balance the influence of Christmas parties,

we do Hanukkah parties," says Kinberg. Jodi Cohen, one of almost 500 Jewish students and faculty members at the University, plans to have a Hanukkah party for her gentile friends so they can "see what Hanukkah's like."

The festival itself is a time for singing songs, eating "potato latkes" and spinning the dreidel, a four-sided top that children and adults use in various gambling games.

Unlike Yom Kippur, Hanukkah is not particularly religious. The only special prayer, says Kinberg, is one "reminding us about the victory of the poor over the rich."

## Supreme Court decides to rule on all-male draft

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court said Monday it will decide whether any U.S. military draft, or draft registration, must include women.

In a case likely to become the most closely watched controversy now before the high court, the justices will decide whether a male-only draft unlawfully discriminates against men.

The court's eventual decision likely will not be announced until next May or June. Oral arguments probably will be held sometime in March.

In Eugene, anti-draft activists received the news coolly.

Alan Siporin, director of the Coalition Opposed to Registration and the Draft, said he would have to await more developments before commenting on the court's decision.

"People would have been pretty surprised if they (the court) hadn't decided to hear the case," said Dave Fidanque, legislative aide to Rep. Jim Weaver, D-Ore.

However, Fidanque said the case could lead to new precedents on the

issue of equal protection for men and women.

"There's plenty of legal issues to deal with in there that they (the court) couldn't ignore."

Historically, young American men have been required to register for possible military service and to serve. Young women face no such obligations.

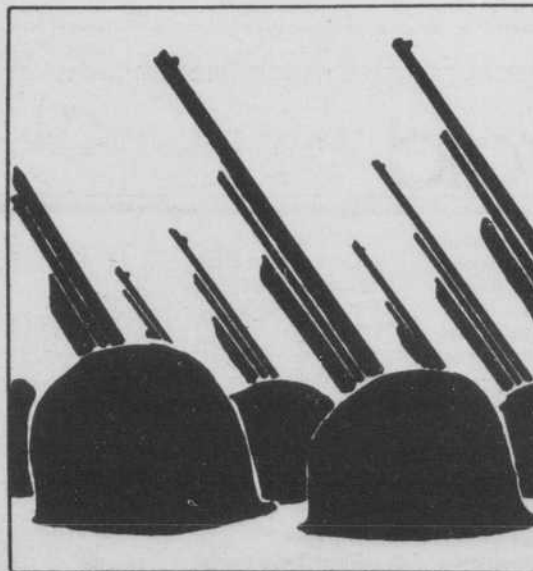
A three-judge federal court panel in Philadelphia last July struck down the system, citing unconstitutional sex bias.

If the Supreme Court were to uphold that ruling, Congress would have to amend the Military Selective Service Act to include women as potential draftees.

Despite the lower court's ruling, some 4 million men were required to register for the draft last July. If registration and the draft are ruled unconstitutional, the government might have to destroy all records of that registration.

There has been no military draft since 1973. Even if the male-only registration is upheld, Congress still would have to pass a new law before call-ups could be resumed.

While arguments before the Supreme



Emerald graphic

Court likely will be limited to the validity of draft registration, the three-judge panel's decision struck down the entire Military Selective Service Act, which includes induction as well as registration.

The case does not involve the separate

policy of not assigning female enlistees to combat duty.

The legal challenge that led to the July 18 ruling was filed in 1971 by three Pennsylvania men as a protest to the Vietnam war. It had gone unnoticed in the federal courts for years but was revived last December when President Carter reinstated draft registration in the wake of the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan.

On July 19, Justice William Brennan allowed the government to go ahead with its July 21 registration of all 19- and 20-year-old men.

The court's decision conceivably could have an effect on the future of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment. Opponents to ERA have pointed to the drafting of women as one of the amendment's evils, but such an obligation now could come about without the ERA.

If the ERA were to become part of the Constitution, courts would have to use the same "strict scrutiny" to cases of alleged sexual bias as they now do in cases of alleged racial or religious discrimination.