

'Spring Plants' biology class to observe flowering plants

Biology Prof. David Wagner was leading a walk last spring at Alton Baker Park to observe native flowering plants — as he'd done regularly for the past two years — when a student asked if it would be possible to get credit for the walk.

This spring, the answer is yes. Wagner says he expects as many as 100 students to arrive at the north end of the Autzen foot bridge Thursday at 12:30 for the first meeting of his one-credit course.

Spring Plants, Biology 199, is designed to give students experience in observing and interpreting the seasonal development of flowering plants. Regular attendance in the outdoor classroom is crucial, Wagner says.

"This is a rain-or-shine thing. You can't be a fair weather nature lover." Wagner plans to change the day of the weekly field trip to Alton Baker Park from Thursdays to Tuesdays.

Students will be expected to keep a log of observations each week that will be turned in at the end of the term. And brief, weekly readings will be assigned from a text on Northwest plants and animals that Wagner says "you'd like to have on your bookshelf."

Spring Plants is not designed to be a hard-nosed course for biologists, Wagner says.

"It's something I'm doing very informally. I'm promoting a major appreciation."

The course is offered only during the spring because it's

the only time plants are guaranteed to change from week to week, he says.

Wagner also is director of the University herbarium.

The size of the class has not been limited, Wagner says, and non-students are invited to come along.



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Sociology course studies U.S. view of Third World

The way North American and Third World peoples view one another is the theme of "America in Crisis: Choices for the Future," a sociology course offered this term through the SEARCH program.

The class is taught by Devin Hess and Kathy Knowles of the African People's Solidarity Committee. A film and speaker series will be combined with readings, projects, field trips, discussions and political involvement.

Field trips will include a visit to Berkeley, Calif., to take part in African People's Solidarity Day

activities. The Black Liberation movement will be examined with readings from works by Malcolm X and various African writers.

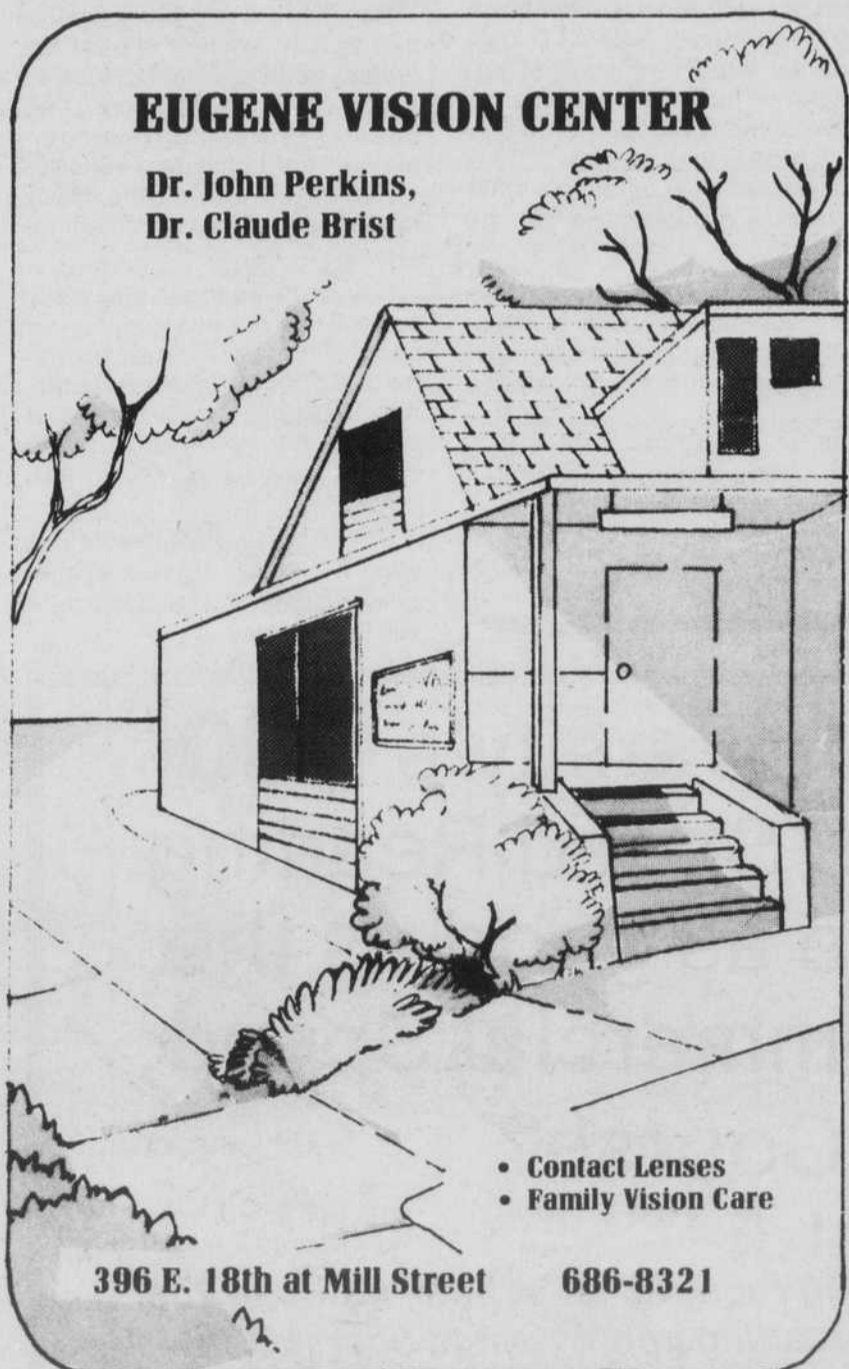
Speakers will include Juan Rania of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee and representatives of the Iranian Student Association.

Scott Reed, a student enrolled in the course, says that it is designed to teach "hands-on political organizing."

"It shows how people can practically change their lives politically," he says.

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