

Project to offer Indonesian and Thai language classes

By Stan Nelson
Of the Emerald

The Southeast Asian Studies project has expanded its course offerings, and will provide students with beginning Indonesian and Thai language instruction beginning winter term.

Many Asian studies programs place considerable emphasis on Japan and China, yet neglect other nations in the same region, said Gerald Fry, political science professor and international studies director.

Considering the proximity of Indonesia in the Pacific Rim and its trade patterns with Oregon, more emphasis should be given to expand the potential for contact between the nation and the United States, Fry said.

"Given that Indonesia is the fifth largest country in the

world...it looks like a place where some direct attention might have some direct economic effect," said Russell Tomlin, head of the Univer-

Also, the language is close enough to Bahasa Malay, the official language of Malaysia, that two people could communicate with each other speaking the

students learn more about the nations in complementary history courses, Tomlin said.

A language program is a necessary ingredient for any serious Southeast Asian studies program, said linguistics Professor Scott Delancey, who will supervise the Thai language instruction.

The classes are not meant to compete with the Southeast

Asian studies project or international studies programs, but rather enrich and overlap between the two, Tomlin said.

The language courses were made possible with a one-year, \$55,000 Department of Education grant. Work is underway on the renewal of the grant.

The courses are being offered through the linguistics department.

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sity's American English Institute. The country currently has a population of more than 160 million people.

In 1985, Indonesia imported the ninth largest amount of products shipped from Oregon ports along the Columbia river, buying more than \$48 million in goods, according to Port of Portland statistics. The Washington ports of Kalama, Longview and Vancouver also were included in the export totals.

Thailand imported more than \$16 million in goods shipped from Oregon ports in the same time period and was Oregon's 17th largest trading partner in ocean commerce.

Japan, which is Oregon's largest trading partner, bought more than \$1.8 billion in goods in 1985.

Bahasa Indonesian, the official language of Indonesia, is similar to the English language in the sense that words can be multisyllabic and have more than one sound in a syllable, Fry said.

two different languages, he said.

The alphabet of the two languages is the same while spellings vary some, said linguistics graduate student Rido Dasmodjo, who will be teaching the Indonesian course.

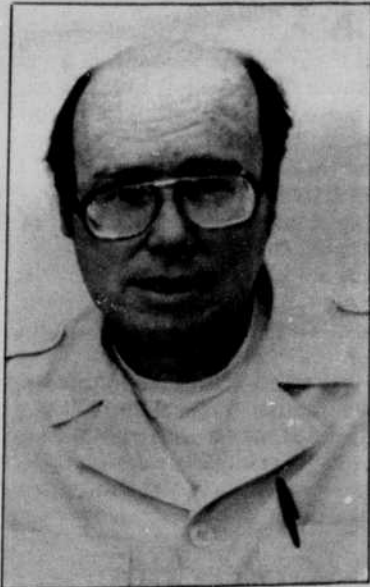
In comparison, Thailand and China's languages are tonal and rely on voice inflection to differentiate words, Fry said.

"It will seem deceptively simple as a language to learn," Fry said.

Prior to coming to the University, Dasmodjo taught for four years at Atma Jaya University at the Indonesian capital of Jakarta. There Dasmodjo taught both English to Indonesians and Bahasa Indonesian to European diplomats, including the Canadian ambassador to Indonesia.

"We couldn't have found anyone who could have done better," said Tomlin in reference to Dasmodjo.

And while the initial interest in the program might be slight, support for the language courses will increase as



Gerald Fry

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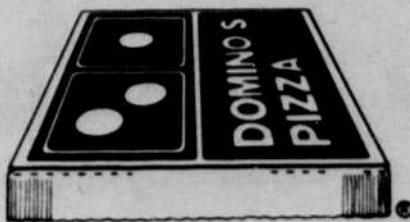
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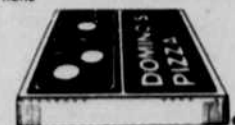
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