

Center receives grant for eighth year in a row

By Jim Davis
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University and the University's Foreign Language Resource Center have received a \$144,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities to fund a program that will allow participants to learn more about Mexico this summer.

The grant marks the eighth year in a row that the director of the center, David Curland, has been awarded funds for similar foreign language institutes.

"No other university, to my knowledge, has been awarded a national institute in foreign languages for eight years," Curland said.

Twenty-six Spanish teachers from across the country will be selected from a pool of 200 applicants to participate in the four-week seminar. Participants will study Mexican literature and history in order to understand the impact of modernization on 20th-century Mexico.

The seminar will feature four University faculty members and two visiting scholars from Mexico. The two scholars are Jose Emilio Pacheco, an award-winning Mexican author and poet, and Cristina Pacheco, a prominent commentator, journalist and social critic.

Last year, Curland received a grant for a similar seminar on Mexico. In previous years, he has been the project director of various programs in different languages, including three in German on Vienna.

This year's grant was one of 18 the NEH gave out nationwide for summer institutes.

Since 1985, Curland has brought close to \$1.4 million to the University from the NEH and

the Andrew Mellon Foundation to offer similar institutes on various subjects each summer.

"Our reviewers had high praise for the (University) proposal's intellectual rationale and clearly stated goals. All of the reviewers mentioned their strong approval of its interdisciplinary nature," said Michael Lanza, program officer for NEH, of Curland's most recent institute proposal.

The University and Professor Hiroko Kataoka of the department of East Asian languages and literatures also received an NEH grant for a three-year special project to develop educational aids for elementary school Japanese immersion programs.

A Eugene school district also received an NEH grant to expand an existing Japanese immersion program, which offers course material in Japanese and English to elementary school students.

"It is really amazing," Curland said, "that a berg the size of Eugene should get three large grants from the NEH."

Curland, who was at a meeting of program directors in Washington, D.C., last week, said he was impressed with the new leadership of the NEH.

"It was a breath of fresh air," he said. "Sheldon Hackney, the former president of Pennsylvania University, and the Endowment are really trying to address the cultural diversity and multiracial society that we are becoming and that we are."

Curland said he believes the NEH is now willing to fund projects it would not have considered in past years.

"People should take another look at the possibility of NEH funding," he said.

Profs discuss, huh-huh, Beavis and Butt-Head

By Lia Salciccia
Oregon Daily Emerald

"I have lecture classes of 150 students and not this many people show up," said Carl Bybee, Associate Professor of Journalism to a group of about 35 students gathered on their own free time to discuss cartoon characters Beavis and Butt-Head.

The discussion, titled "Beavis and Butt-Head: Art or Trash? Icons or Idiots?" co-facilitated by Assistant Professor of Journalism Al Stavitsky, focused on why young people connected with the characters, rather than why they are currently under fire by older critics.



Carl Bybee

Held Tuesday evening in the Carson Residence Hall's Gold Room, the discussion was the first in a series designed to get students talking about subjects that interest them.

Bybee and Stavitsky played a segment of Beavis and Butt-Head that was recorded from MTV. In it the two adolescent rebel-geeks amuse themselves during their jobs at a fast-food restaurant by tossing burgers, shakes, fries and cola into the ceiling fan and watching the remains splat in various directions all over the room.

Why is that funny?

"They can do the stuff we can only dream about doing," said one male student. Another concurred, saying, "I worked at a Taco Hell once, by the end of the night we were shooting the guacamole guns at each other." Yet another male student related to the spirit of the segment: he and his co-workers at Pizza Hut used to throw dough at each other.

Whether or not real people actually do the things that the incredibly stupid Beavis and Butt-Head pull off with relative ease and a lot of "Heh-heh-huh-huhs," they take on the characteristics of cultural icons for the rebellious, Bybee said.

Yet by playing the cartoon on MTV to an audience with relatively large buying power, the music television channel is actually a vehicle to "sell people the props they need to rebel," Bybee said.

Students agreed, pointing out the marketing possibilities of all the Beavis-and Butt-head merchandise sold to young consumers and advertised on MTV.

But if rebellion is marketable to MTV, why would they treasure the pyromaniac, animal-abusing duo and trash Madonna's sexual fantasy video, "Justify My Love?"

One woman hypothesized that perhaps a pair of stupid teenage guys who play baseball with frogs were still a safer form of societal rebellion than a woman who takes "unheard of control of her sexuality and chooses to be deviant."

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Jan. 25	7pm	Carson Gold Room

3- Hand in application to Housing Office before the deadline: **Tuesday, February 1st at 5pm**

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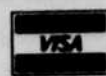


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