

Student demand creates Korean course for 1995

James Leong

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Due to growing student demand and indirect costs overhead enjoyed by the Center of Asian Pacific Studies (CAPS), for the first time ever the East Asian Languages and Literature Department will offer an introductory class on Korean language beginning winter term 1995.

In a self-study done five years ago, the East Asian Languages and Literature Department listed Korean studies as a priority, but could not introduce the class because of budgetary problems, said Steve Durran, acting director for CAPS, the organization financing the new class.

"For CAPS, the development of a Korean class is important," Durran said. "Korea is an important country and is more of an

economic power today. It is in the interest of this country to develop expertise in Korean culture and language."

Jinmin Park, who will be teaching the class next winter, said she was surprised that the University doesn't offer Korean studies at this time.

"As an institution located on the Pacific Rim, the University of Oregon should involve itself in Korean studies," Park said.

Park, who has a master's degree in Korean literature and is now a doctorate student in comparative literature, said people currently have to invest extra time and money to take Korean classes outside their school hours.

Because the University will be offering the Korean class next winter and spring, Park believes the greater accessibility to the

Korean language will encourage students to take the class.

"Besides Stanford University, we are probably the only major school on the west coast that does not have a Korean language department," Park said.

"I'm really happy about the class," said Helen Pai, who is majoring in fine and applied arts. "When I first came to the UO, I was hoping it would offer a Korean language class but they didn't, so I took Japanese."

After deciding that Japanese wasn't right for her, Pai, who is Korean-American, said she is glad that she finally has the opportunity to learn her own language and gain a better sense of her cultural identity.

"I'm taking the class next term because I don't want to lose my native language," said Stephanie Chang, also a Korean-American

student. "I can hold up a conversation in Korean pretty well, but I only read simple Korean. I feel illiterate and I'd like to read and write better."

Wendy Larson, who is head of the East Asian Languages and Literature Department, believes that having a Korean program will expand the department and make it complete.

"We are, after all, an East Asian Languages department and offering Korean is essential to East Asia," Larson said. "We have always felt a lack without a Korean program."

Larson said her immediate goal is to get Korean studies into place by offering first, second and third year Korean language and culture classes. If there is continued student interest, a major might be developed.

At this time, Rick Steer, vice-

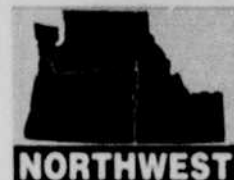
provost of International Affairs, is visiting Korea to raise money to expand the Korean program for the University.

Although the class has attracted mainly Korea Americans so far, Park said it is targeted to all students interested in Korean culture and language and that no previous knowledge of the language is required.

The class will consist of reading and oral exercises, and according to Park, the course will be useful for students who want to do business in Korea and other parts of Asia.

"I hope that by spring term, my students can communicate in Korean and read and write mini-essays," Park said. "It is my wish that they will show greater interest in Korean culture after learning the language."

Oregon may soon be a juncture to the information superhighway



PORTLAND (AP) — A plan is in the works to bring Oregon up to speed on the information superhighway.

The first step is to wire the state with high-speed communication lines. Next month, meetings will be

held around the state to figure out just how to go about it, and what type of telecommunication system to use.

Such a high-speed system could tear down barriers between urban and rural. It would allow long-distance medicine, long-distance learning and access to supercomputers from virtually anywhere in the state.

Telecommunications experts and academics at five Oregon campuses already are testing a high-speed system. Participating campuses are the University, Oregon State University, Oregon Graduate Institute of Technology, Portland State University and Oregon Health Sciences University.

The test, called the Nero Project, is paid for by a \$4.5 million grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Nero stands for Network for Education and Research in Oregon.

The tests and the planning sessions aren't connected, although telephone companies U S West and GTE are involved in both. But in a larger sense, they dovetail.

The Nero Project is testing advanced technology that a statewide system could incorporate.

"The importance of the Nero Project is to test equipment, systems and ideas to find out if they can be relied upon in real-world conditions," telecommunications consultant Guy Alvis said.

The possibilities of such a system are as mind-boggling as the system itself.

— Medical examinations, diagnosis and testing could be conducted between small towns and city hospitals. Doctors in the most remote Oregon communities would have instant access to specialists.

— Courts in Portland could have instant access to records from all over the state.

— The most complex teaching could be done over the system and allow the state's far-flung campuses to operate almost as one.

For rural Oregon, a statewide system could end the isolation that otherwise would smother rural communities in the information age.

"If we are not connected to the rest of the state with high-quality telecommunications, you are going to stop talking to us after a while," said Terry Edvalson, director of the Regional Services Institute at Eastern Oregon State College in La Grande.

Most of the push for a statewide plan is coming from a newly created group, the Oregon Telecommunications Forum, created by the governor's office.

Members include top officials of telephone companies, higher education, health care organizations, the Oregon Independent Telephone Association and state agencies.

North Carolina is building a \$160 million network that ultimately will put high-speed lines into 3,400 sites throughout the largely rural state. The technology is the same as that which Oregon is testing, which will give Oregon planners valuable lessons in what works and what doesn't.

Those involved in the Nero Project and the Telecommunications Forum agree that the state, and all its regions, can't be competitive unless it's wired for the next century.

State fails to identify river pollution

PORTLAND (AP) — Conservation groups claim the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency broke the law when it allowed Oregon to fall behind in identifying pollution in the state's rivers and streams.

If pollution isn't identified, it can't be cleaned up, said Nina Bell, executive director of Northwest Environmental Advocates.

Under the Clean Water Act of 1972, the EPA is responsible for ensuring that the Oregon Depart-

ment of Environmental Quality compiles a list every two years. The state list was to be submitted to the EPA in April, Bell said.

"Without the list, nothing happens," she said Monday.

Bell added that the EPA has only 30 days to provide a list if the state's list is rejected.

"The law has been clear on this point for over 20 years," said Karl Anuta, president of the Northwest Environmental Defense Center. "The state is required to reduce pollution on all water

bodies which are currently polluted. Where Oregon fails, EPA must act."

A lawsuit filed last week in U.S. District Court in Portland gives the EPA 30 days to approve or disapprove an Oregon list, and another 30 days to produce its own list covering Oregon waters if the state fails to provide it.

Until that has been done, the lawsuit asks that the EPA be kept from starting any new programs in Oregon or signing any agreement with the state.

CHANGES

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'80s, enrollment in the Greek system on the University campus has declined. This year, 19 percent of the freshmen class joined a fraternity or sorority.

Although 19 percent is still a significant amount, it does reflect a shift in student attitudes and priorities. The Greek system is striving both locally and nationally to adapt its image and its actions to the changing face of American college life.

By the end of the '80s the fraternity and sorority system had been criticized on a national and local level for alcohol abuse, under-age drinking, sexual violence and initiation rites (called hazing) that were physically and emotionally harmful.

The Greek community, in conjunction with national organizations and the University, responded by instituting strict under-age drinking regulations, banning hazing, and creating alcohol and sexual assault awareness programs.

According to Martha Brown, chairwoman of the college Panhellenic conference, sorority enrollment on the west coast has declined in part because of a change in the types of students who are entering college.

"We need to be looking at increasing the cultural diversity in the Greek system. [Individual houses] should try to mirror the campus population, and that varies between schools and regions," she said.

Donavan Dichter is the president of Theta Chi fraternity. During his four years at the University, Dichter has seen a change in the student population. He said new students now seem more focused on their education than those in 1990. In response, his fraternity has shifted its emphasis

to academics.

"We are changing because our members are changing," he said.

"[The Greek system] has something to offer all students, and I do think the message is getting across."

Dichter says that it is only a matter of time before membership begins to increase. The "party animal" reputation that fraternity men earned in the '80s is still with them, and it will be a while before the actions of this generation of Greeks compensate for those of its predecessors, he said.

According to Greek Advisor Kristi Wise, the seven-year decline in the percentage of new members has been caused, at least in part, by substantial tuition increases. Since 1990, full-time resident tuition has increased by 66 percent, and non-resident tuition has nearly doubled. Because students today have less discretionary income than five years ago, they are less likely to join an organization that many feel is out of economic reach, she said.

The average cost of living in a sorority or fraternity is \$4,065 annually according to the informational packet given to prospective members. This includes room and board and is only slightly higher than the estimated \$3,550 cost of living in a University dormitory. However, costs range anywhere between \$3,618 and \$5,418 for the first year depending on the house, and whether students are assessed miscellaneous fees.

Fall Rush 1994 had little to do with matching outfits, songs, dance-steps and beer-guzzling, according to Greek leaders. The system has refocused on its founding principles: friendship, academics and leadership. They say the fun isn't over, however. It's just '90s fun.

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