

Speaker will address the need to reexamine the university

■ **LECTURE:** The speaker is a notable expert on Christian thought and the English language

By Brian Womack
Higher Education Reporter

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, which was founded by former President John Adams, will sponsor a lecture today at 2 p.m. in the Gerlinger Alumni Lounge by the Academy's president.

Jaroslav Pelikan, a history professor at Yale University, said he will discuss how the university is in partnership with universal entities such as ancestors, generations and the public in general.

Pelikan plans to quote 18th Century English political statesman Edmond Burke's explanation of the university as partnership in his lecture.

"It is a partnership in all science; a partnership in all art; a partnership in every virtue, and in all perfection," Pelikan said.

Pelikan published a book in 1992 on universities titled *The Idea of the University — A Reexamination*.

"[Pelikan] is one of the leading academic humanists of our time," said Augustine Thompson, assistant professor of medieval Christianity at

the University.

He said Pelikan's five volume work on the history of Christian thought, *The Christian Tradition*, is currently the definitive piece on the subject in the English language.

The lecture is cosponsored by the Oregon Humanities Center and Office of the President. Pelikan was originally supposed to speak at the inauguration of John Frohn-mayer before it was postponed, said Steven Shankman, director of the humanities center.

After Pelikan's lecture, a panel presentation will be given on the public perception of academia. The speakers will focus on the public's perception in the United States, the western part of the country, and Oregon.

"People are disconnected with the university right now," Shankman said.

He said the Congressional threat to de-fund the National Endowment of the Humanities is an example of public's disconnection.

The panel is likely to discuss other issues as well, including what responsibility academia owes to the public and how accessible professors should be to the public, he said.

Safe Run training moved off city site

■ **PROTECTION:** Noise and safety complaints prompt council to ban dog training from city park

By Kari Hastings
Oregon Daily Emerald

Ever since a Springfield City Council meeting last week, the Safe Run office has been flooded with calls and group of neighbors is now satisfied.

The reason for all this commotion is the council's confirmation on Oct. 16 that Safe Run could no longer use a city-owned field for dog training.

Many callers simply expressed support, and nine callers offered the organization a new training site, enabling it to literally start picking and choosing where they want to train now.

Shelley Reecher founded Safe Run, a nonprofit organization that started loaning dogs out in 1981 to protect walkers, runners, hikers and campers. Its primary goal is to keep women joggers safe from assault.

The Safe Run controversy actually began two years ago, when Reecher started training Safe Run dogs at a sewage treatment site. The land, which is located at the end of D Street near the Willamette River, is not a park, but functions as one. It is owned by the city of Springfield and run by the Metro Wastewater Commission.

Problems with the site began two years ago when neighbors began complaining that the training was disruptive and loud. The Springfield City Council told Reecher she should start looking for another place to train.

However, the council took no further action until two weeks ago when Springfield Public Works Director Dan Brown said a woman wrote the council asking them to ensure Safe Run could keep using the site.

As is standard procedure, Brown wrote a report telling the council about the issues surrounding the request. He said he found things in the quiet Springfield neighborhood were starting to brew again.

While not hostile to the idea of Safe Run, the neighbors were concerned about noise and safety during the training.

Les Steffensen, a neighbor, called Reecher's activities aggression training, and said it involved noise and danger because the dogs were provoked by a man wearing pads. He also said Reecher asked neighbors not to walk their dogs near the training site.

"[This neighborhood] is a very tranquil area, Steffensen said, "and she goes the opposite direction — we support her goals, but the way she has dealt with us has not been very pleasant."

After reading Brown's report of the complaints, the council voted not to allow any dog training at the site after Jan. 1. The vote was made two weeks ago, at an Oct. 2 meeting.

Reecher said she didn't know about the meeting or the vote until a reporter called to ask what her reaction was.

According to Brown, however, the meeting was not a public hearing and was not publicized, but it was on the council's agenda.

In response to the vote, Reecher asked the council for 10 minutes to give her side of the story at Monday's meeting.

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The council heard her testimony and the neighbor's complaints and confirmed their earlier decision that Safe Run would have to find another site.

Reecher said the neighbor's petition included several blatant lies about her training, saying she was operating a commercial attack-dog school and firing weapons. These accusations are false, she said.

"The council claims the training is a burden on the neighbors," Reecher said. "Let me tell you what a burden is — a burden is being assaulted or raped."

Springfield resident Rulena Mellor said the decision of the council says they don't care that a group is trying to do something to help women.

"I feel with crime the way it is, especially against women, that those council members are cowards," Mellor said. "They gave in to the complaints of some angry neighbors."

Mellor has personally experienced the benefits of Safe Run.

She was running with a Safe Run dog a few months ago when she noticed a man on a bike approaching in the distance. The next time she looked up, the bike was on the ground and the man was gone.

As she neared the bike, the man walked out of the bushes toward her. Mellor's dog, a Doberman pinscher trained by Reecher, immediately sat in front of the man and bared its teeth until Mellor had a chance to run farther down the path.

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*Focus groups will be moderated by Thomas Ricca Associates, a national firm that has successfully completed over 25 University Student Union planning projects over the last eight years. They will also be conducting the formal customer survey later this term.