

Rodin collection at UO until 1997

■ **ART:** On loan from Stanford University, the collection was shipped to Oregon after the California quake of 1989

By Sean Rossoi
Higher Education Reporter

Many students on campus are not aware of the 27 sculptures by August Rodin that are on display in the University's Museum of Art until May 1997. Rodin's sculptures of bodies and hands pepper the floors of the museum, popular for their accuracy and beauty.

The sculptures are on loan from the Stanford Museum and their five-year history at the University had a shaky start.

"The collection was jeopardized during the quake of '89," said Lawrence Fong, museum registrar.

"They had to repair the area that housed the Rodins," he said. "They will be on display until the new Stanford Museum is completed."

Stanford shipped the Rodin sculptures to Oregon instead of placing them in storage because

the previous director of the University's museum, Steven McGough, was a Stanford alumnus.

"Stanford wanted to place [the collection] in a safe environment," Fong said.

"They wanted to continue to share this collection with the public," he said. "They didn't want to stick them into storage some place where no one would be able to view them."

According to the Stanford Museum, the Rodin Museum in Paris was authorized by the French government. Rodin's heir, to make as many as 12 casts of each of the plaster models found in Rodin's studio after his death. A bronze is made only when the Rodin Museum agrees to commission a cast for a museum or a collector.

Each cast was initially a clay sculpture. Rodin then made a plaster cast of the original clay model and used the plaster cast to make molds for multiple bronze casts.

"Although [each] sculpture looks like it weighs quite a bit, they're really not that heavy," Fong said.

The sculptures are hollow and only weigh an estimated 600 or 700 pounds, he said.

The University has had the collection for five years, but if Stanford's new museum is not completed on time, the sculptures will remain on display at the University.

"What's amazing is that Rodin is a 20th century sculptor," Fong said. "Even in his day, which was only less than 100 years ago, he was considered controversial."

Just as Michelangelo had someone pose for the stone sculpture of David, Rodin had people pose for his sculptures. "Somebody posed for 'The Age of Bronze,' one of the statues on exhibition," Fong said.

Other sculptures in the collection include 'The Juggler,' 'Greed and Lust,' 'The Three Shades' and 'Head of Sorrow.'

The Rodin collection is located on the second floor of the University Museum of Art, 1430 Johnson Lane. The museum is open from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, and admission is free.

Shuttle Endeavour lifts off in the cold

■ **SPACE:** While in space, the six-member crew will capture a satellite and conduct scientific experiments

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Warmed by heaters to keep its O-rings supple, space shuttle Endeavour lifted off with six astronauts Thursday in the coldest launch weather since the Challenger disaster.

The astronauts plan to capture a Japanese science satellite on Saturday, their chief job in orbit during the nine-day flight.

Endeavour began the 300-mile-high chase with a brilliant early-morning launch.

"It was a great ride uphill," commander Brian Duffy said.

It was 44 degrees for the 4:41 a.m. liftoff, the lowest temperature at launch since Challenger exploded on Jan. 28, 1986, and the second-lowest ever in 15 years of shuttle flight. The timing was dictated by the course the shuttle must follow to catch the satellite.

The temperature was 36 when Challenger blew up after launch, killing all seven crew members. Investigators said the cold had stiffened the O-rings in the shuttle's booster rockets, allowing hot gas to leak through a joint.

Heaters, one of the improvements made after the accident, kept Endeavour's crucial components warm, including the joints and O-ring seals. It was so cold, NASA had to crank up the heat on the main engines.

The astronauts — five Americans and one Japanese — and members of the launch team seemed unfazed by the cold.

"It was a good show by everybody," launch

director James Harrington said.

Halfway around the world, a cheering crowd of more than 1,000 gathered in a plaza in Omiya near Tokyo, astronaut Koichi Wakata's hometown. They watched the launch on a huge screen, shouting, "Banzai!" three times — the equivalent of "Hip, hip, huray!"

At Mission Control, flight director Bryan Austin painted in one eye on a red, ball-shaped Japanese doll, a Japanese good-luck tradition. He will paint in the other eye once the satellite is captured.

Wakata will use the shuttle robot arm to retrieve the satellite, which was launched from Japan last March. The satellite was over Australia when Endeavour blasted off, more than 9,000 miles ahead.

The four-ton reusable satellite holds fertilized newt eggs and two dead newts. After the adult newts spawned in orbit, their job was done; the heater was turned off and they were allowed to freeze to death.

The eggs will be studied as a possible protein source for humans on long spaceflights.

The satellite also contains crystal-growing furnaces and an infrared telescope.

Duffy and his crew will also release and retrieve a U.S. science satellite during the mission and keep tabs on 66 rats aboard Endeavour, six of them nursing females and the rest newborns.

Two spacewalks also are scheduled. Three men will go outside next week, two at a time, to gain spacewalking experience for construction in a few years of the international space station.

Endeavour is due back at Kennedy Space Center on Jan. 20.

Israeli court grants right to reject life support

■ **RIGHTS:** Some consider the Israeli court ruling an "earthquake" for Israeli rights

JERUSALEM (AP) — An Israeli court ruled Thursday that terminally ill patients have the right to choose to die, finding in favor of a paralyzed fighter pilot who asked not to be connected to life support.

Itai Arad, a 47-year-old pilot stricken with neuromuscular disease, had asked the Tel Aviv District Court to allow him to "die with dignity" at home, according to his attorney, Yitzhak Hoshen.

The case also involved a second patient whose name and condition were not made public. Both sought court intervention to prevent medical treatment that would prolong their lives.

"It is a great day today for Israeli rights," Hoshen said. "This is a very important decision, maybe even an earthquake."

Judge Moshe Talgam ruled that a lucid person facing permanent dependence on machines for breathing and other bodily functions can refuse to be connected or ask to be removed, Hoshen said.

The ruling worried some observant Jews, uncomfortable that it could compromise the sanctity of human life.

Dr. Mordechai Halperin, a rabbi and physician at the Schlesinger Institute, told Israel Television that the ruling itself did not contradict Jewish law. But he said it was dangerous because people might interpret it as validating suicide or mercy killings.

"This is precisely the danger of the verdict being viewed as a

breakthrough in which the will of the patient is presented as equal to [the value of] human life," he said.

Arad flew Skyhawk fighter jets for the Israeli air force for 20 years. In 1992, he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

ALS attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord and eventually paralyzes victims and impairs muscles responsible for breathing.

Arad does not yet require life support, but he asked for the court ruling to preclude the possibility that doctors would put him on a life support system in the future.

Hoshen said Arad can no longer speak. The court hearing was conducted by his attorney asking questions and Arad nodding "yes" or "no."

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