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Signing a book for a fan, writer John Daniel makes a visit to the Knight Library to sign copies of his latest book, *The Trail Home*, after reading selected passages from a future biography about his mother. Daniel is also winner of the 1993 Oregon Book Award for Literary Nonfiction.

University teacher hears gospel in the air

MUSIC: Founder of the popular gospel ensemble has returned after a short absence

By Janna Braun
Freelance Reporter

It's in his blood. He lives and breathes it. And for that reason, John Gainer could not stay away from the University's School of Music for long.

After a one term absence, Gainer is back at the University for the duration of the school year teaching what he loves most: gospel music.

Gainer has been teaching gospel music, as well as other styles of music, at the University since 1983. He established the University's gospel ensemble, which he considers a great accomplishment.

"Originally, the gospel ensemble was organized as an experimental course, yet our first concert was virtually a packed house," Gainer said. "The next term the class size more than doubled and we had another successful performance."

"The school saw its popularity and made it an official class. From that point on it just kept growing and becoming more popular," he said.

Gospel music has been an important part of Gainer's life since age three. He has been involved in various church choirs and grew up in the metropolitan New York area, where, Gainer says, music was a part of everyday life.

"You could walk down any street and see groups of people singing a cappella or turn on the radio at almost any time and hear any kind of music you wanted," he said. "Because I was around it so much, it was sort of an inborn talent to me."

Despite the fact that gospel was Gainer's forte, he embraced other musical styles as well. While attending Arizona State University, he studied jazz and pop, and even joined a classical choir and played the keyboard.

However, remaining true to his love for gospel, he organized and directed a gospel choir of Arizona State students, which, for the four years Gainer attended Arizona State, was very popular.

It was this early success that prompted Gainer's interest in teaching.

"That involvement on the academic level opened doors for me in teaching. Prior to that, my only experience had been with church choirs," he said.

Gainer went on to receive a

degree in humanities and fine arts, not music, because Arizona State's music program only focused on classical, European-style music.

"I didn't want to limit myself to just that because gospel music is a part of my identity," he said.

"Gospel is just good, positive music. The sound of the music is very joyous and uplifting and motivates other people to respond, even if they're not Christian," he said. "Music is a universal language that can cross racial and religious barriers very effectively, and in my opinion, there's no one musical style that's superior over the other."

This term, Gainer is teaching two classes: the history of gospel music and a gospel pop voice class. Gainer is also available for one-on-one lessons.

"I think I've accomplished a great deal here, especially in establishing gospel music in the school's curriculum," he said. "Unfortunately, the past few years here have been a bit of a struggle, but now I think I have more support."

"I look forward to the day when everyone can respect all types of music and see other music cultures represented here."

Saferide allocated extra budget funds

SAFETY: Additional money will buy wheelchair accessible taxi rides and send the director to a conference

By Kristin Bailey &
Doug Irving
Student Activities Reporters

The Student Senate voted unanimously to grant Project Saferide a transfer of \$2,005 Wednesday night.

The money will allow Saferide Director Jenna Wasson to attend the Feminist Majority Conference in Washington, D.C. this February. It will also finance wheelchair accessible taxi rides.

"It's not like we're asking for more money from the students," Wasson said. "We want to use what we already have."

Saferide miscalculated its budget last year, leaving them with a surplus of funds. Without the transfer, the extra funds would have carried over to next year's budget. Saferide needed permission from the Senate to transfer such a large amount of money into a different fund.

"The people who prepared our budget totally over-estimated how much money we'd need," Wasson said.

The 1996-97 Saferide budget request reflects this miscalculation. According to ASUO Programs Finance Committee, Saferide will be asking for \$1,207 less than they received last year.

Office of Public Safety currently provides wheelchair accessible rides to women, but many women prefer to use Saferide, Wasson said.

"A lot of women don't want to call OPS," Wasson said. "Some people might see OPS as not as friendly."

Saferide needs wheelchair-accessible vehicles in order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Wasson said. The ADA mandates wheelchair access in all publicly-used cars.

The conference will allow Wasson to learn about women's safety issues from organizations nationwide.

"I'll be able to talk to other women from other campuses about safety issues," Wasson said. "I think that safety for women on this campus is very important."