

Speech: All tickets have been sold out

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months ahead of time.

"We made a very conscious decision that we wanted to get a commitment from him," Ryan said.

After securing that commitment, the board was able to secure funding and additional speakers and scholars for the conference.

"It was easier to raise money and get other people who are every bit as distinguished [as Wiesel]," he said.

The community's reaction after news of Wiesel's arrival has been strong, Ryan said.

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— Cheyney Ryan
Conference coordinator

"It's been great," he said. "The only problem is we just don't have any more seats."

Indeed, tickets for the conference, as well as the 1,800 seats for Wiesel's speech, have been sold out.

With that number of people attending and the level of scholars involved, special accommodations have been made for both Wiesel's speech and the entire four-day conference.

A free bus will also be provided to shuttle students to and from the conference center for the speech. The speech will be the only event held off-campus.

"We had wanted to keep it on campus, but we just needed a bigger venue," he said.

With a speaker like Wiesel, however, just hearing him speak, no matter where the location, will be a thrill, Ryan said.

Satellite: Events will be broadcast to 100 million

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Once the signal gets to the fiberoptic network, it will go to the library, where the media center can broadcast it to cable and satellite.

"The hard part wasn't getting the signal to Portland or 12,500 miles up to the satellite," Majdic said. "It was get-

ting the signal from the EMU to the library."

The conference is probably the biggest project the media center and telecommunications have ever worked on, he said. "It's really fun to work on projects a lot of people are interested in. It makes it all worthwhile."

Safety: Problems are not anticipated

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general, as well as training more specific to the conference, he said.

"We have general trainings," he said, "but when you have an event like this ... it enables us to more nearly imagine potential problems."

In one training activity, peacekeepers stand face-to-face in two lines, with volunteers in one line yelling at those in the other line, he said. This allows people to experience the energy someone

can muster in a confrontation and to get an idea of how to handle that.

Although the police and public safety will be at the conference, events like this also often have their own group of people to help resolve problems, conference organizer Cheyney Ryan said.

"The best way to make sure the conference goes smoothly is to have your own people who know what's going on and have thought about how to deal with problems," Ryan said.

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Frank said ethics should be at the forefront of our discussions about human life. The conference will look at people's ethical obligations to ensure the humane treatment of others, he said.

The Holocaust was caused by a philosophy of totalitarian rule that can be seen throughout Western power structures, said Stephen Stern, conference co-organizer and doctoral student.

It occurred because one group of people characterized another as the enemy, allowing Nazis to marginalize Jews until they were seen as subhuman, Stern said.

If people do not examine the roots of why the Holocaust occurred, something similar could

happen in the future, he said.

Stern cited examples of cruel behavior directed toward groups of people all over the world, such as the mass killings of ethnic groups in Rwanda.

"The whole approach to marginalizing people can be seen in the way the Nazis did it," he said.

Stern said he can see similarities between the Nazi approach of instigating hatred toward Jews and the far right's attempt to turn people away from homosexuals.

He said this is a reflection of society's failure to learn from the Holocaust.

"I tend not to think we've learned a great deal at all, and I think that's really scary," Stern said.



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