

University adds Judaic Studies major

By Tricia Schwennesen
Oregon Daily Emerald

It's not just a religion. It's a culture with a history, art, folklore and philosophy.

Judaism played an instrumental role in the development of western civilization, and students will now be able to major or minor in Judaic Studies.

A \$1.5 million gift established the financial basis for a new Judaic Studies program, which will be available to students in fall 1999.

"Students are already inquiring about how they can major," said Richard Stein, chairman of the University Judaic Studies committee. "The gift is the real key. Without private money this program could not have started."

The gift from the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation will help fund the interdisciplinary program in Judaic Studies.

The program brings together about 20 courses the University already offers, such as Great Religions of the World and History of Western Art, with topic-oriented courses including Jewish Writers and Jewish Folk-

lore and Ethnology.

"We couldn't have created this program without the classes we already have," Stein said. "One of my goals is that by creating this program we could stimulate faculty and students to study new areas within their own work."

For the courses already offered, content on Jewish history and culture will be integrated into next year's curriculum.

"Lots of students who are not in the program will experience at least a part of the program," Stein said.

Stein compared the current course offerings to a "doughnut or a bagel with no center." The outer workings are present, but there is no director of the program and no curriculum set in stone, he said.

The search for a program director has been nationally advertised, and Stein said he hopes someone will be hired by spring term.

It is not often that a university adds a new program, and sometimes it can take up to three times as long to get a program approved as it did in this case, Stein said.

"Academic processes are slow, but this moved rather quickly," Stein said. "Even though we all wanted it to happen overnight, we should be impressed that it happened as fast as it did."

Students and faculty are enthusiastic about the program, and scholars believe Judaism is a genuine, vital area for intellectual research and study, Stein said.

The 1996 conference "Ethics after the Holocaust" was a catalyst for getting the program approved, said Stephen Stern, a graduate student in philosophy who served on the Judaic Studies committee.

The conference drew many Jewish scholars from across the country and rekindled the interest of students and faculty for a Judaic Studies program.

Stern said he saw a need to get a program for undergraduates that would propagate greater understanding of the Jewish tradition.

"There was another civilization besides the Greeks and the Christians," Stern said. "The Jewish civilization contributed to western civilization."

Postal worker takes mayor, council hostage

By Larry Gerber
The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — An armed postal worker who once worked for the city took the mayor and two council members hostage Tuesday, then waged a gun battle with police when the officers heard shots fired. Five people, including a policeman and the gunman, were wounded.

The shooting began at about 8 a.m. as the City Council was preparing to meet in a City Hall annex, some 60 miles east of Los Angeles. Joseph L. Neale Jr., 48, barged into the council lounge and locked the door, police said.

"He basically took them hostage, detained them at that location," Chief Jerry Carroll said.

Details were sketchy, but police eventually managed to barge their way into the room.

Councilman Chuck Beaty was hit in the face and shoulder

and was in critical condition. Councilwoman Laura Pearson was hospitalized with a hip wound.

Mayor Ron Loveridge was grazed by a bullet, and Councilwoman Terri Thompson was treated for unspecified pain.

The extent of the gunman's injuries were not known. Two officers were also shot. One was hit in the lower abdomen and is in critical condition. The other was spared injury because of his bulletproof vest.

Neale had a part-time job with the city's parks department but was fired in 1994. He sued the following year, claiming he was discriminated against on the basis of age and race. Neale is black.

In his lawsuit, Neale said he was fired because he complained of the lack of opportunities for minorities in the community, specifically blacks and Hispanics.

Et als

An informational meeting on the Study in Mexico 1999 program will

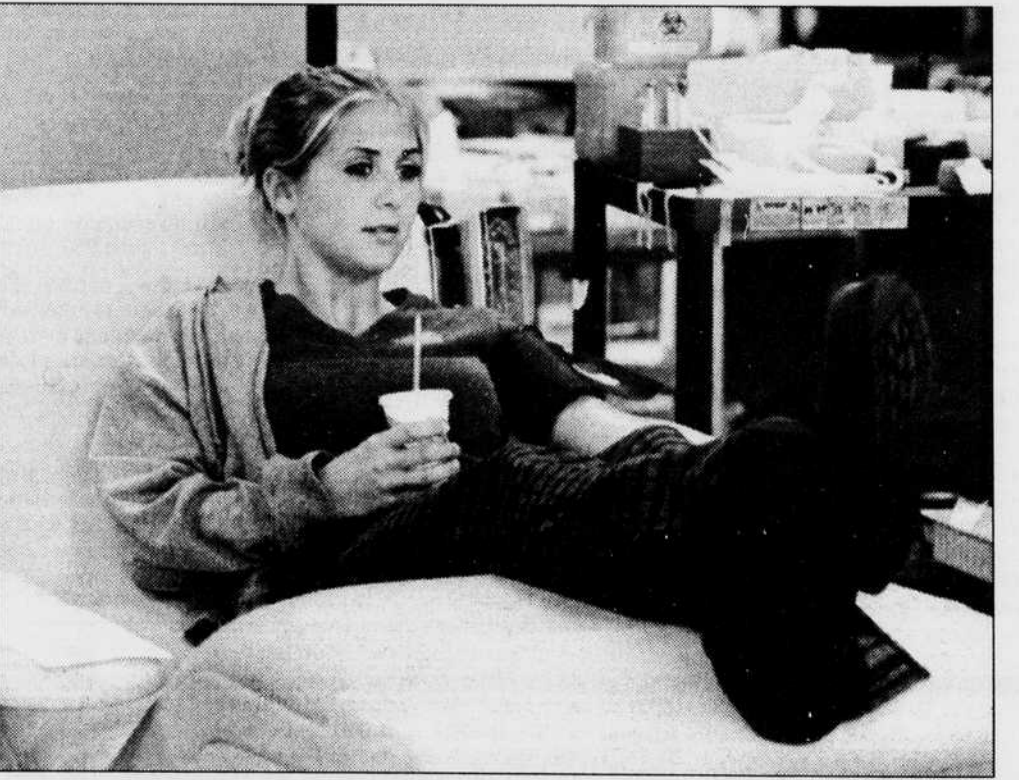
take place today at 4 p.m. in room 152 of the Education Building.

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A GIFT FROM THE HEART



Heidi Ambler, a senior English major, goes under the needle to donate blood Tuesday at the Lane Memorial Blood Bank blood drive. The drive will continue today in the EMU Fir Room from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Laura Goss/Emerald

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77-year-old astronaut rehearses launch

By Marcia Dunn
The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A beaming John Glenn arrived for launch rehearsal Tuesday, his first in decades.

The 77-year-old senator was accompanied by the six astronauts who will blast off with him later this month aboard space shuttle Discovery. He flew from Houston in the back seat of a training jet piloted by his commander, Curtis Brown Jr.

Glenn stood quietly and swatted away mosquitoes as Brown addressed the crowd of reporters. When asked how it felt to be back, Glenn replied, "Great! Great!" and flashed a thumbs-up.

Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth in 1962. In three short weeks, he'll become the oldest person in space by 16 years.

During the nine-day mission, Glenn will submit to a variety of medical experiments so NASA can com-

pare the effects of aging with the effects of weightlessness.

This week's simulated countdown is one of the last big training sessions before the Oct. 29 launch. The entire crew will climb aboard Discovery on Friday for the final portion of the test, which will end with five seconds remaining on the clocks.

"The practice countdown always marks a big milestone in our training," Brown said. "[We] get to get into the real vehicle, see the real equipment again, so we're very excited about that."

Countdown tests typically draw little press interest. But more than 50 journalists lined Kennedy Space Center's runway for Tuesday's crew arrival and scrambled for prime vantage spots.

Glenn isn't the only attention getter. The crew includes Japan's first woman in space, Dr. Chiaki Mukai, and Spain's first astronaut, Pedro Duque.

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