

# Professor shares importance of Holocaust film portrayal

Lawrence Baron, a professor of modern Jewish history, said the impact of Holocaust movies cannot be ignored

By Serena Markstrom  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The first Holocaust film Lawrence Baron showed his 9-year-old son was "Life is Beautiful." After the film, the boy asked his father: "Why did they shoot that funny man?"

A tough question. But one that, in this family, began the task of learning about a time in history many critics say no one who wasn't there can truly understand and that no film can adequately portray.

Monday night about 50 people attended Baron's presentation, "Ashen images on a silver screen," sponsored by the University Harold Schnitzer Family Program in conjunction with Yom HaShoah.

"I take movies very seriously," Baron said. "(These images are) so prevalent, I don't think we can ignore their impact."

Baron teaches modern Jewish history at San Diego State University. He also directs the Lipinsky Institute, which functions range from supporting teaching and research in modern Jewish history to offering internships in Judaic studies.

Though critics of Hollywood depictions of the Holocaust have denounced them as glossing over or romanticizing it, Baron argued that the way Steven Spielberg and other directors have handled the subject serves an important educational purpose.

Baron said it is always a challenge to go back in history and portray it accurately. He said few film makers claim to have made the definitive Holocaust film, but instead they seek to bring a focused part of it to the screen. They seek to individualize mass-destruction.

"The greater the scale of violence, the easier it is to be unmoved by it," Baron said. "It loses its form and shape."

Admittedly there are distortions, but Baron said to try and document it purely, without any creative

adaptation, results in a less effective movie.

Katy Kinports, a junior Judaic studies major, said she thought the big-name Holocaust films like "Life is Beautiful" and "Schindler's List" do gloss over the enormity of the Holocaust, but other, less commercially successful films, are more informative.

"It's important that there be movies to get people thinking about serious issues like the Holocaust," Kinports said. "There are other ways to learn about it (too)."

Senior Robb Beck said he thought Baron did a decent job of covering the idea of representation and the tension between story telling and historical documentation.

Baron will lead a seminar, "Christianities of Complicity and Compassion," today at noon in Room 375 McKenzie Hall. Fruit, cookies and beverages will be served, and guests are encouraged to bring their lunches.

E-mail hired education editor Serena Markstrom at serenemarkstrom@dailymerald.com.

## News brief

### Men's Center focus of today's discussion

The University Health Center will hold a meeting today to discuss the Men's Center, focusing on results from a recent survey and the future structure and advisory board

of the Men's Center.

The University's Men Health Team, consisting of several students and staff members, proposed the idea for the center. The purpose of the Men's Center is to provide male University students with help and support on a variety of health related issues. These issues include substance abuse, anger manage-

ment and diversity issues.

The center would operate similar to the University's Women's Center and would hold events aimed at improving men's health.

The meeting begins at 6 p.m. in the Coquille Room of the EMU. For more information, contact George Hanawahine at 346-2770.

— Katie Ellis

## Remember

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The ceremony began Monday at 7 p.m. with candle lighting, prayer and song, in both English and Hebrew. A group of about 20 people lighted six Yahrzeit candles, which are used to remember the dead in a time of mourning. Each candle represents a million of the individuals killed in the Holocaust.

While lighting the candles, the group sang Hanna Senesh's poem "Elli, Elli," which she wrote while detained in a concentration camp. Senesh died behind enemy lines as a soldier fighting against the Nazis. They also sang "Hatikva," which is the national anthem of Israel.

"It is very important to honor the memory of those who were killed because it can happen to any group of people," Oregon Hillel student life coordinator June Sedarbaum Harris said.

Oregon Hillel member Matthew Peltz said he believes this event is especially important today because of the current bombings of synagogues in France.

"These events are similar to the events that occurred before the Holocaust," he said. "Discrimination still happens today, and people downplay it."

Oregon Hillel women's collective

chairwoman Andrea Lipstein agreed.

"It's an important day to remember what horrible things happen in this world so they don't happen again," she said. "It's a way to raise awareness."

JSU members and members from co-sponsoring Oregon Hillel, a nonprofit Jewish organization for college students, will be taking turns reading names. However, University students, Lane County community members and anyone else interested in reading names can sign up for 10 minute time slots. People can also sign up for longer time slots, and in past years, individuals and groups have read for up to two hours, Kent said.

Many greek houses have called out names in past years, and the University's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Alliance also participates, because the Nazis killed many gays during the Holocaust, Kent said.

"This is not just a religious event, it is a cultural event," JSU Co-Director Shainah Falk said. "This event is to create sympathy for all those who died and to remember how tremendous and sad the Holocaust was. The Holocaust actually happened, even if people deny it, because there are survivors."

JSU will be reading the names of those who died from a book titled "Gedenkbuch." The group has read the names listed alphabetically in this book for the past five years. Each year, the group reads a different set of names starting with the letter of the last name they ended with the year before. This year the group started with the letter "M." The book does not contain all the 6 million people's names, but is a fairly accurate account of the people who died, Kent said.

Kent said he believes this annual event is important for everyone to participate in and learn from.

"I did not lose anyone in my family to the Holocaust, but many people had their entire families wiped out," Kent said. "I am remembering those that have no one else to remember them by."


JSU encourages anyone who wants to participate in the event to come and sign up for a time slot at the tent in the amphitheater.

The ceremony will conclude at 7 p.m. Tuesday with a small prayer. Next year, JSU and the Oregon Hillel plan to hold a week-long education forum about the Holocaust with their annual Holocaust Memorial ceremony.


E-mail reporter Danielle Gillespie at daniellegillespie@dailymerald.com.

### Today's crossword solution

BARB	SNARE	JABS
LIAR	TENON	ELLA
ANNE	ORIEL	SPAN
BUGABOO	ATTEND	
TED	CURRENCY	
OMAHA	FORGERS	
ROUE	BEIGERS	TAG
SOT	CANNERS	OWE
ONO	ORDERS	ECON
MASTERS	ANKLE	
FLATTERS	BIT	
RATTAN	TERRIER	
ERIE	DEPOT	INTO
EGOS	EMIRS	EDNA
DONT	RUNNY	SOAR



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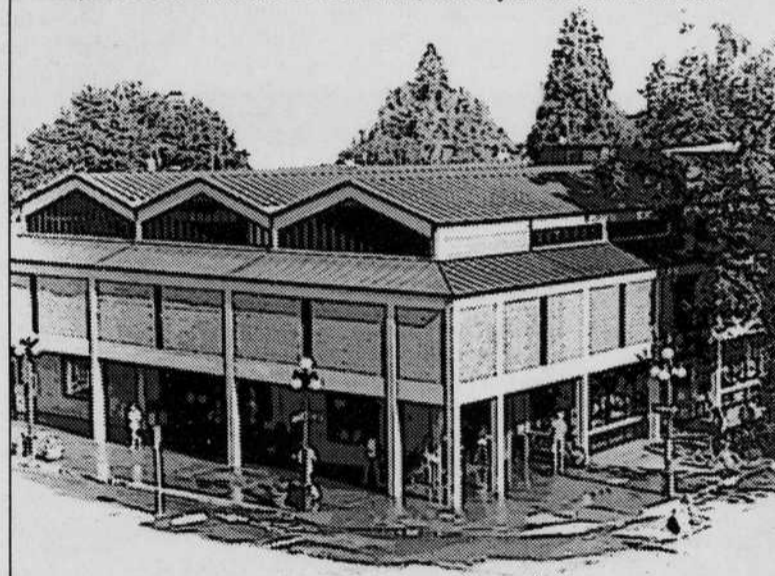
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# FUN

stuff in the  
ODE Classifieds  
(Off The Mark,  
your daily horoscope  
and of course  
the crossword.)