

'All of us need to know, and understand ...'

As co-directors of Center for Holocaust Education, Bryces try to help educate about horrors of Holocaust

By John Molene

TIMES STAFF WRITER

Not quite ready to go gentle into that good night, Lynn and Scott Bryce have found a new calling late in their professional careers — teaching the Holocaust.

Or more precisely, helping teachers teach about the Holocaust.

The Bryces felt Holocaust

education was, more often than not, given short shrift in area schools, including St. Cloud State University.

Other than perhaps reading "The Diary of Anne Frank" and hearing a brief history lesson or two, some students go through an entire educational process without learning about the Holocaust.

The Bryces, directors of the

Center for Holocaust Education at St. Cloud State University, felt that was wrong.

"All of us need to know, and understand, what happened in the Holocaust," said Lynn Bryce.

"Why did it happen? How did it happen? Teaching the Holocaust leads to an understanding of all kinds of discrimination."

Please see **KNOW, 6A** ►

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CHRIS GORDON, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AT ST. CLOUD STATE

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Know

The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jews by Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Six million Jews were murdered. Gypsies, the handicapped, Poles, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents also suffered oppression and death.

Through much study and effort over the years, the Bryces have become resident experts on the Holocaust. And what they don't know, they can help you find.

Both professors at St. Cloud State, Scott Bryce (mass communications), and Lynn Bryce (English) had planned to retire following this quarter. They'll still retire, but it won't be to a life of gardening and golf.



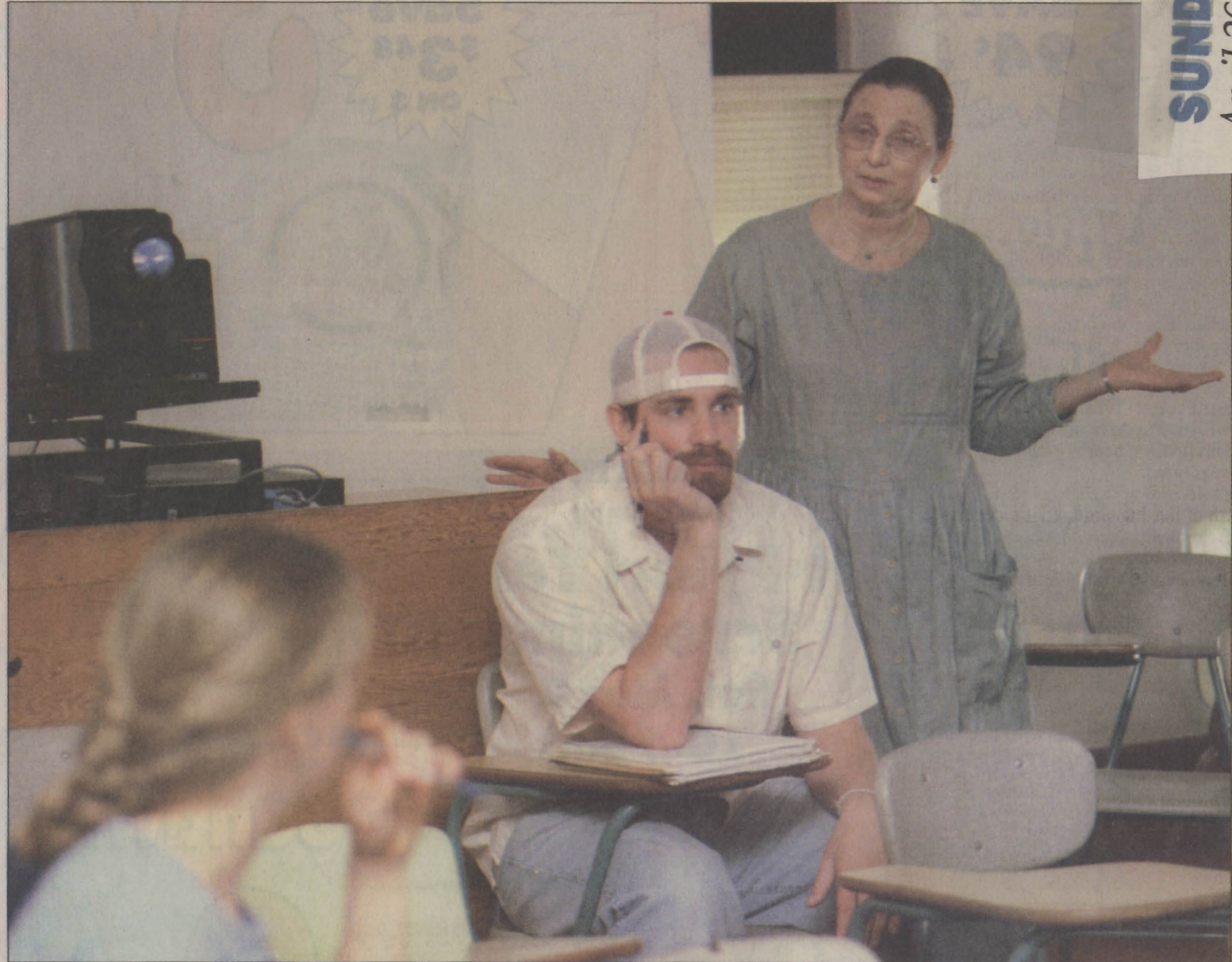
Scott Bryce
CO-DIRECTOR
OF CENTER

"We'll retire at the end of this year, but we'll stay as administrators of the center," Scott Bryce said.

As the Center for Holocaust Education has grown, it has become an integral part of their lives, closer to an obsession than a passion. More than one room of the Bryces' home is devoted to literature, films and other teaching materials about the Holocaust.

The center promotes the teaching of the Holocaust, and helps people develop sensitivity to and understanding of anti-Semitism, racism, sexism, hatred, oppression and genocide.

"Through (the students') discussion and readings, we'd like them to



TIMES PHOTO BY KIMM ANDERSON

Lynn Bryce (right) listened to junior Courtney Hill as senior Matt Stupnik looked on during a class on the Holocaust last week in Riverview Hall at St. Cloud State University. Students

listened to survivors' accounts of the Holocaust. Bryce co-directs the St. Cloud State Center for Holocaust Education with her husband, Scott.

SUNDAY

...that the Holocaust is not just an isolated incident," said Chris Gordon. Gordon is an associate professor of English at St. Cloud State who teaches literature of the Holocaust, a course designed for teachers.

"On the whole, (the students) have very little background knowledge," Gordon said. "My ultimate goal is where they see how the little actions, the little discrimination, can lead up to another Holocaust. Little things like that escalate.

"I also don't want to preach that," Gordon added. "I want to get them to come to that realization."

In 1985, Lynn Bryce began teaching an advanced composition course on research methods on the Holocaust. Scott Bryce began teaching documentaries about the Holocaust soon after. Little by little, the Bryces expanded their outreach efforts about the Holocaust, which students find compelling and horrific at the same time.

Three years ago, the Regis Foundation of Minneapolis saw the value of the Bryces' work and awarded St.

Cloud State a perpetual grant to establish a Center for Holocaust Education.

"They have done a fantastic job of attracting resources to be able to do this job," said Bruce Grube, university president. "Their job now is to institutionalize it so that continuity is guaranteed."

The Bryces, who aren't Jewish, said their interest in the Holocaust has its roots in their upbringing. Natives of Brooklyn, N.Y., they had many Jewish friends during World War II.

"We witnessed the death of 90 percent of the relatives of friends in Europe," Lynn Bryce said. "And it was not being recognized. We were appalled."

Scott Bryce agreed: "The people who went through the Holocaust and lived felt an enormous sense of loss. Hardly a Jewish family in the world was not touched."

While the center's stated mission is to help others learn about the Holocaust, the Bryces agree their

personal goals are more broad-based. "People assume we're pro-Jewish, anti-Palestinian," Scott Bryce said. "We're pro-people."

Lynn Bryce concurred: "We see the Holocaust as interdisciplinary, international and interfaith."

The center provides funding for faculty to carry out research and attend conferences and seminars in the United States and abroad. Educating the teachers of tomorrow about the Holocaust, and how to teach about it, is the basis of the center's mission.

"From the college level comes the next crop of teachers," said Lynn Bryce. "The Holocaust is mandatory education in several states."

Scott Bryce believes mandatory education is necessary in every state.

The center also:

- Provides reassigned time for the administrators of the center to educate faculty and teachers in Holocaust education at St. Cloud State and possibly other regional campuses.

- Contributes to the funding of

major broadcast periodicals, reference books, texts and films for the St. Cloud State library.

- Funds speakers and events for students and faculty (films, art exhibits, panels) during a Holocaust Education Week to be held annually in April at the time of Yom Hashoah and at other appropriate occasions throughout the year.

- Provides a study stipend to faculty committing a course or a portion of a course to Holocaust studies.

- Encourages faculty to develop courses or portions of courses in Holocaust studies. There are eight courses at St. Cloud State devoted at least in part to Holocaust studies, including classes in mass communication, theater, literature, composition, psychology and philosophy.

"I think the teaching of the college courses is going very well," Scott Bryce said.

- Works toward an outreach program assisting high school and community college teachers and community groups in Holocaust education.

CENTER INFORMATION

For more information about the Center for Holocaust Education, call co-directors Lynn or Scott Bryce at 255-4205 or secretary Jenny Rahe at 255-2790. The fax number is 654-5337.

- Works toward creating a minor or program in Holocaust studies.

Of all the center's programs, perhaps the ones with the most impact send faculty and others on Holocaust education trips.

Once a year the center sends a group of interested faculty, staff, administrators, students and high school teachers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Other grant money is available to send faculty and others to the Facing History and Ourselves Summer Institute in Brookline, Mass., to Holocaust sites in Poland, and to Vad Vashem, The International School for Holocaust Studies.