

Donation helps SCSU open center for Holocaust study

Outreach includes lectures

By **Dana Drazenovich**

TIMES STAFF WRITER

St. Cloud has a new resource to ensure this area never forgets the genocide of the European Jewish population during World War II.

St. Cloud State University has established a Center for Holocaust Education, funded by a perpetual grant from the Regis Foundation in Minneapolis. Its primary purpose is to promote teaching of the Holocaust and developing sensitivity and understanding by combating anti-semitism, racism, sexism, hatred, oppression and genocide.

The center will operate within St. Cloud State's College of Fine Arts and Humanities and will have its offices in the Department of Mass Communications. Professors Lynn and Scott Bryce will serve as the center's co-directors. They are assisted by advisory board members Michael Connaughton, Herb Goodrich, Chris Gordon, Susan Motin, Peter Przytula, Linda Radin, Roger Rudolph and Nancy Westin.

The Regis Foundation donated funding for the Center for Holocaust Education to implement goals by encouraging faculty and other area university faculty members to develop courses or portions of courses on Holocaust topics within their own disciplines. In addition, an outreach program will assist area high school and community groups in developing Holocaust awareness and education programs.

As part of its outreach, the center is offering a Spring Lecture Series. The next speech takes place at 7 p.m. April 14 in Atwood Little Theatre. Henry Oertel, a survivor of the Auschwitz-Birkenau con-

centration camp and the death march from Auschwitz to Bergen-Belsen, will give his personal testimony on survival. Oertel lectures internationally on his experiences and their ramifications for current youth, as well as scholars of all ages. He is a retired businessman and lives in St. Paul.

Another lecture is scheduled from 7 p.m. April 29, also in the Little Theatre. Dr. Leon Bass will recount his experiences in liberating Holocaust victims, as well as his experiences regarding racism. Bass is an African-American retired educator from Philadelphia. He lectures throughout the world on what it meant to face the ultimate possibilities of racism at Buchenwald in a segregated U.S. Army unit. Bass' Yom ha-Sho-ah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day, lecture is co-sponsored by St. Cloud State Minority Study program. Yom ha-Sho-ah is observed in many countries throughout the period when the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising took place. The official observance is May 4 this year.

Anyone with questions and suggestions concerning participation, activities or community outreach of the St. Cloud State Center for Holocaust Education can reach it in care of the Department of Mass Communications, 125 Stewart Hall, St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498 or by calling 255-3293.



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