New TV equipment rolling for second campus special

Evelyn No. 2 and all the other new TV filming equipment will be out and rolling January 31 and February 1, as the second "Contact" television special will be filmed on campus. As in the last special, the students will play an essential role of shaping the atmosphere and praying for the president and featured speaker.

Special guest stars Paul Bailey and Johnny Cash will share in conversation and song, along with television regulars Richard and Patti Roberts and the World Action Singers. The Concert Choir will make its second national appearance.

Sets will be assembled on Tuesday and the special will be taped on Wednesday and Thursday nights. As are all ORU specials, it will be directed by Dick Ross and filmed by NBC studio employees.

The special unfolds with a medley of spring songs sung by Richard Roberts and the World Action Singers. Following the opening, President Roberts will introduce Patti as she sings "Back Home," country gospel song from her new album.

President Roberts will then introduce Johnny Cash and his group, the Tennessee Three, who will sing "Hey Porter" or "Daddy Sang Bass." Johnny will introduce his wife June and they will sing the "Lovin' Girl."

Following the duet, President Roberts will introduce the second special guest star, Pearl Bailey, who will sing "Let There Be Peace On Earth." President Roberts will talk to her about her healing and then she will sing her mother's favorite song.

During the middle break, President Roberts will offer to the public his new book, "The Miracle Book." After the break, the film clip of Richard and Patti and the three student groups singing a special arrangement of "He's Everything to Me" will be inserted. Not included in the last special because of a timing difficulty, this segment features "Soul's On Fire" directed by Carlton Pear-son, the male trio "The Morning Sun," and the singing duo of David Stearman and Cindy John-son.

President Roberts and Johnny Cash will then discuss the story behind making Johnny's new movie on the Holy Land and a film clip of the movie will be shown.

Backed by the World Action Singers, Richard will sing "Then Jesus Came" before President Roberts brings his message on "The Miracle of Seed-Fall."

The Concert Choir directed by Tony Catanzariti will join Richard, Patti, and the World Action Singers for the finale, an adaptation of Shiloh's "Be Still My Soul" with new words written by Ralph Carmichael.

"It's hard to know exactly what's going to happen until you actually make it," said Richard. "We try as much as possible not to be bound and to let the song be inspirational. We want to let the Spirit move. As in the dialogue between Johnny Cash and my dad, though they have some idea of what they want to say, they pray that they say what will help people most."

ORU ensemble performs jazz

Set your foot a tapping to the best of the Titan Jazz in a Homecoming concert Friday, Feb. 9. Slated for 8 p.m. in Timko-Barton Hall, the performance will feature guest vocalist Bobby Burton and guest trumpeter R. Scott Snider.

Under the baton of Bill Shielshbrag, the 20-piece ensemble will entertain with a variety of jazz styles, including Latin tunes, rock, the slow ballad, and jazz waltzes. Also on the program are several numbers by well known composer, conductor, composer, and jazz clinician Stan Kenton.

Music of the late 40's and early 50's is the current trend in jazz, creating a renaissance of the Tommy Dorsey and Glen Miller sound.

"This type of music is never out of date," commented Titan Jazz Transperer Doug Sutton, "and it is quite a challenge to jazz groups."

Burton, who guested with the Titan Jazz last year, is principal of Remington Elementary School and performs with "The Natural Brass." Also a local jazz musician, Snider plays in "Marjoreens Hill Society Five" and is employed at North American Rockwell Corp.

ORU ensemble performs jazz

Over 50 works of art by senior art majors Rosemary Rowden, Barry Beene and David Hand will be exhibited February 3-7 in Timko-Barton Hall from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. All works will be for sale.

Seniors show art works

Selected art works of Rosemary Nachtigall Bowden, David Hand, and Barry Beene will be exhibited in Timko-Barton Hall continuously from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. February 3-7.

Friday evening, February 2, a reception is planned in Timko-Barton Hall from 7:30 to 9:30 in honor of these three. A special invitation is extended to students to attend. This exhibit marks the first time that three persons have combined their senior projects into one presentation.

The exhibit will feature a wide variety of subject matter ranging from impressionistic to contemporary work, consisting of ceramics, oil paintings, water colors, sculptures, pencil, pen and ink sketches, photography, acrylics, and macramé (rope work).

Each artist has certain traits or hallmarks that characterize his work. The work of Rosemary Bowden may be characterized as simple, revealing, and symbolic, ranging from clear realism to abstract symbolism. Simplicity of form and line, with the use of bright and subtle colors are characteristic of Barry Beene's work. David Hand's work is best characterized by intepretation and variability with simplistic forms of nature.
Last word on Ms.

F've read at least a dozen stories on the use of Ms. (pronounced "Miz") instead of the traditional Miss or Mrs. These are good-sense arguments on both sides, and women themselves can't seem to get together on the issue.

When the Oracle first began the use of Ms., it drew both praise and disgust. Several Tulra newspaper columnists found our new style amusing; especially, when we referred to Richard and Pat Nixon as "President and Ms. Nixon."

In an attempt the semester to maintain this editor's sanity, the Oracle will risk the ire of women's rights activists and avoid the Ms. We will attempt to do away with any feminine titles by using the woman's first name instead of her husband's.

If the women's lib folks haven't accomplished all of their goals in a male-dominated society, they're at least made us guys aware that a male should be taken for granted—male or female.

I'm ok, you're ok.

Ok?

Youth faires to stay?

If ORU students have their way about the recently abolished youth faires, air fare discounts would be put back into effect. Student response to last week's "Save youth faires" editorial has been overwhelming with over a hundred tear-out letters returned already and others still pouring in.

These letters will be submitted to the Coalition to Reassess Air Discount Fairs in Washington, D.C. where they will be systematically sorted by Congressional District, counted to measure response, and finally forwarded to the proper Congressmen.

National Student Lobby Leaders will then go into action. They will visit the members of the House and Senate Commerce Committees in an effort to get at least one Republican and one Democratic sponsor for necessary legislation for each council. They will work with staffs of the committees, airline representatives, senior citizens and other groups interested in preserving the discount fares.

Over $300 million is spent by students on youth fare tickets annually. Each year over a million youth fare cards are bought by students who believe we are entitled to its benefits until age 22. If the fare is abolished, privileges of the card would be revoked.

For a majority of students here means paying the full adult air fare everytime one flies. Needless to say, few can spare the extra money required to fly without student air fare cards.

Senate moves election earlier

Student senatorial elections will be held early this year. Petitions for all offices will be available in February and completed for election earlier than in the past. Voting is scheduled for March 22, sponsored by the Student Senate. Activities will be under the direction of Peggy Norwood, newly appointed election chairman.

Early elections will enable the incoming senator to become familiar with the Senate structure and work before entering the incumbent senator," according to David Markley, ASB vice-president.

Reader attacks languages

Dearest Editor,

I don't know whom to thank for last Monday's discussion on the modern language requirement. I don't even think she should thank anyone. The occurrence was bad enough in itself.

On the subject of modern lan-
guage, the department manages to be defensive, to say the least. Without being attacked, the blunting (German word) of the nonlanguage students had begun.

At least one on the camp-

wan suspects the need for 4 semesters (for the hard souls) of communications courses, everyone seems to desire a good for Spanish, et cetera. (Latin?)

Too many questions were merely forgotten (no one could sufficiently answer why there could be no proficiency tests in languages not taught at ORU) while the obvious question, as to just why the seminar was held.

Valid points were made, a general education should include a foreign language—4 semesters! (This brings up the age-
old question: "Are 2 years, 4 too many?")

Senator seekers?

This column does not rep-resent the opinion of the Oracle staff, the Student Senate, or the ORU student body as a whole. It is merely one student's view of Scante and how it works.

This week, the writer insisted on a little speech given by Senator president Bush after the meeting proper. He outlined the reason for the speeches to check into student opinions and express faults (such as the possi-
bility of quickening our mail service). He also expressed a desire that senators remember their campaign vows and seek to serve the students, not themselves. If President Bush will continue to put forth such effort and if senators will follow in his trail, perhaps this reporter will have to look back several remarks he has made about the Senate—some-
ting he will gladly do.

Great accomplishments of the week:

The Student Constitution of ORU is now in the process of being revised. If there is a change you would like to see, take place or any suggestions you might have, your class officers, your senators, even I, as writer of this column, are open to your remarks. Constitutional revision meetings are held Tuesday at noon in the Senate Conference Room 206, near the Oracle office in the Student Union.

Proposed class senators. A new idea has come up in the Senate for the election of a fifth class officer, the class sen-

ator, whose role duty would be within the senate, leaving the other officers more free time for their courses. This would be another organization, or just more confusion for the Student Senate?

Elections:

There voting machines (two for the cafeteria and one for the commuter lounge) are being rented at a cost of $90 for the next student elections. Petitions for office will be available February 26 and must be turned in by March 2.

There will be the general speeches, with the possibility of a student policies chap. on March 21.

Ending the column on a sad note, we have President Bush's proposal for "library books?" (Library books, 2-10). There will be posters and articles in the Oracle on the subject, the idea of which is limiting group study only to the librarian, with couples being able to study together on the fourth and singles only on the fifth. Everyone will cooperate.

The Senate liar according to "Sang-yum-wun week."

-Mike McCabe

Letters

N.I. 1600, Sunday, January 26, 1973

DPC.

the ORACLE

volume 8, number 19—January 26, 1973

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Senate Soundings

Books mentioned earlier

It is a point of issue. The use of a foreign language to witness is definitly great, but for the student I would not limit God as to be able to translate any language.

Broader yet shorter may be the key. One required year of a language aterm time apenly to encourage the flavor of an nation. And I will give you a basic knowledge to those who choose a foreign language.

The pify of the evening was the lack of students. I never suspected so many language majors existed, much less were so worthy.

But, as a year long student, I enjoyed the language, the language, the language, and who came to this school and found himself lacking in this school's opinion of a modern language. I can only reflect on a foreign language deficiency in language, and quietly wonder what will happen to the students of Spanish and et cetera (Latin word), and whether a student who wishes to have only 1 year of a foreign language luxury? No, Hussy Yea.

Editor's note: Three more meet-
ings for students and administra-
tion will be held this week. History-Humanities will be explored Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Zephods 101, Friology at 7 p.m. in Zephods 101, and Art and Anthropology at 8:30 in Zephods 102 English requirements will be evaluated. Students are encouraged to attend.

Clubs awarded money

This week's meeting will be awarded to students through a club on the campus. Student-sponsored organizations will be given the opportunity to add to their treasury by reporting activities to Student Senate. Holding a total of $150 in prize money, the CSLOR (clubs and organization) committee will submit its report on February 10.
Abundant Life Group remains mystery to most

by Ksa Irby

Mysteriously, anonymously the Abundant Life Prayer Group functions 24 hours a day, 365 1/4 days a year on campus. Most students are oblivious to its presence. Does it really exist, or is it all a done with mirrors? Does a recording of "Something Good Is Going to Happen to You" pass when one calls? Few people actually know the facts.

Abundant Life Prayer Group was formed in March 1958. Before moving to the Prayer Tower in 1967, it was located in the ORU offices downtown. Cubicles house partners

Now hovering 100 feet above campus, behind strange blue panels with prepholes, the Prayer Group works in frugal but adequate quarters. Small plywood and glass cubicles that overlook the University entrance and the chapel's foundation come from offices for prayer partners. Four direct phone lines connect the Prayer Group to the rest of the world.

Of the 21 prayer partners employed at present, only two are men, one of which is an ORU student who works part time. Several partners worked for the Association before coming to the Prayer Group, although it is not a requirement.

To qualify for a partner position, one must be saved, be Spirit-filled, and have a broad knowledge of the Bible. Church work, such as teaching Sunday School, is helpful but not required. Prospective prayer partners are trained for two weeks by the Prayer Group supervisor. To avoid possible problems, all members work anonymously.

900 calls per day

Abundant Life Prayer Group receives approximately 900 calls every day. Where do so many people hear of it? Abundant Life Daily Telling, the weekly television show, and the Contact special, all advertise the group.

Compassion is a trademark of the prayer partners. They receive approximately 900 calls every day, calls from across the nation and around the world. Each partner goes through 2 weeks of training by the Prayer Group Supervisor. All partners must remain anonymous.

"Calls always pick up after a big mailing and on Sunday after the show." One partner added, "The special really keeps em calling." Word of mouth from friends is also an important source of notoriety.

Ages of callers range from small children who "wants Daddy to come home" after a family argument, to elderly people who, suffering from neglect and loneliness, "just want somebody to talk to."

Evenings from 7 to 11 p.m. are peak hours for the Prayer Group. Six partners work the shift (5-11 p.m.), while five work the daytime (7 a.m.-3 p.m.) and three work the early morning shift (11 p.m.-7 a.m.) Length of calls range from 1 or 2 minutes to 20 hours, although 10-15 minutes or less is an average.

Most calls for healing

Last week a new record of 1,314 calls in one day was set. Why do these people call? "Most calls are for healings, although we do get many calls about marital, personality, and spiritual problems. At present, the majority of calls are from people suffering with the flu. Also disaters such as floods and tornados bring in many calls.

Requests are written down on a call sheet, along with the caller's name and the person in need. These go to a central secretary who types the names and requests on a long, narrow roll of paper. "This list goes to Bro. Roberts each day."

The partner prays with each person over the phone, is requested not to. Also before leaving for the day, partners pray for the requests they have received.

Partners show warmth

The prayer partners, while not explaining the reason from the caller by being overly sentimental, show warmth and compassion that is supernatural.

Do the partners give advice? "No, we give them scripture sometimes, but we don't offer advice. We pray with them."

Do people call again? "Yes, many call back several hours later, or the next day and just tell us that their prayer has been answered. Others call back with a testimony and another prayer request. There are also some who call every day with the same request.

Many saved by phone

Probably not recognized by most as a major outreach of the group are the many people who are saved by telephone. People call and say, "I just saw Bro. Roberts on TV, and I want what he has." Or sometimes the partner senses this need and asks the caller about his salvation.

Do people call and ask to speak to Oral? "Yes, many do. When we explain that his schedule will not allow him to take calls personally, most are really nice and are willing to talk to us."

Personal prayer is another part of the prayer jobs. Each month, an average of 20 people (more in the summer) make the pilgrimage to Tulsa to talk to Oral Roberts. Since he is not always able to talk to them, a session with a prayer partner is arranged.

Toss problems to God

"But isn't it depressing, listening to so many problems? "Depressing isn't exactly the right word. I sometimes get weary if my calls are real heavy. Do some calls stand out more than others? Yes, in a while, one particular call might burden me especially. But I try to give the person all my attention while he is on the phone. We are mere teaching people to turn their problems over to God. We must do it ourselves. After we've prayed, we have to turn it to God and trust Him, in an act of faith.

"It's exciting work. When you answer the phone, you never know if it's someone who wants prayer for his dog or a person with a gun held to his head."

"It's beautiful. The Lord just shows you what to say."
German study trip bound for Berlin

"Erwarten Sie ein Wunder?"
"Expect a Miracle?" The de-scribes, in the vernacular, one of the activities for members of the Berlin '73 Study Trip. Under the direction of Siegfried Heit, professor of modern language, approximately 30 students will take part in the first academic off-campus project for German students at ORU.

Designed to provide students with an opportunity to observe and participate in the German culture, the Berlin trip will be academically primary, but also will include opportunity for Christian witness.

Members of the study group will have the opportunity to study daily life and cultural contrasts of the divided city. Berlin. Focus will be on the Berlin community, with an array of diverse aspects in the political, environmental, and cultural areas, and participants will attend the theater, opera, and symphony. Visits to the universities and other institutions of higher learning are scheduled in both parts of Berlin and students will enroll in intensive language classes.

Weekends will be free to give students time to relax and enjoy the many new and different impressions that will confront them. Also they will have the opportunity to travel or to be involved in active Christian witnessing through Berlin Jesus Movement, Teen Challenge Cen-

Dr. Kenneth McConnell, and the organized local churches. The off-campus experience will give students a broad exposure to German culture and its lifestyle.

 Students interested in becoming a part of the Berlin study trip should talk to Mr. Heit in the Modern Language Department.

Wallace masterminds buildings

Oklahoma architect campus designer

Wallace says he will make towns such as this one, two-weeks of one-on-one with him. He is 70 and happy because it keeps him in contact with the students.

"Of course I don't have to take tours, and they are little short and touristy. But I've always been a great believer in relating to the people when we play to them," said Welk.

"You just can't get it from the tube. You can't find out what people like and dislike if you don't have your appointments to television. We would not be on TV today if we hadn't kept contact with people themselves across the country."

For the novelty of the flame above the prayer tower and the peaceful beauty of the prayer gardens to the laughter and the life in the city, the ORU campus vibrates with an atmosphere uniquely its own. Fascinating to visitors and to those who see it every day, the campus stirs in triges the man who designed most of the buildings.

"Yes, it's certainly a nice feeling to look out over the campus and see how everything works," architect Frank Wallace admitted. "I think it looks real nice." Since 1963 Mr. Wallace has been the university architect. He designed all campus buildings except Shaktarin, Braxton, Trim-

Dress (plain 1-pc.) — $1.25
Sweaters (pair) — $1.50
Costs (plain) — $1.85

Dresses (plain 2-pc.) — $1.39
Pants (pair) — $0.79
Sweaters (plain) — $0.95

Laundered shirts — $2.20 each
Dryclean 6 lbs. for $2.40
Alterations & Repairs

Fast One-Day Service

The representative from Josten's will be on the second floor of the LRC on February 8 to take orders for class rings.

Seniors should also plan on ordering any extra graduation announcements and/or name cords they need.

CAMPUS DAY RING

NEEDED

OWL COUNSELORS

Nicki Cruz, youth evangelist and counselor of his autobiography, "Run Baby Run," and founder of Nicky Cruz Outreach, Inc, has immediate openings for gilt counselors to live and work in a house established by his organization in Raleigh, North Carolina. The house will serve as a temporary home for young girls who have recently found Jesus, enabling these girls to receive Christian counseling side-by-side with Christian living. Several members of Nicky's office staff will also be living at the house helping with counseling.

Immediate openings are available. Call Karen Thompson at 743-4588, ORU.
Jayvees overlooked

One of the most overlooked things on the ORU campus is the junior varsity basketball team, and according to Coach Art Polk, this year’s edition is probably the most exciting ever. "We play the same type of run and gun offense as the varsity," commented Coach Polk. "Because of our great depth, we are able to continue the fast pace." Depth is definitely the strong point of the Titus J.V., especially at the guard spots. Here the Titans have four men who can adequately handle the job.

The most exciting player is sophomore, Mike Austin, 6-4 sophomore; Bill Franklin, 6-3 junior; and Mike Kerby, 5-10 junior; and Mike Lee, 6-3 junior. All could be starting on many college varsity teams. Walk-on Tony Green also plays excellently in clutch situations. The Trailblazers at forward are 6-4 junior Dwayne Robertson, 6-1 sophomore, Carl Vining, 6-3 sophomore, Vince Banks, who is rated among the best around.

At center, the Titans feature 7-0 sophomore Richard Lucas. Lucas had one of his finest performances in the last home game against Northeastern State when he blocked off more than 20 rebounds. Coach Polk emphasized the importance of the junior varsity program at ORU. "Our main task is to augment and help the varsity whenever they need it."

Many of our players lack the experience to play varsity ball, so we try to give them as much playing time as possible. But as I commented before, we play enough because we know they all can get the job done."

So far this season, the J.V.’s have played excellently. They have lost to Tulsa J.V. twice, and just last week they were nipped 75-70 by Crowder Junior College, one of the 10 best Jucos teams around. "Crowder pressed us and held the ball early to keep the score down. We should have beaten them," insisted Polk. The J.V.’s will get their chance for revenge when Crowd visits Mabee Center in February to play the varsity teams against Fairleigh Dickinson.

Attendance has been disappointing at JV games this year. "ORU’s schedule is far too demanding missing by not coming out early and watching us,” reflected Coach Polk. "Our students have been spoiled by last year’s varsity team. They don’t get worked up over games as they used to, they expect too much. Our games are usually close down to the wire; we’re not always assured of a victory. If the students want excitement, the J.V. games have it! “These boys have a lot of pride, they represent the honor of the school just like the varsity. They don’t play for the headlines, they just want a little student backing.”

Tomorrow night, the Jayve’s host Comers Junior College at 7:30 in Mabee Center. Early and root the J.V. to victory. They deserve it.

Titan talk…

by Vickie Morgan

Jayvees overlooked

Crimson Tide rolled to their second team sport championship by capturing first place in last Saturday’s volleyball tournament. Last semester, Crimson Tide dominated the entire tournament and this semester defeated The Family for the volleyball title.

To achieve final victory, the Tide once again rolled over their opponents and squeaked by The Family in the finals. The Tide won the first game 15-10, but lost the second by a 15-5 score. Momentum seemed to be in The Family’s favor as they entered the decisive third and deciding game, but the third leading by Lonnie Spencer, came out fighting and built up a 5-0 lead.

With the score 14-9, Tide’s favor, The Family came back to tie 14-14 as Bob Pettis masterfully set up shots. The tension on the court was intense as each team missed chances to win. The Tide pulled out their 16-14 win as Family’s last shot hit the net.

Third place spot in the nine-team tournament went to Raisin Raiders and fourth to Shaloom. If an all-tournament team was chosen, it would probably include such standouts as Lommie Spencer, Bob Pettis, Aaran Rose, Rich Gottmann, Jack Daniels and David Vaugbn. Each player was an integral part of their respective team’s success.

In the two road games last week the Titans strengthened their season record with two more victories. The ORU cagers now stand 14-2 while they have won their last ten strength games.

Last Friday night the Titans traveled to Los Angeles to meet L.A. State who they defeated 95-86. The leading scorer for the Titans in the contest was Richard Fuqua with 24 points.

Tuesday night the ORU roundballers dominated and then defeated the cagers of Pan American University 87-68. One characteristic of the game was balanced scoring by the Titan starters Al Boswell, 6-5 sophomore, leading the scoring with 17 points followed by 6-7 junior Eddie Woods with 16. David Vaughn, 7-0 sophomore center, ended the night with 14 points, while Richard Fuqua, 6-3 senior, closed with 13 points. Big Greg MacDougall, 6-8 junior forward, contributed 10 points in the contest.

Tomorrow night the Titans will return home to meet Loyola of Los Angeles led by senior Steve Smith. Monday night the Titans meet Lamar University again this game being played on the Mabee Center court. The Titans met and defeated both of these teams last year on their home courts.

After these two home games the team goes back on the road for the last two road games of the regular season. On February 10 the Titans close out the remaining seven games on their home court.

F I G L E T'S F I N D S

a column of real-life humor

Here’s a riddle for you. What’s beautiful, has no sides, and acts like a princess even with a 100-pound Irishman? Kandy Wallis, who gave an enchanting performance as Cinderella last weekend and also doubled as Sleeping Beauty.

Kandy didn’t feel so riddley on Saturday, so east coasters gave her orange juice to drink, and she surely handed them performances. "The show must go on," she said. Last year’s Kandy was pleased as pigspeak with the production.

Children’s Theatre is so enjoyable if you are privileged to sit in themost of the "little people." Before the first act, three small boys in front of me tried to guess my age. Two of them declared 20, but the third piped up. "She looks more like 80 to me!” College can be wearing, but I had no idea it was showing much.

Little Holly sitting next to me wrote me a note just before the play began: "I wish that Cinderella ‘kissed the prince’. (Or I suppose it’s true because otherwise it’s so romantic!) Holly patiently waited for the kiss, but after the third act, the Prince and Cinderella only held hands!"

As I was leaving Mabee Center, an ORU boy surprised me with, "Wasn’t that beautiful! I mean, I was close to tears." Another ORU male stated, "Well, some- day I’ll find my Cinderella!” "That’s funny," I answered. "I was just thinking that some day my heart will be broken."

But Prince, wherever you are, don’t put the up in a pumpkin. An orange Mercedes will do!”

ORU Constitution revamped

Dissatisfied with the rules and procedures on campus, You now have an opportunity to voice your opinion and suggest changes.

Special weekly sessions of the Constitutional Review and Student Handbook committee are meeting Tuesdays at 12 noon in the Sub conference room.

Tuesdays of student-body regulations are on the calendar. All revisions to the constitu- tion and student handbook will be presented to the Board of Regents this spring. Many con- siderations for ORU's graduate-student handbook will be based on our effective self-study pro- gram.

Volunteers are needed to serve as teams for the meetings. Students are urged to involve themselves in the University program. If interested, contact ASB vice-president, David Markley.

The Godspell cast Mrs. H. E. Hefley and Son's Hair Designers and ponytail

* European technique in Razor-cut slaying

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Godspell

AT THE

111 NEW ORU MABEE CENTER

Sunday, March 11th 2:00 P.M. & 8 P.M.
Dr. Ervin travels to Jerusalem; studies at American Institute

by margaret okler

"The updating of my own expertise in the modern spoken Hebrew language is a real identity crisis as a Christian" is how Dr. Howard M. Ervin describes two vital benefits of his 6-month sabbatical leave. Dr. Ervin, Chairman of the Department of Theology, spent his sabbatical studying at the American Institute of Holy Land Studies on Mt. Zion, Jerusalem, Israel. During the summer, he was accompanied by his daughters Debbie and Jodie and Dr. Ray E. Hayden, also a theology professor. Dr. Ervin's wife spent 6 weeks with him in the fall.

Prophet's chamber

Rumor has it that while Dr. Ervin was in Israel, he had a prophet's chamber of his own on Mt. Zion. Confirming this, he says, "I did. In fact, the door to my room came right out on the roof. This really was one of the most important spiritual experiences because when I stood on the roof, I could look directly out into the Old City, that is, toward the city wall, just a few hundred yards from where the crucifixion took place. To my right, not more than a city block away, was the upper room, the Cenacle, where the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples at Pentecost. It was a profound spiritual experience to go out on the roof for my evening devotions in such close geographical proximity to those places so important in the Gospel narrative."

Dr. Ervin pursued his studies in an Iulpan, the language school segment of the American Institute program. Iulpan, an interesting language phenomenon that developed in Israel, has been described as a "pressure cooker" language course. Since Hebrew is the official spoken language, immigrants must learn Hebrew as quickly as possible so they can function within the society and culture. Dr. Ervin found the Iulpan "extremely intense," meeting 5 or 6 days a week, 4 hours a day.

Conversational Hebrew fits into the program here at Oral Roberts University. Theology majors can take modern Hebrew as an introduction to Biblical Hebrew and satisfy the modern language requirement.

Facing identity crisis

This was Dr. Ervin's third pilgrimage to Jerusalem to his greatest spiritual experience as being cumulative. Previously unable to put this experience into words, Dr. Ervin realized this past year that "essentially I was facing a real identity crisis as a Christian. I finally had to ask myself: In light of the Christian presence in Jerusalem, in its diverse Christian traditions that I came in contact with there, and in light of Israel's revival as nation, what does it really mean to me to be a Christian? The urgency of this question was sharpened by the fact that this was a new experience to live in a 'non-Christian culture.' Bound up in this then was the existential awareness of the continuing of the living community of faith that we call the Church, and the need to define my relationship to it." He feels delivered from "that very, very parochial view that the Church is my church or denomination and it is bounded by my experiences."

'The Church is one'

Dr. Ervin now remarks that "the Church is one" precisely that, from the time of the Lord's return. Depending on theological and ecclesiastical traditions, of literal expressions, the Church is one.

Dr. Ervin concludes, "Perhaps the greatest spiritual insight I came to was the need for the healing of this community of faith. If I understand what the Spirit is doing in the present Pentecostal movement, the greatest priority is the healing of the Church. This year I found quite a vital Pentecostal, charismatic revival, happening among many of the churches in the Christian community in Israel."

On a street in the Old City of Jerusalem are Dr. Ervin and his two friends who take a break from his studies to talk to an American friend.

Campus colloquy

The Success Syndrome

by art buchwald

Probably no one will believe me, but you’re just going to have to take my word for it. I met a college student the other day who said this: all he wanted out of life was success and financial security.

He asked me not to use his name because he didn’t want to embarrass his parents, so I called him Hiram.

"Hiram," I asked him, "Why did you decide to take this revolutionary attitude toward success?"

"I don’t know exactly when it happened. I was like most of the rest of the students. I wanted to tear down the school, the society, the establishment. I was just another conformist, and I never questioned why I was doing all the things that were expected of me."

"One day I thought to myself, ‘There’s got to be more to life than getting hit over the head by the cops.’ I looked around me and saw nothing but sleep. Every student was doing his thing because someone else had done his thing, and no one was doing or saying anything new."

"So you decided to drop out of the student movement and become a millionaire?"

"Not at first. But I met this lady. She was really way out. She wore a cashmere sweater, a plaid skirt and she had on shoes and socks—I couldn’t believe anyone would dress like that. But I got to talking to her, and she started making sense."

"She said it wasn’t enough to lock yourself in a building or go to a plaid coffeehouse, a living room that didn’t look like a living room and suddenly feel important. She said it was an emergency.

According to Dr. Ervin, the temple mount now occupied by The Dome of the Rock, the Moslem mosque which stands on the site where Herod’s temple once stood in Jerusalem, Israel. The site is the topic of much discussion among Jews, Christians, and archaeologists.