

Faculty consider requirements for a minor in Judaic studies

By Kara Korshoj
Staff Reporter

More than three months after the creation of a \$4 million Judaic studies center at UNL, arts and sciences faculty members are working on setting requirements to offer a minor in the field.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln alumni Norman and Bernice Harris donated \$3.5 million to the Harris Center, which is based in the College of Arts and Sciences. The remaining \$500,000 in funding was donated by other alumni.

Mike Steinman, academic director for the Norman and Bernice Harris Center, said the center was developed to teach non-Jewish students what all religions had in common and what each faith had contributed to the other.

Steinman said the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee was planning to vote this semester on whether the college would offer a Judaic studies minor.

A possible major in Judaic studies also is being discussed, Steinman said, but this decision is still in the beginning stages.

Two classes from the program now are being offered, including an introduction to Jewish history and a course in Modern Hebrew. By spring, many more courses are expected to be offered.

Classes including the Holocaust, Jews in the

Middle Ages, literature of Judaism and Hebrew heritage will be offered in the spring semester, along with classics department classes about the Torah and Holocaust literature.

Steinman said two dozen faculty members were participating on committees for the program or were teaching courses.

No new faculty members will be hired to teach the additional classes, he said.

Faculty committee members for this program are lining up guest lecturers, film festivals and exhibits. Faculty also take part in the curriculum committee to decide what will be required for a minor or a major in Judaic studies.

The HARRISES said they hoped the center would clear any misconceptions about Judaism and allow students the opportunity to study Jewish history and traditions.

Norman Harris graduated Phi Beta Kappa from UNL in 1941 with a bachelor's degree in political science. Harris has said he thought the Judaic studies center was one of the most important academic developments at UNL.

Steinman said he hoped students who were confused about Judaism would take advantage of the opportunity to learn about it. He said the center could "build bridges between Jewish traditions and other traditions."

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Deepavali joins Halloween celebration

From Staff Reports

A combination of cultures is the goal for the Halloween party Saturday evening, sponsored by the Nebraska University Malaysian Student Association.

Y.C. Goh, NUMSA comedy officer, said the event celebrated Halloween and Deepavali. She said Deepavali festivities marked the beginning of the Indian New Year.

Goh said the Indian holiday was based on the moment in Hindu religion when light was brought back into the world of darkness.

She said the two holidays were being combined for a variety of reasons.

"Deepavali falls somewhere near the same time as Halloween," she said. "There are so

many Malaysians here, we thought they would want to celebrate this event."

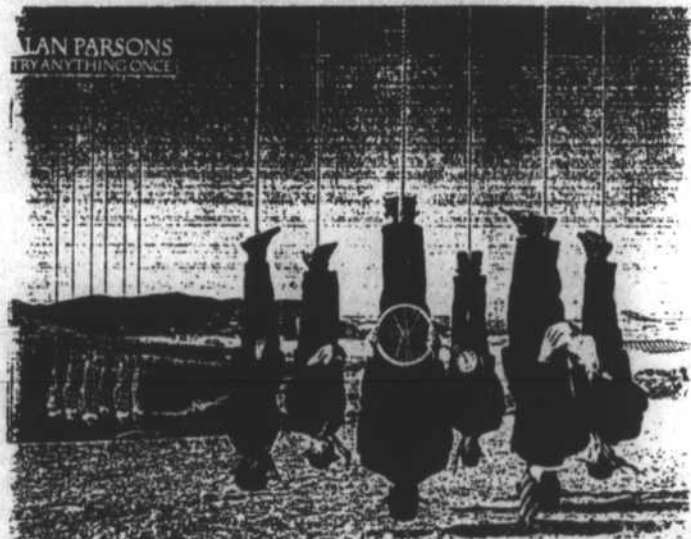
Goh said the Halloween events would take place in the ballroom of the Nebraska Union. She said the celebration would include performers, costume competitions, ghost-story telling and a dance co-organized with the International House.

The Deepavali celebration also will include a fashion show.

Goh said although the event was sponsored by NUMSA, all students were encouraged to attend.

The Deepavali celebration begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Halloween celebration at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$2 and can be purchased by calling 436-8938 or 435-7938.

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