

Students, prof to film documentary for PBS

The group is heading to both the Czech Republic and Poland to tape the piece.

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Jambar Reporter

A YSU history professor said he is taking some of his students on "a once-in-a-lifetime, educational experience" to the Czech Republic and Poland for a tour about the Holocaust, where they will film material for a Public Broadcasting Service documentary.

Dr. Saul Friedman, professor, history, and director of Judaic/Holocaust Studies, will lead students on a tour through Prague and Poland, which he says will emphasize the Holocaust.

Friedman said the bulk of the tour will be through Poland and his students will be filming a documentary for PBS while on the tour.

YSU Media Services is sending its staff videographer and editor, Joel Lewis, on the trip.

Lewis said he will help film the documentary for Friedman. Friedman has made 13 documentaries in the past and received Emmy Awards for five of them.

Students will participate in making the documentary as well. Friedman said all students will be asked to take pictures to contribute. Friedman anticipates 15 to 20 people will attend the tour that runs from May 15 to 28.

He stressed the diversity in age and background of those who will make the trip.

"Most of them are college-age,

See PBS, page 2

PBS, continued from page 1

between the ages of 18 and 26, two of us are in our 60s, and there are two in their 70s," he said. "Most are not Jewish, which is really a good thing. I'm very pleased to see this."

The group is made up of a YSU graduate student, as well as undergraduate students of Friedman's. Students from Bowling Green and West Chester universities will be going on the trip as well.

In addition to the students, Friedman said some of his family members, including his sister and his niece, will be going for more personal reasons. He also said at least one, and perhaps another, Holocaust survivor will be making the trip with them.

Jeff Kenville, senior, history, said, "It will be a very emotional trip. Going over there, we will walk in Auschwitz. That will not be easy emotionally, but it will be an experience I will never have again."

Lisa Colantone, junior, psychology, has been interested in

the Holocaust her whole life. She said she is especially interested in the psychology of it.

Colantone said, "I know the trip will be emotional. I am expecting it. I know it is going to be very intense."

The students will arrive in Prague on May 16. They will visit Terezin before taking a train to Krakow. They will visit several old Nazi Death Camps in Auschwitz, Sobibor and Warsaw.

Friedman said that while the tour does emphasize the Holocaust, it will also feature palaces and churches, landscape and mountains.

"[The purpose is] not to see things that are only Jewish," Friedman said. Another destination on the tour is Lublin, which Friedman said is known for its Jewish folklore and comics.

"It's not going to be the happiest of trips," said Friedman. "I don't think anyone's going to be left

u n t o u c h e d . "

Kenville said, "It's an experience of a lifetime. Not many people will ever have the opportunity to learn this first hand or hear it from a survivor.

"I am sure everyone with us will need a Kleenex or a box of them by the time we get home," he said. Friedman said he only wishes more funds were available for other students who want to make the trip.

"That's the unfortunate thing about an institution like YSU. If we had the kind of money that Harvard or even Ohio State University has, we could do this annually with 40 or 50 people," said Friedman.

"One of the hopes I have is that [the trip] will strengthen the program and show the need for finances," he said.

Friedman, who has been working on the trip for two years, said he is pleased to bring what he describes as "first-rate, very committed students" with him on the trip.