This Day in PSU History: New Course in Witchcraft

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New L.A. Course Available; Lectures Concern Witchcraft

"Perhaps the pictures on the door of Robert Lima, assistant professor of Spanish, are leftover from Halloween. But that does not explain "Dracula" and "Satanism" and "Witchcraft" which sit on his bookshelf.

Winter Term, Lima will lecture on "The Occult in World Literature," a Liberal Arts 198 course. The course, Lima emphasized, is not a "how to do it" in witchcraft. The class will explore the literature of the past few centuries dealing with occult; James' "The Turn of the Screw," Levin's "Rosemary's Baby," and Marlowe's "Dr. Faustus." There also will be slides and films shown during the lectures and Lima hopes to be able to persuade some true witches to come to speak.

Lima emphasized the fact that there are those who are true witches, those who practice witchcraft as a religion, as opposed to those who act as witches for money or fame. Lima said he spent three weeks in England this summer living with witches and studying their ways.

True witches, Lima explained, go through a period of training, and have initiation rites and degrees of rank, much like the Masons or any other group. They are very secretive about their rites and are, therefore, very difficult to study.

Lima is compiling two anthologies, on dealing with occult literature in general, and the other dealing with witchcraft. He said he first became interested in the occult while in school and has been reading books on the subject and studying it ever since. Lima is also the moderator of the newly formed Occult Club on campus, which is comprised of students interested in astrology, ESP, witchcraft and other related subjects.

Lima's course on the occult will be offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday, sixth period. There still are a few openings in the section, which will be available at registration."

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