Session Title: History Master Degree Papers
Session Chair: John L. Rector
Location: Natural Sciences (NS) 103

Presentations

1:00-1:30 p.m., NS 103
Mary Wright
Faculty Sponsor: Kimberly Jensen
Title: The Oregon Military Police and the Multnomah Home Guard: Conflicting Visions for Public Safety during World War I

Abstract: Under the pressure of preparedness for World War I, existing civil structures for public safety were strained by vast changes of military expansion, widespread mob violence and a developing police movement. The circumstances leading to the creation, existence and eventual closure of the Oregon Military Police (1918-1919) clearly demonstrate the ongoing dialogues about the role, responsibility and accountability of professional military units, emerging police forces and the expected roles of state and local militia groups in providing public safety.

1:30-2:00 p.m., NS 103
Greg Garcia
Faculty Sponsor: Kimberly Jensen
Title: Slackers at Home Plate: Baseball and Mobilization in America during the First World War

Abstract: Baseball, also known as “America’s Pastime,” played a unique role in American culture in the outbreak of the First World War. In the spirit of total war, the manufacturing of sports goods was limited in order to make room for the manufacturing of wartime supplies. In addition to this, Secretary of War Newton Baker executed his “work or fight” order which dictated that all males eligible for military service not involved in “essential wartime industries” were to report for military service. Conversely, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States and avid baseball fan, assured Major League Baseball magnates that the war would not disrupt and that they would be allowed to continue their seasons as baseball was “the nation’s game” and a good distraction of the public from the war. From this situation, a paradox ensued where the President of the United States gave his blessing for American baseball to function on the home front, yet legislation and restrictions were in place to prevent it from happening. In order to keep Major League Baseball functioning and to avoid the draft, many Major League Baseball players managed to avoid the draft by taking part in “essential wartime industries.”

2:00-2:30 p.m., NS 103
Martin Jarvis
Faculty Sponsor: David Doellinger
Title: Tito’s War of Words: The Social Consequences of Yugoslavia's Expulsion from the Soviet Bloc, 1948-1950

Abstract: This paper examines the conflict between Tito and Stalin in the Communist Information Bureau, or Cominform, and how that conflict forced Yugoslavia to reevaluate how they had perceived their relationship with the Soviet Union and their position within the larger community of communist parties. This conflict played out in the correspondence exchanged between the two countries’ leaderships and culminated with Yugoslavia's expulsion from the Cominform. The Yugoslav communists saw themselves as part of an expansive international movement in which they played an important part and through which they hoped to develop their own country. This was not how the Soviets viewed Yugoslavia and the other countries in the Eastern Bloc. This fundamental disconnect over the roles each expected the other to play created an opportunity for Yugoslav society to look inward and to reassess how to continue building a socialist state without the internationalist elements that had seemed crucial to success.
Title: Symbols of Socialist Virtue and National Identity: The Politicization of Sports in Ceausescu’s Romania

Abstract: Similar to other Eastern Bloc countries during the Cold War like the Soviet Union and East Germany, the Romanian Communist Party (RCP) used sports to serve integral political functions in their national and foreign policies. Sports administration, programs, and facilities were financed by the state and incorporated into schools, factories, and villages to integrate the population and to encourage the full mental and physical development of the Romanian populace in accordance with Marx-Leninist philosophies on the full development of the mind and body. In addition, the RCP under the leadership of Nicolae Ceausescu used the impressive performances of Romanian athletes at the Olympic Games as a centerpiece to their foreign relations propaganda. Through the periodicals Romania Today and Sports in Romania, this paper demonstrates how Ceausescu and the RCP used foreign relations propaganda about sports in Romania to illustrate the virtuous nature of socialism and to reflect a distinct Romanian national ideology based on independence and ingenuity from foreign influences.

Title: Hemut Kohl’s Monetary Union and its Economic Effects on a Reunified Germany

Abstract: After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the road to German unification was fraught with issues. The West German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, proposed a monetary union as a way to speed up the process of reunification. His decision to institute a currency exchange between the two Germanies would have major consequences for the new reunified Germany.

Title: Edgar Wallace: Dealing with the German Past

Abstract: From 1959 to 1972, German film studios produced thirty-six films based on Edgar Wallace mystery novels for the German market. “Hier spricht Edgar Wallace,” resounded throughout German cinemas at a time, when, with the exception of the equally popular Karl May western serials, they were the only successful German film productions. There are many theories as to why these stories became so popular in 1950s and 60s Germany, from the need for extraterritorial fantasies, to the rise of the young, male moviegoer. Many fault the films for not supplying a post-war catharsis, and by doing so, avoid dealing directly with the Nazi past. However, the films did just that. By dealing with the questions of guilt and innocence in another time, and another place, readers and viewers could question the difference between petty criminals and monstrous killers, and cheer for the often less-than-spotless hero. Wallace films gave young audiences a chance to question, and perhaps ultimately understand, their parents through one of the only safe and non-confrontational means available to humankind—entertainment. By looking at a society through the lens of its popular culture, we can begin to understand the motives and feelings of this ‘lost’ generation of German youths, whose quest for justice would never quite be complete.