

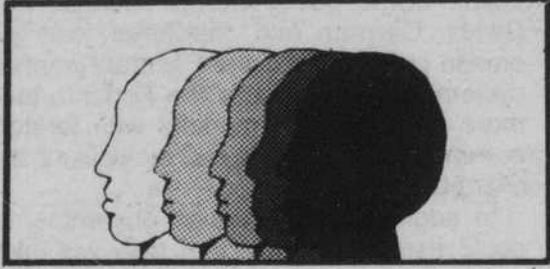
'Pow-wow' highlights activities

Native Americans emphasize culture

By DAGMAR OBEREIGNER
Of the Emerald

"We want to help the Indian student survive in the university environment," says Tony Minthorn, new director of the Native American Student Union.

NASU, an ASUO-funded organization, offers a number of events during the year, including a native art show, symposiums and lectures.



"Our cultural events are designed to enhance the university experience, as well as to enforce Native American culture, studies, values and awareness," says Minthorn.

The "Pow Wow," a spring festival, is the largest event, with people coming in from eastern and southern Oregon and eastern Washington.

This spring's gathering will feature Indian dancing and arts and crafts sales as part of the festivities.

NASU has received \$6,282 in IFC funding this year. About \$2,000 is used for salaries and wages, \$1,225 for administra-



Native American Student Union Director Tony Minthorn

tive expenses, and the rest for NASU programs and projects, including the maintenance of the Longhouse, a building donated to NASU in the early 1970s by the people of Warm Springs reservation near Madras. The Longhouse, which is located at 1606 Columbia St., is used for student activities, meetings and classes.

Minthorn says he is going to try to hold a

symposium on Indian issues every term, adding that a symposium gives more substance to education and provides the community with a better understanding of Native American problems and contemporary issues. He says he wants to get speakers that are familiar with Indian economic developments, such as activist Peter McDonald.

The union has not been politically active, but is supporting environmental and natural resource issues and sends delegates to conferences involving these issues.

"One of our goals is to have Indian students become aware of Indian issues — to become aware and involved," Minthorn says.

The Indian's reverence for the earth and high moral and spiritual values are also still important.

"The Indian has certain values that have allowed him to survive up to these times," Minthorn says. He depended on nature for all his needs, was a part of nature and developed respect for natural things.

An Indian's education has to take into consideration those values, he adds, in order to retain "Indian-ness."

NASU has an active membership of 23, and is interested in attracting new members, but "It's really hard to contact new students, unless they come into our office," says Minthorn of NASU's location in 14A EMU.

"If we establish a stronger program, we can get more participation," he says. "The students will have a purpose for coming here if they know the assistance is here."

NASU will be holding a meeting today at 5 p.m. at the Longhouse, which will be open to all interested persons. Call 686-3723 for more information.

GTFF, University asking for state mediation

Negotiators for the University and the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation have asked a state mediator to assist with contract talks, the University announced Thursday.

Representatives of the union and the University made the decision to request a mediator from the State Employment Relations Board during a bargaining session Tuesday according to W.T. Lemman, chief negotiator for the University.

A mediator who participated in negotiations during April and May this year "helped resolve a lot of

items," Lemman said.

The GTFF which has never had a contract with the University, has been negotiating to get one since October 1977. Union members rejected a contract offer in June and sent the dispute to a fact-finder in August. The union accepted the fact finder's report, but University Pres. William Boyd rejected it, citing a lack of funds to satisfy the union's salary demands.

Following Tuesday negotiations, the GTFF Executive Council decided to hold a strike vote Oct. 19.

University officials said the call for a strike vote may be "routine bargaining strategy" and does not necessarily signal the end of negotiations.

Lemman said the "overall tone" of Tuesday's session was "promising." However, the parties remain divided on the size of a salary increase and workload stan-

dards.

Union and University officials expect bargaining talks to resume sometime next week, the announcement said.

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