

Children learn of heritage in University 3-D program

By DIANE BACHA
Of the Emerald

A political science course isn't the only place to study foreign relations — some students at the University are learning it from children.

Through the 3-D Multi-Cultural Program, children from different ethnic backgrounds come together in an open, non-competitive atmosphere to learn about each other's cultures. In turn, University student volunteers learn about dealing with children and "get to see how kids from other cultural backgrounds relate," says Program Director Jocelyn Jefferson.

"I feel that the best way to integrate culture is through young people having an understanding of cultures," Jefferson explains. And many parents — both from the University and the community — agree with her.

"Parents express interest in having their children mix with children from other cultures ... there is a definite need in the community that, fortunately, parents see and identify."

Jefferson emphasizes culture

by teaching mythology and legend in her weekly classes, where students help organize the program and plan activities.

She enjoys drawing parallels between the heritages of different peoples and plans a trip this month to the Portland Art Museum to encourage children to discover those parallels. In lieu of Black History Week, the children will tour the museum's Cameroon (West African) art exhibit and the exhibit of North American Indian Art, which display traits the two civilizations shared.

Although she emphasizes culture, other activities have predominated in the past, and each year the character of the program adapts to changing needs.

Begun in 1975, by the Black Student Union, the program was designed primarily for the black children of the University community. To deal with what was seen as a feeling of isolation among these children, BSU set up a service to provide for three dimensions of their needs: tutorial, recreational and cultural. Two years later the program expanded to include Indian, Asian and Chicano children and its services remained basically unaltered.

Jefferson tries to provide "whatever is needed" for the chil-

dren with counseling, tutoring or recreational activities. She aims at long-term commitment to the children and an atmosphere that encourages ethnic awareness without a feeling of being "different." Jefferson hopes student volunteers will emerge from the experience with "a clear perspective of the influences of many cultures."

With all this in mind, Jefferson and the students are planning future activities such as Saturday meetings for story-telling, arts and crafts and a trip to the Butler Museum of American Indian Art.

University student volunteers earn credit under a Community Services and Public Affairs SEARCH title, but the program itself is independent and funded by the IFC.

Jefferson wants to encourage "as many children as possible" to participate in the activities. Any interested parent or student can contact her at the office in Suite 1 EMU.

Jefferson is enthusiastic about the possibilities of exposing children to different cultures and heritages and watching them learn.

"When a child figures something out, they just light up so much. That experience makes it all worthwhile."

Sailing Club refused recognition

IFC endorses ESCAPE goals

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ASUO lobbyist Ronnie Friedman was granted a request for extra funding, and ESCAPE saw all its goals approved in Monday IFC hearings.

The Sailing Club, however, was denied funding, and representatives of the People of the Oregon Coast were turned away pending further discussion of the program's practices.

Friedman requested funding for living expenses in Salem to avoid commuting from Eugene.

"I have no qualms about not being paid an exorbitant salary," she said, "but it's important for me to know that I can do my job well."

IFC chair Janet Eggleston said the expenses were normally included in the budget, but that a cut in executive funding had eliminated them. The committee voted 6-0 to "put \$1,155 on reserve for the expenses pending us finding the money" and told Friedman to "go ahead and sign the contracts" for an apartment.

The committee also met with representatives from ESCAPE to discuss the organization's goals and approved them all 5-0. Among the eight goals presented were establishing a "cross-level" communications system, maintaining present information and recruitment programs, developing new field placement opportunities and other services and providing resources and materials for program participants.

In response to a question about the program's funding by the education department, faculty adviser Judith Sanders said the department pays for one-third of her salary, two-thirds of the student leaders' salaries and all of the three GTF salaries.

Despite Sailing Club manager Ernie Bizzell's argument that his organization "is in the same situation as ESCAPE," the committee denied his request for funds, 5-1.

Oregon Daily Emerald

The club was seeking assistance with loan payments for the purchase of boats used in sailing classes for which University students earn physical education credits.

Several committee members agreed the IFC should not subsidize equipment for a physical education course.

The last funding request of the day, the People of the Oregon Coast, ended in an amendment to

delay consideration of the group's goals. The program, affiliated with the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston, involves studies at the institute

Although student director Colleen Burgh said, "We're not making a biased opinion" in the selection process, the committee agreed to delay a vote until absent member Kevin Chambers was present.

IFC BUDGET HEARINGS TODAY'S AGENDA

3:30 Physical Education undergrads
4:00 Forensics
5:00 Oregon
6:00 CSOCEPM
7:00 Action Now

Tomorrow's hearing will include: Interfraternity Council, Political Science Student Union, Panhellenic, THREE-D and Alpha Kappa Psi.

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