

Aztec artist unlocks lost culture through paintings and speeches

Kuiz Lopez Kalkoatl has a story to tell to the Latin people — an ancient story about their culture that he says they don't know about.

This Aztec artist and medicine man will talk about visions, religion and art at 7 pm tonight in the EMU Forum Room.

Kalkoatl, who also considers himself an astronomer, singer and dancer, wants to tell people about the forgotten Aztec culture. One of the ways he is doing this is through his art.

Kalkoatl's works give new meaning to the saying, "a picture is worth a thousand words." Most of his paintings are full of colorful symbols that tell an ancient story. Through his art, he wants to preserve these Aztec ways and symbols and bring them to our time, he says.

In his painting entitled "Memory without time," Kalkoatl has depicted an ancient story about the universe. A blue man with wings signifies the colors of man's spirit. Animal-like men dance to rotate the earth. Kalkoatl says these dances are still performed today, as are some of the other traditions and customs shown in his paintings.

Kalkoatl, a native of Mexico, is visiting Eugene while his paintings are being displayed here. They are being shown at Original Graphics located at 122 E. Broadway. He also opened this year's Imagination Celebration.

Kalkoatl says he is very interested in Native American culture because he believe it is the same as that of the ancient Aztecs.

"We all come from one big continent — we're all Indians," he says.

Kalkoatl says his goal to bring cultures together comes from a tale his grandparents taught him.

"They taught me about the corn. The corn has the four main colors of the four main cultures: black, red, yellow, white," Kalkoatl says. "I hope to bring the cultures together like they are on the corn husk."

As a medicine man, Kalkoatl "works with the energies to heal people." The Sundance, which is an ancient healing ceremony, is where healing with the hands, songs, herbs and prayer takes place, according to Kalkoatl.

Newest council member tested

Eleven weeks after accepting an appointment to Eugene's city council, Joyce Nichols is up for review, forced to defend her position against Debra Ehrman in today's election.

In a recent interview, Ehrman stressed the fact that Nichols is not a true incumbent because she was appointed — not elected — to the council in February, when University professor Mark Lindberg left.

She also said Nichols has been too quiet on the council and may be too conservative to accurately represent Ward 3, which encompasses the University.

"In looking back to Wickes Beal, Jack Delay and Mark Lindberg (past Ward 3 council members), I can proudly say to the voters of Ward 3 that I am

representative of this past liberal tradition and will continue to voice that political view on the Eugene City Council," Ehrman said at the beginning of her campaign.

A past president of the University's Student Bar Association, Ehrman said city councils should get involved more with the state Legislature. She said she would actively lobby for city and University funds.

"The U of O is the number one employer. We need to team up to combine our efforts," said Ehrman, who hopes to garner a large student vote with her pro-University attitude.

She also favors better community input on the council. "I've talked to students and a lot of community neighbors who are frustrated," Ehrman said. "They feel that it's all window-dressing."

Nichols, public affairs manager for Weyerhaeuser Co., has said the council does "a good job of listening," and she complimented the city's relationship to the University.

"There's a role for the city in trying to develop a closer partnership with the University. I think that's happening," Nichols said.

She said she will respond to major concerns of Ward 3 residents, such as boosting downtown business, re-opening the Jefferson Pool and working on a solution to problems suffered by the Hult Center for the Performing Arts.

After acting in community relations positions with the county and at Weyerhaeuser since 1978, Nichols said she has gained a general knowledge of the community and has learned to work with groups to identify problems and their solutions.

"Neither side is probably going to get everything they want" in a conflict, Nichols said.

She said beefing up Eugene's economy is important, as University graduates need a realistic job pool. "If we don't do something we're going to lose a lot of skilled people," Nichols said. "People are going to go where the jobs are."

Correction

The *Emerald's* May 10 story titled "Eugene aids unemployed with youth jobs program" contained several errors.

The jobs are open to all, not just low-income youths as the story indicated, and the ages are from 14 to 22, not 14 to 21.

Those interested should apply to the State Employment Division.

The *Emerald* regrets any inconveniences this may have caused.

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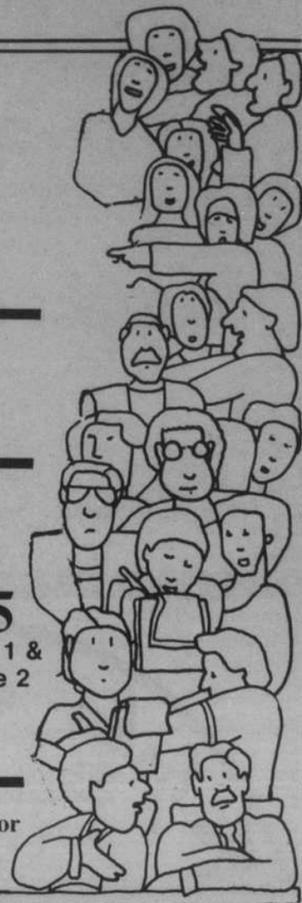
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