

Heritage Week stresses education

By Sarah Kitchen
Of the Emerald

Increasing people's awareness about media stereotypes surrounding Asian and Pacific Americans is one goal of the Asian/Pacific American Student Union eighth annual Heritage Week being held this week.

"I think that to a certain extent there is a lack of understanding on the part of the public about the Asians in general," said Eric Kim of the Minority Education Council.

The media is often guilty of stereotyping Asians into one category and at the same time overlooking their individuality, according to APASU Co-director, Teng Cha.

"Not all Asians are the same. The theme of the week is basically to educate people that just because we are Asians we are being stereotyped as a humble person with a rice hat," Cha said.

Cha sees the fee waiver proposal recently approved by the State Board of Higher Education as an example of stereotyping,

he said.

The fee waiver proposal will give five years of free tuition to minority students who apply and are accepted to the program when entering state colleges and universities next fall.

The Asian community was excluded from this proposal because they are not seen as a minority and because many Asian students graduating from Oregon high schools do go to college, Cha said.

However, the Asian community is composed of many individuals from minority backgrounds, including Vietnamese, Philippines, Chinese, Japanese and Indonesian, he added.

"People have to realize that we come from different cultures, but they put us all in one category," Kim said.

"We shouldn't be put into one pool when we come from such diverse backgrounds," Cha said.

The APASU is different from many of the other cultural unions at the University because the students belonging

to the union are all American citizens. There are approximately 600 Asian Americans at the University.

Heritage Week was initiated in 1978 by then President Carter in order to raise public awareness about the achievements and contributions Asian Americans have made to American society, said Cha Thao, the other APASU co-director.

Events include a presentation by Bryan Hori, a copy editor for The Oregonian. Hori will talk about the media's portrayal of Asians at noon in the EMU Forum Room.

On Wednesday beginning at 9 a.m. there will be an art display in Room 167 EMU.

On Thursday the week's keynote speaker, James Yee, director of the National Asian American Telecommunications Association, will speak in the EMU Gumwood Room at 7 p.m. Following the speech there will be a dance in the EMU Ballroom from 9-12.



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MEETINGS

The College Republicans will meet tonight at 5 in EMU Century Room C.

The Druids meet tonight at 6 in the EMU Forum Room.

Men Against Rape will meet tonight in EMU Century Room F at 7.

The Sierra Club is meeting tonight at the Ida Patterson School, 1510 W. 15th St. Featured will be a potluck, beginning at 7 and a slide show

of a six week trip in Peru at 7:45.

LECTURES

Charles Perrow, sociology professor from Yale University will speak today on "Beyond normal accidents: Toward a Society of Organizations" at 3:30 in the Gerlinger lounge. The presentation is sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Rev. Colin Jones, a black South African Anglican priest is

the guest today of the Campus Interfaith Ministry. There is a reception from 4:30-5:30 and an Episcopal Eucharist from 5:30-7 at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid. At 7:30, he will speak at the Newman Center, 1850 Emerald St.

MISCELLANEOUS

Beth Gaiser, nutrition peer health adviser, will speak at a brown bag workshop today in EMU Century Room A at 12:30 on good nutrition and dietary facts.



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May 19th and 20th

Tuesday, May 19th

4:30-5:30pm Reception, Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid.
5:30-7pm Episcopal Eucharist, Koinonia Center.
7:30pm Rev. Jones will speak on "South Africa: An Uncertain Future" Newman Center, 1850 An Uncertain Future, Newman Center, 1850 Emerald. Reception will follow.

Wednesday, May 20th

2:30-3:30pm A Brown Bag Forum. Rev. Jones will speak on Apartheid. EMU Forum Room.



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