

Cultures merge at powwow

Native Americans show tribal dances

By Colleen Pohlig
Emerald Reporter

Native Americans decked-out in elaborate headdresses, colorful face paint and worn moccasins danced to a steady drumbeat and sacred lyrics of various tribal songs Saturday night.

The packed EMU Ballroom looked like something out of a time warp as Native Americans from all over Oregon joined in the 24th annual powwow to dance and unite with others.

The powwow, put on by the Native American Student Union, was a great success, NASU co-director Geo Ann Baker said.

"It was pretty successful for just a one-night powwow," she said.

NASU also sponsors a two-day powwow every spring.

The "Fall Welcoming Powwow" was to welcome all new and returning University and Lane Community College students, and to recognize NASU members. NASU also organized the powwow to unite with other Native Americans, Baker said.

"The main reason we have the powwow is not to have a show for non-native people, but it helps keep us going to school," Baker said. "A lot of us are from different places, and it's easy to lose touch with who we are. So in order to keep in touch with ourselves, we need to unite with others."

Native Americans danced alongside community members and students in the traditional powwow circle, shaking hands and sharing in the festivities.

The powwow featured many different dances, some reserved



David Jackson performs a "hoop dance," a solo specialty dance at the Native American Student Union powwow.

for the Native Americans and others in which the audience joined in.

The inter-tribal dances resemble dances the Indians used to perform after returning from war.

They feature each dancer's individual style and meaning and often imitate nature to give the dancer strength, Baker said.

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ASUO-backed bill proposes separate affirmative action

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Associate Editor

The ASUO is endorsing a bill that would establish an affirmative action office independent of the University. The proposed bill is in response to the ongoing controversy surrounding the University's affirmative action office.

The affirmative action office is now under the direction of the University administration, which creates a serious conflict of interest when student grievances arise, said Bobby Lee, who is now in his second year as ASUO affirmative action coordinator.

From a student's point of view, Lee said, the affirmative action office has a conflict of interest in that the administration's priority is to avoid legal action when cases of discrimination and harassment arise.

"How can they legitimately advocate for students on the issue of equal opportunity and at the same time be concerned about the liability and the well-being of the University?" Lee asked.

"What we want to do is get the affirmative action office out of the University and have the state pay for affirmative action offices that would be a truly neutral body to do the investigations," he said.

The bill the ASUO is advocating provides what its office believes is the solution to the problem. The bill would establish affirmative action offices for each of the eight colleges and universities under the Oregon State System of Higher Education.

Because these offices would operate under the auspices of the governor's office, they would be free of the conflict of interest inherent in the current system, Lee said.

The role of the affirmative action office has long been the topic of debate and confusion, Lee said.

"In the past, by state law, you have to have an affirmative action office that is directly tied under the (University) president," Lee said. "But there's been a lot of question as to what exactly the affirmative action role is on campus. Do they enforce law or do they just work on compliance? Do they deal with pro-active anti-discrimination types of projects or do they just formulate the affirmative action goals?"

Adding to the controversy is a proposal from University President Myles Brand that the responsibilities of the affirmative action office be divided. Earlier this month, Brand announced that the Office of Affirmative

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Helping

Student and community volunteers worked all day Saturday on improvements to the Whiteaker Community School and the Chicano Affairs Emergency Shelter, raising money for health care in El Salvador.

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Dogged

The Oregon football team can take solace in the fact that its loss to the Washington Huskies did not embarrass it in Seattle on Saturday. But the Ducks did lose more than the game.

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ODE celebrates 20 years of independence

Paper's separation was 'an amiable arrangement'

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Associate Editor

The Oregon Daily Emerald has been published since the turn of the century, but 20 years ago the paper underwent a dramatic change — it became independent from the University.

Until 1971, the Emerald was essentially owned and published by the University and the State Board of Higher Education.

The Emerald's move toward independence was not unique, said state Sen. Grattan Kerans, D-Eugene, 1970-71 Emerald editor.

"Across the country, boards of regents, wealthy alumni and administrators were not happy with what student publications were printing," he said.

Student publications at

that time, the era of the Vietnam War, were very political, and those politics often offended legislators and administrators, said Art Bushnell, vice president of Reuters news agency and 1971-72 Emerald editor.

"The college press didn't always see eye-to-eye with the government," he said. "It would have been easy to make the college press fall victim to those pressures by withholding funding or other means."

Kerans said some student newspapers were seized or closed down by administrations, making freedom of speech for state-controlled newspapers a hot issue.

At the same time, Kerans said the Oregon Legislature was considering legislation that would have allowed schools to crack down on

student publications.

"Legislators didn't like hearing from constituents about what student journalists have written," he said.

Bushnell said that because of these pressures, a number of newspapers began to file articles of incorporation and take other steps to protect themselves.

"All of us wanted to protect the institution of the college newspaper," he said. "We wanted the freedom of not fearing censorship or economic reprisal."

Kerans said when the Emerald began to make plans for its independence from the University, it met with little objection from the administration.

"It was an amiable arrangement between the ad-

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