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University is forum for all, Brand says

By Tim Neff
Emerald Reporter

Military recruiters should be allowed on campus because the University has an obligation to provide a forum for the free expression of ideas, University President Myles Brand said.

He said the EMU Board of Directors' November decision to ban military recruiters for their discriminatory policy against homosexuals conflicts with the University's role as a place for exchanging ideas. That principle was often clouded by arguments about freedom of speech, he added.

"Freedom of speech is a mis-portrayal of the issue," Brand said. "The issue is the principle of what a University stands for as a forum for the free exchange of ideas."

The vetoed ban on recruiters conflicts with the University's role as a tolerant forum of free expression, Brand said.

"The crucial issue is, should a university be a tool for social and political transformation?" he asked. "When put in that light, the answer is, 'No.'"

Brand said the University's role of encouraging the free expression of ideas is threatened once it begins to ban specific groups from campus.

"Once the University becomes a tool for social and political transformation, it loses its special status as a forum for the



Voices of christmas present

Members of Julie Saunders' Jefferson Middle School's choir sing holiday music in the EMU Wednesday as part of the Winter Craft Fair.

Photo by Sean Poston

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In the spirit

Santa Claus even showed up. The Beta Theta Pi fraternity hosted some children of homegene Eugene families for a Christmas celebration. The house treated the youngsters to food and presents during the second consecutive celebration.

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Spinning facts

Glen "Spinner" Jones is different than who he might appear to be. The yellow-mohawked 40-year-old spoke to a group of University students Wednesday about AIDS and his experience with the HIV virus. He urged his listeners to have patience with their sexuality.

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Free at last

Lebanese captors released Terry Anderson Wednesday after nearly seven years of holding him hostage. Anderson, the Associated Press' chief Middle East correspondent, was the last American hostage in Lebanon. He soon visited with his wife and six-year-old daughter, whom he had never previously met.

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Ethnic Studies program provides discourse for diversity

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Associate Editor

It began at the University in the 1960s as part of the changes the civil rights movement brought about.

The Ethnic Studies program continues today as a way to educate students about minorities in the United States, program co-director Edwin Coleman said. It also provides some understanding in a country populated by people like David Duke, he said.

Ethnic Studies is one of the smallest academic programs at the University. But that's not an indication of its importance, said Coleman, who calls such studies crucial in understanding the over-changing population of the United States.

The program is designed to provide a forum for the study of African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Latino Americans. Students can earn a minor in Ethnic Studies, but there are not yet enough courses available to offer it as a major.

"We hope that students get a much wider understanding of the world rather than a Eurocentric view of the world, a better understanding of who they are, where they stand in this larger, complex world," Coleman said. "It's foolhardy to think that in the 1990s that white people don't recognize

University students get chance to learn about non-white world

that the world is changing.

"The number of Asian Americans in this country in the last 10 years has more than quadrupled," Coleman said. "The number of Chicanos, especially on the West Coast, is getting stronger. All over the world by the year 2000, this will be a different place. Unless we recognize the fact that this is a changing world, it's going to be a lot more difficult to survive in the coming years."

Coleman said he hopes the program provides some of the knowledge and skills necessary for people of all colors.

"The program is also about helping people understand that this world we live in is not just a narrow little world that we've always thought was the only place on earth," he said. "There's a much larger world out there and the more we understand the more we'll be able to get along with people. In a shrinking globe, that becomes more and more crucial."

"We stand at the threshold here in the United States of having the largest population of divergent ethnic groups," Coleman said. "We should be teaching the world, but at the same time we raise David Duke's level to be governor. That's the

frightening thing. Are we learning anything? Hopefully those that go through our program will learn something."

Teri Citterman, a white University student earning a minor in the program, said the classes are a way for her see the world from a different perspective.

"I've always been into human rights issues and this lets you see things not quite as white as you normally do," said Citterman, who wants to be a civil rights lobbyist or researcher.

Coleman said the program's focus is more than just understanding the plight of minorities.

"When we talk about ethnicity, we don't always talk about the problems of being black or Native American or Chicano," he said. "Ethnicity is much broader than that. It has to do with who we are totally, what are some of our customs, our celebrations, our rites of passage. All of that has to do with ethnicity ... We study the games, the art, the material culture of people of color and also a variety of ethnic groups."

Ethnic Studies began in the late '60s when several students and faculty members pushed for programs that would focus

on each ethnic group. Due to a lack of faculty and funds, Coleman said, the University opted for a program that would study all ethnic groups rather than separate them like many other colleges and universities across the country did.

There were some colleges and universities that were forced to bow to the pressure and some did it on their own, Coleman said, but many of the programs started primarily because of pressure from students and community members who demanded some relief, some study of people of color.

"In order to quell some of the demands made by people in the '60s, there was a necessity to study people of color," Coleman said, "so that's why a lot of these programs were set up, as sort of an emergency, stop-gap kind of things, to stop the windows from being broken, the sit-ins until some of these demands were met."

"There were just a whole flock of black studies programs, and the unfortunate thing is that many of them didn't have enough money behind them and many of them didn't have much substance," he said. "Within the next five or six years, they started to fail because the heat of the time in history was starting to wane."

In 1986, the program at the

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