

Symposium offers chance to heal

It's about time.

Sunday marked the end of the four-day "Peace and the Planet; Native Wisdom, Native Rights and Mother Earth" symposium held in Eugene. The conference brought together indigenous people from all over the world to find ways to preserve their cultural heritages, values and land bases.

The symposium wasn't limited to just Eugene; it was broadcast over the Costa Rican-based Radio for Peace. Tapes were also made of the various workshops and lectures, which ranged from "Working with Addiction: Spiritual and Cultural Issues" to "Indigenous Economic and Small Business Development" to "Indian Art: A Native American Perspective."

The conference was a key success in several ways.

For one, it provided an opportunity for international indigenous leaders and elders to gather and talk about various strategies necessary to their personal and cultural survival.

What most people don't realize is the degradation of native people, their culture, life and land is not a thing of the past. It continues to happen today. The only way to stop it is to organize against it. It's good to see the indigenous people saying "no more" via vehicles like this symposium.

The conference also accommodated serious bridge-building — and we're not talking steel and cement. The gaps of misunderstanding between various peoples need to be addressed. Red, black, yellow and white races must learn how to live with and respect each other. The conference was a chance for leaders and elders to speak to, and hopefully dispel, a good chunk of the ignorance plaguing much of the "civilized" world.

The only area of weakness with this symposium was the \$195 attendance fee. Unfortunately, many interested people were no doubt priced out of this once-in-a-lifetime event. Considering how much it costs to put on something of this magnitude, however, the cost was a necessary evil. Next time, perhaps the accommodations could be more modest, lowering the cost.

The symposium was a good start in native peoples' walk toward strength and healing. Let the journey begin.

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COMMENTARY POLICY

Commentaries should be between 750 and 1,000 words, legible and signed, and the identification of the writer must be verified upon submission. The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit for grammar, style and length if necessary.

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THE 1992 BAD HOUSEKEEPING AWARD.

LETTERS

Student help

I would like to thank the students involved with presenting a proposal at the EMU Budget Committee hearing recently. The proposal examined alternatives to cutting student and GTF positions at the EMU.

The EMU board had not yet made up its mind, but had been considering cutting student employees as a way to save money. This was apparently the idea of the EMU Associate Director, Frank Geltner, but student officials on the board seemed to agree with him.

A group of students presented an alternative proposal that would examine the large and expensive management structure of the EMU and save student positions.

I greatly appreciate that some students have gone to extraordinary lengths to defend the rights of other students. I encourage other students to help keep the student union for the students. The EMU is the students' building; we pay for the programs and activities in the building, and we should be given first priority.

Tony Mills
Student

Statistics

My letters that propose the martial arts as the solution to rape have collected favorable responses. Arrested with the claim that there was nothing a woman could do about the fear of rape, I reacted. I assigned a solution that not only proposed the end of any practical fear of rape, but proposed the end of any impractical fear of rape.

Rape is a violent crime, which makes it incomparable to sexual harassment. Those sexually harassed should not consider themselves raped. And rape does not stem from harassment. The fraternity ass who considers women to be objects is a world apart from the sick, violent rapist who hurts women because he is afraid of life.

If I would respond to society's problem of rape, I would suggest that frightened men learn to defend themselves from anything that might cause them to be violent.

If women do not fight (because of fear of being injured), the void between sexual harass-

ment and rape is with every assault imaginable. The suggestion that the martial arts are the solution to everything, from someone with my naivete, is, of course, silliness.

In conclusion, rape is not a fact, it is a statistic. Anyone can change a statistic. To end the confusion, fight apathy with apathy. Separate blond jokes, which are usually funny, from rape, which never provides laughter.

Bryan Westby
Student

Shark attack

Thank you for trying, Don Monson. You gave it your best effort and certainly provided all of us with both exciting games and teams through your tenure. Now it's time to move on.

The only question here is, in what direction? As three Duck basketball fans who didn't miss but a handful of games in three years of supporting the teams of the late '80s, we have a suggestion: Jerry Tarkanian.

We look at it this way. Sure we will be on probation from the NCAA tournament within the next three years, if not sooner. However, wouldn't it be better to be a team that is good enough to go to the tournament, but is banned from doing so, than a bad one that wouldn't get invited anyway? Besides, the important thing is not to lose the big bucks from all the TV revenue.

Here's one last visual image to provoke you further. Imagine the endless possibilities of having a duck and a shark for game mascots and on T-shirts and posters. Do your alumni right.

Gerard Berry
Class of '90
San Jose
Aaron Cudek
Class of '90
Reno
Tom Wildeman
Class of '90
Sacramento

Compassion

Numerous deceptions are employed by pro-homosexual folks trying to convince the general population that homosexuality is apple-pie-OK. One of the more insidious deceptions is promoted under the

pretense of "religion" by Clergy and Laity Concerned, a group at the far left fringes of Christianity. They would claim that not welcoming homosexuality as normal and acceptable behavior is "hateful."

They're dead wrong. Genuine compassionate love does not include total acceptance of all behavior. I truly love my sons and daughter. It is precisely because I love them that I do not acquiesce to all they do or wish to do.

The opposite of love is not hate; it's apathy. CALC may complacently "celebrate (sexual) diversity," but I love my children enough to actively strive to ensure that they won't be exposed to homosexuality as a suitable model in schools, government, or general society.

Because I love my kids, I'll do my utmost to steer them away from the influence of a destructive behavior whose practitioners have an average life expectancy of only 42 years.

Homosexuals have grave problems dealing with the crippling physical results of their sexual practices and they need our compassion. However, that compassion definitely doesn't include extending societal approval or sanction to the dysfunctional acts that got them into their situation. Nor does it include passing on to our children the notion of normality of homosexual acts.

Jon Wollander
Eugene

Represents

For all those who think *Playboy* and *Penthouse* should be removed from the University Bookstore because they are offensive, have you taken a look at the windows of the ASU office? Talk about graphic!

What are they promoting down there? Things that concern the student body, or the personal agendas of those who work in that office? One of the posters is particularly offensive and degrading. I can't believe it represents the larger portion of the students or faculty. And it certainly doesn't speak well to parents and other visitors to the University.

Ron Williams
Eugene