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Many interracial couples find that their relationships are often burdened by unacceptance of others.

Interracial couples breaking stereotypes

COUPLES: how they make their relationships work

By Abe Estimada
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Four years ago, Cleo Davis would have laughed if you said that he would be going out with a white woman someday.

"I didn't think that a relationship with a Caucasian woman could be real," said Davis, who is black. "I was pretty much against it. There were racial tensions at that time, and I thought that all white people were the same way."

When he occasionally dated outside of his race, Davis' stereotypes about Caucasians — especially about white women — were reinforced.

"The stereotype was that (white women) will do anything to keep the relationship going. Anything, I said,

they agreed with," he said. "You snap your fingers and tell them to jump, and they'll ask you, 'How high?'" he said.

Then Davis met Mindy Myrick, who is white. After being friends for one year, Davis and Myrick began dating. He and Myrick have been dating for three years now, and Davis' beliefs about whites have definitely changed.

"I've learned to judge people on character," Davis said. "I thought whites had a destructive mentality. Mindy helped me change those ideas."

So much for stereotypes. Despite their color differences, Myrick and Davis — as well as other interracial couples — have helped chip away at the racial stereotypes and societal taboos that prohibit members of different races from dating.

The two also agree that if an interracial couple cannot compromise or if the

relationship is not based on true love, it cannot stand the enormous pressure from family and friends who are sometimes reticent or even opposed to interracial relationships.

Together with Myrick, Davis has broken what is perhaps American society's most potent social taboo — a black man dating a white woman — a taboo that extends its roots to the slave days of U.S. history and white racism's worst fears.

Davis believes that if a couple enters into an interracial relationship for the wrong reasons, chances are it may not last.

"Some white girls go out with blacks for certain experiences. Some do it to rebel against their family," Davis said. "All their lives, their family makes them curious (about black men). Some (white

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NATIONAL

All USSA accounts frozen

FINANCES: investigation finds grounds for mismanagement

By Edward Klopfenstein
Oregon Daily Emerald

The ASUO's finance coordinator decided to freeze all accounts for the United States Student Association Monday after a preliminary investigation found grounds for financial mismanagement.

The University branch of USSA, a national lobbying organization based in Washington, D.C., allegedly overspent several thousand dollars on conventions and several hundred on phone calls while presenting no clear management of those funds, Francis Neo, ASUO finance coordinator, said.

"I'm freezing the USSA account until such a time when the local USSA chapter can provide a general sense of their policies and procedures on funding, selection (of members and conference attendees) and general organizational procedures," Neo said.

USSA Member Kris Cornwell, the USSA's public relations official, was not available for comment Monday, though Cornwell told the *Emerald* the group would issue a statement by Monday. The *Emerald* has received no such statement.

In other news on the USSA, ASUO President Eric Bowen officially resigned from the organization, citing time conflicts with school.

"Any spare time I can find in my schedule I feel I must spend completing my school work and thesis, or I fear I may jeopardize my graduating on time in June," Bowen said in a Feb. 3 memo to USSA. "I believe my responsibilities as a student and as ASUO president must take first priority."

Concerning USSA's account, only about \$2,000 to \$3,000 is left to freeze, meaning that the group has spent nearly \$13,000 of the nearly \$16,000 it received so far this school year.

The group received a \$10,000 budget for this year. The IFC also approved in October a special request for \$5,800.

Asked if withholding such a small amount was a negligible punishment, Neo said it will especially have an effect on the organization's future programs.

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Students and Emerald board discuss coverage

MEETING: Groups hope to improve paper's coverage of minorities

By Julie Swensen
Oregon Daily Emerald

Representatives of University student organizations spoke to the *Oregon Daily Emerald* Board of Directors at a special meeting Monday night in hopes of improving the newspaper's coverage of minorities

on campus after they felt earlier appeals to the newspaper's editor were unsuccessful.

Kevin Washington of the Black Student Union outlined suggestions to the Board, including sensitivity training workshops for employees and actively recruiting underrepresented groups on campus to be staff members. He suggested that the Board sponsor annual

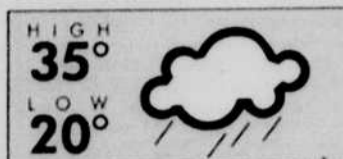
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GOOD MORNING

► University president Myles Brand and athletic director/head football coach Rich Brooks will announce the largest single donation in the history of Oregon athletics this morning.

Brand and Brooks will talk about the significance of this major gift, and the importance of private support in the Athletic Department.

"A gift of this magnitude shows the tremendous confidence Oregon supporters have in the athletic department and the University," Brand said.



► An Explosive Disposal Unit from Eugene arrived on campus Monday responding to a false bomb alarm.

An unnamed professor received a suspicious looking package at the Energy Studies in Buildings laboratory in 102-103 Pacific Hall and contacted the Office of Public Safety at

about 2:00 p.m., said Carey Drayton, director of OPS.

Drayton said the professor believed the envelope was suspicious because there was something round on the inside that appeared about one inch high and three inches in diameter.

The EDU found it necessary to blow up the package to discover its contents. The package contained only a key left to the professor from one of his students who was working on a project at the professor's home, Drayton said.