

UNIVERSITY

Black, African groups discuss experiences

By Daniel West
Oregon Daily Emerald

The African-American Male Support Group and African Student Association joined together to discuss relations, and both groups agreed they wanted to learn more about each other's cultures.

"There was some discontent between some black students and some African students. These African students felt isolated and they approached the Black Student Union with their concerns. The BSU decided to have a discussion," said Kevin Washington, a member of the African-American Male Support Group.

"An Ocean Apart and a World Together" was the title of the discussion where the two groups shared their experiences. One member from each group spoke of their personal experiences.

"As a child, my view of Africa was a big piece of land with black people running around with spears. This was mainly due to the media's poor portrayal of Africa," said Andre Brown, a member of AAMSG. "This caused some hesitation on my part to meet some African students, but when I say that I'm an African-American, I must relate to my African brothers."

African students also spoke of their homelands and their experiences in America, specifically at the University. Saheed Adejumbi, a native Nigerian, talked about his home and accompanied his discussion with slides.

"Everyone has an idea that Africa itself is homogeneous. But Nigeria alone has 250 cultural groups with separate languages, politics and dress," said Adejumbi, a member of African Student Association. "There are big cities with a city-like atmosphere that includes high-rises, modern roadways and various forms of transportation."

After the presentations, most audience members said there needs to be a line of communication between African-Americans and Africans on campus. They said that this was the only way that we could learn about each other's cultures. Other audience members agreed that the study of these cultures was just as important.

"We want this discussion to be the catalyst for more interaction between us. We hope this is a general recognition of our similar situations such as underrepresentation and discrimination. Also, we want to identify what we don't have in common and respect each other for those differences," Washington said.

CORRECTION

A story in the March 4 edition of the *Emerald* incorrectly said a jury will "determine the sentence" of three University of Washington students who were arrested Oct. 31 in Eugene for the alleged sexual abuse of a University student. The three students have only been charged and have not been convicted of any crime.

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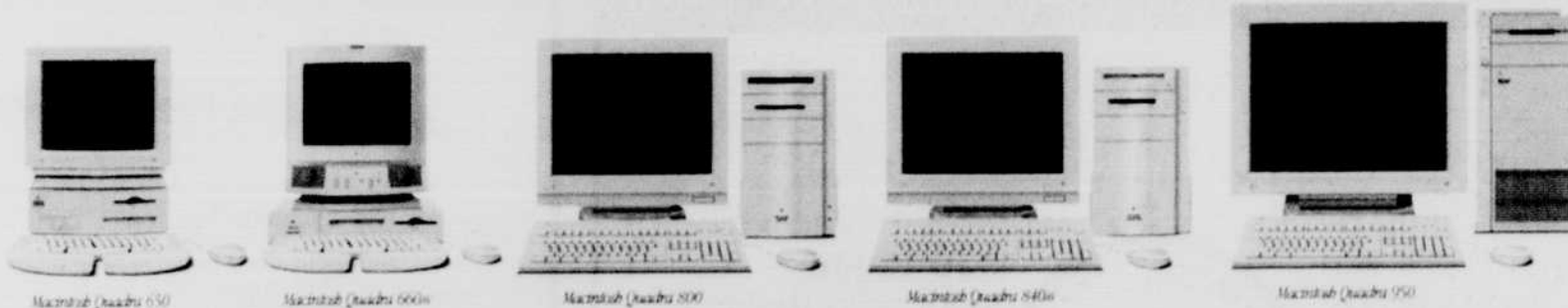
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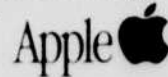


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