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Native American students will raise funds for new longhouse

Tasha Eichenseher
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Native American Student Union has been holding meetings and ceremonies in an old army barracks, which currently has no foundation, one working door and a sagging floor, according to a NASU member, and has been condemned for at least.

The NASU request for a new longhouse was put on the administration's list of building projects 15 years ago, according to Robert Proudfoot, chairman of the longhouse committee and an associate professor of international studies at the University.

"We've needed a new longhouse here for a long time," one member of NASU said.

Now it looks as if NASU may get its wish.

Former University President Myles Brand decided last spring to make funding for the longhouse one of the priorities in the Oregon Campaign, the University's largest fund-raising effort ever, according to David Hubin, executive assistant president of the University and a member of the longhouse committee.

"(The longhouse) came into the focus of the administration under President Brand and has become a clear objective with Frohnmayer," Hubin said. "I'm very optimistic."

Over the next four years, the University hopes to raise \$150 million for a broad range of priority needs, including endowed professorships, student scholarships, academic programs and building projects, said Brodie Remington, vice president for public affairs and development at the University, who has been working on the campaign.

The money will come from private donations made primarily by alumni and corporations. Official fund raising began Oct. 14, 1994.

"The longhouse is a fund-raising priority, but that doesn't mean the money is going to come in," Remington said.

The NASU longhouse is one of 12 possible building projects prioritized in the campaign. Other projects include: an international center, and the renovation and expansion of Gilbert Hall and the law school.

According to Hubin, no other projects were bumped off the campaign priority list to accommodate the building of a new



NASU co-director, Josh Norris, discusses the possibility of getting funding from the University to build a new longhouse.

longhouse.

The campaign is trying to raise \$650,000 for the construction of a longhouse, according to Remington. The longhouse is one of the least expensive priorities. The projects with higher price tags have less of a chance, Remington said.

According to Remington, 95 percent of the dollars given to the campaign is restricted by the donor for a specific purpose.

"We haven't yet received gifts for the long house," Remington said. "I don't think that's a sign of discouragement or lack of success, but just that the time has yet not come."

"I think when people understand that this is an effort that will support communities in this community, they will realize this will benefit the University," Hubin said.

The longhouse is used by NASU, local tribes and tribal organizations and other student unions to hold meetings, social events and even weddings, according to a NASU member.

Proudfoot said, the longhouse, located across the parking lot from the University's Museum of Natural History, is the oldest non-reservation longhouse in the state.

"Literally thousands of people have been through it and used it," Proudfoot said. "I'm very pleased that we're moving along and that we're getting a new longhouse for the state."

The longhouse committee is responsible for coming up with prospects for fund raising, and

once enough money has been donated, the committee will be in charge of the design and development of the longhouse. The committee is comprised of students, faculty and community members.

The laws and bylaws of the new longhouse will be written by NASU, and NASU will have first priority concerning the building's use, a NASU member said. The new longhouse will, however, be open to the general community.

"Certainly NASU will pay a key role in controlling the use of the building," Hubin said.

The blueprints for the longhouse and its new location have not yet been decided on. Proudfoot said he hopes to break ground by next summer.

"We're trying to come up with a longhouse that fits this community. It's a healing thing for this community, everyone has to be involved," a NASU member said.

Native Americans make up 1.15 percent of the student population at the University, according to figures released by the registrar's office. A NASU member says there are over 200 tribes in Oregon, nine of which are currently recognized.

"I believe that NASU recognizes our commitment, on our part, is to see this accomplished as soon as possible," Hubin said. "It's going to come to real tangible stuff. It's not going to slip."

Singapore students sponsor cultural event

Tasha Eichenseher
Oregon Daily Emerald

Asian delicacies, colorful dances and humorous skits will present a glimpse of Singapore culture Saturday night in the EMU Ballroom.

The theme for this year's Singapore Cultural Night is Wah-lau, which means something like, "Oh my, it's cultural night again."

"It should be humorous," said Patrick Wong, public relations officer for the Singapore Student Association, event's sponsor. "Last year's was humorous and got the whole audience laughing."

On the program for the night's show is a song and dance act about all of the laws in Singapore. In Singapore, which is a Southeast Asian country at the tip of the Malay peninsula, acts such as spitting and chewing gum are illegal. The song is entitled "Singapore Fine City."

All of the many ethnic groups which make up Singapore culture will be represented through the night's activities.

"Our focus is on our multiracial culture," Wong said. "For us we have to expose the audience to the different cultures we have."

There will be Indian, Malay and Chinese dances

as well as a Chinese New Year celebration including a traditional lion dance.

"For most tourists, their most common description is that Singapore is a clean, beautiful, green and safe city," Wong said. "We're a booming economy catering to all races."

Another highlight of Singapore Cultural Night is the wide variety of Southeast Asian food.

According to Wong, Singapore Cultural Night has been held once a year since 1983. Nearly 260 people attended the event last year, and he hopes for an equally good turnout this year, he said.

There are approximately 110 students from Singapore at the University this year, Wong said. The number of Singapore students has been declining over the past couple years, he said.

SSA is an independent international organization that offers support for Singapore students at the University and organizes events.

Singapore Cultural Night starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for the public, \$7 for students and can be purchased at the EMU Main Desk Store.

Anyone is welcome to celebrate and learn about the cultural diversity of Singapore.