



Cleven Mmari and Tom Lwebuga perform at International Night, the last night of International Week.

MELODY CONROY/Emerald

Cultures unite at International Night

Celebration: More than 625 people enjoy food, performances at annual event

Amy Columbo

Oregon Daily Emerald

Wilson Nthabu ladled rice pudding on the plates of people who paraded in front of the dessert table and assured them it was tasty.

He had indulged in the sweet Spanish/Mexican dessert sometime between helping cook and being asked to serve food as a line of people started forming in the EMU. Some people waited more than an hour to sample the more than 30 culinary delights prepared by International students.

International Night 1995, sponsored by the International Student Association, was sold out. More than 625 people attended the annual cul-

tural event, which began 33 years ago.

"In this culture night, we are attempting to present a window through which you can witness the rich and diverse cultures International students bring to the University and surrounding community," said Tom Lwebuga, director of ISA.

More than 400 International students participated in the event as cooks, servers and performers. The audience was entertained with 18 performances, including an expression show highlighting different countries.

Nthabu was just one of more than 100 student volunteers who labored to prepare a dish from his homeland. He said he spent more than three hours Sunday afternoon preparing yassa and rice, a spicy, baked chicken dish from Senegal, Africa. Yassa is served traditionally during special

occasions such as weddings and birthdays.

He and his co-chef Douffy Youm made two huge pots of yassa in the EMU kitchen, a cooking environment Nthabu described as "crazy." By the end of the evening the yassa was gone.

"It's so very interesting to eat so many dishes of food from all over the world, to work with so many people on different projects. It's an experience I'll never forget," said Nthabu.

The event drew community members such as Beckie Smolek, who brought her 5-year-old daughter Amy to experience new food and different cultures.

"I grew up in Southern Oregon and I didn't have the opportunity to see other cultures, so I'm really happy to have that for my children," Smolek said.

Initiative filed to counteract assessments on property

Proposal: Intended to offset 1990's Measure 5, it would affect taxes and could hurt higher education

Mara Stine

Oregon Daily Emerald

A new initiative, which could cut property taxes by 15 percent and limit tax increases to 3 percent per year, could translate into fewer dollars for higher education, University President Dave Frohnmayer said.

The proposed initiative, which is not yet on the ballot, is an attempt to counteract high property assessments that have resulted from the 1990 passage of the property tax limiting Ballot Measure 5.

Although Measure 5 was intended to cut property taxes, as a means of generating tax revenue, property was reassessed at higher values, said Bill Sizemore of Oregon Taxpayers United, the group proposing the new initiative.

This summer, the group plans to gather the 97,681 signatures required to put the issue on the November 1996 ballot.

The proposed initiative addresses the inability to pay higher taxes that result from highly assessed property, Sizemore said.

"Just because my house went up in value doesn't mean I have more ability to pay," he said.

If passed, the measure would not be implemented until 1997. According to financial forecasts for 1997, \$2.5 billion in property taxes will be paid, said Jim Scherzinger, legislative revenue officer for the Legislature. A 15 percent property tax cut would equal \$375 million, he said.

Sizemore said one-third to one-half of state property taxes are appropriated to fund education, as opposed to the one-half to three-fourths appropriated before Measure 5 passed.

Measure 5 required a higher number of state income taxes to go to school funding and property taxes to contribute less. Money from the federal government still contributes.

The proposed initiative will not have a major effect on higher education, Sizemore said.

"The Legislature would probably decide to have the savings for the tax payer come out of schools, and the backfill will come out of state General Fund dollars and lottery funds," he said.

Rep. John Schoon, R-Rickreall, who chairs the House committee for state revenue issues, said

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■ GOOD MORNING

► SEATTLE (AP) — Fans paid homage to Kurt Cobain on Saturday, strewing flowers in makeshift arrangements and burning candles in a park next to the house where he killed himself a year ago.

"It's just wonderful to be able to be here and pay my respects on his death day," said Paul Kruger, 14, of Cape Town, South Africa. "We are on holiday in America and I begged my father to bring me here. His music meant so much to me."

Kruger was part of a small group of fans that gathered at Viretta Park to honor Cobain, who was lead singer of the grunge rock group Nirvana.

ASUO candidates: Experience sets us apart

Election: Candidates want to make government more accessible

Natasha Shepard

Oregon Daily Emerald

Jennifer Williamson and Zachary Kelton think experience is what sets their ticket apart from others in the run for the ASUO Executive.

Williamson and Kelton are running as candidates for ASUO president and vice president, respectively, but said they prefer to think of each other not as separate candidates but as a team.

Their platform is based on their commitments to improve

the quality of education, increase student representation in the increase of tuition and cuts to financial aid and to make sure the ASUO is both an accessible and effective team, they said.

They said that they made their decision to run for executive early and after giving the matter a lot of thought.

"We know exactly what we are getting into and that we can do a good job," Williamson said.

Williamson is a junior majoring in political science. She is currently the ASUO Federal Affairs Coordinator, a position

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MATT GARTON/Emerald

Jennifer Williamson and Zachary Kelton are running for office.