

# Campus racism elicits four responses

## Race 122

Who would have thought University-required courses could actually be beneficial to us? I have been taking Writing 122 for the several weeks, but it wasn't until two weeks ago that I felt I had achieved what I was supposed to.

My teacher assigned Richard Rodriguez's essay "The Achievement of Desire." In a class where we are supposed to discuss the important issues, we never discussed the importance of race and multiculturalism.

My class, which consists of two students of color, repeatedly bypassed cultural issues and how they related to education.

In my desperation to have my voice heard over a predominantly white class, I sacrificed one of my essay assignments to discuss something that seemed to have been deemed "unsafe" to talk about. I expected strong opinions from my peers about the topics brought up by my paper. I didn't expect to be attacked personally. I was.

I was told by one of my peer editors that I was "taking the class too personally," and that anyone who feels the way I do "suffers from extreme insecurity."

However, after my paper was evaluated by my professor, he called me into his office to voice my concerns about our selected class-discussion topics. We agreed to allow me to run a class discussion on race and multiculturalism. I ran the class, and it was successful to say the least.

We went back and forth between racial issues and multiculturalism, the desire to discuss it, and the lack of desire to follow through with our thoughts by verbalizing them in class. I learned a lot. And at least half of my classmates commented on or thanked me for "opening their eyes." I just have my teacher to thank. Thanks, Louis, for the opportunity.

Katherine B. Santiago  
Environmental Studies

## Class, not race

Forget racial-social unifying. Eugene and the University community can't even get along with people of the same race who are perceived as different.

Example: The dread-locked dog people on East 13th Avenue were run off. Why? Mostly because they were different.

The 1960s and 70s had hippies; the 90s has mall rats. If the University wants diversity, it needs to start with cultural sensitivity. There is more to racial diversity than a multi-hued student body of multi-millionaires.

J. Sweeney  
Eugene

## Racism no news

Reading that editorial (*ODE*, Oct. 31) and the subsequent question about what we think about race relations on this campus, I was very surprised that the *Emerald* did this.

It seems the editorial is just repeating things that are wrong, things that we have already known are wrong for a long time. It was not new news to us.

Race relations on this campus? They are almost non-existent except within the ethnic student unions.

People mistakenly believe that when you increase the number of students of color on this campus, you also increase diversity. This is not the case. Just because there are a lot of us, doesn't mean the University is doing anything to further diversity. Any time any of our issues come up, we are given the cold shoulder or made to feel as if the University would just rather hush it up so it can save its public-relations ratings. As an Asian/Pacific-American student on this campus do I feel welcome?

- When a professor in a class is making a statement about something that has to do with non-domestic Asian history or society and then turns to me afterward and says, "Isn't that so?" I don't feel welcome.

- When somebody comments on how good my English is, I don't feel welcome.

- When I'm walking down

13th Avenue and I hear somebody mutter "Why don't you go back to where the f\*\*\* you came from!" I don't feel welcome.

- When Asian/Pacific-American Student Union invites the *Emerald* to our big events and no one comes, I don't feel welcome.

- When someone makes slant eyes at me or spits at me as I'm walking around campus, I don't feel welcome.

- When a swastika gets carved into our Student Union bulletin board, I don't feel welcome.

The only thing that kept me from dropping out was that I found APASU; I found a common ground, a community that enabled me to discover who I was and what I wanted to do with my life. And when I finally discovered who I was, I was able to openly find out who others were.

Without the Black Student Union, APASU, Native American Student Union, MEChA, and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the retention rate and so called "diversity and improved racial relations" of this campus, would be drastically reduced.

Jan Harada  
APASU

## All equal

You guys wanted stuff on race relations (*ODE*, Oct. 31), so I thought I'd throw a little bit of info in on Indians. I had to laugh when the coach of the Washington Redskins did not think the term was insulting. 'Redskin' has been used as an epithet since 1699, and still is.

I've never been called that, but one of my friends was in 1992 by a bunch of fraternity boys at Oregon State. People frequently insult Indians — not just names, but often in comments made about our religions, cultures and histories.

All of this comes from ignorance and a lack of respect. All people — any 'race' or ethnic group — are human beings with the same range and depth of intelligence and feelings as anyone else.

Patricia Whereat  
Graduate Linguistics

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