

Many attend conference for Native American youth

■ **EVENT:** More than 200 high school students convened for workshops, dancing and a career fair

By Cindy Long
Higher Education Editor

With topics ranging from "Chiefs, tricksters, warriors and healers: Respecting the gifts of leadership and vision" to "Shaking the money tree and searching for scholarships for Native Americans," the Oregon Indian Education Association had its fourth annual youth conference in the EMU last weekend.

More than 200 Native American high school students from throughout Oregon attended the two-day conference.

This year marks the first time the students have had their own conference, said Tedi Tanewasha, the youth committee chairwoman and board member of the parent group of OIEA.

In the past, students participated in the parent organization's conference.

"The youth decided they wanted to have their own conference," she said. "This is the first conference they have developed independently."

Fritz Miller, a youth planning committee and board member for the parent OIEA organization, said, "Out of the conference itself, it is hopeful the students will

develop a bond with other Native American students in [Oregon] high schools."

In addition to different session topics, the conference included a career fair. Representatives from all of the major universities and some junior colleges on campus attended the conference. Currently, at the University, only 1 percent of the undergraduate student population is Native American.

"It gives students an opportunity to have one-on-one contacts with the colleges," Miller said.

Students attended sessions for most of the day on Saturday and were treated to a pow-wow that night. The pow-wow featured four drums, one from Umitilla, Ore., and dancing.

The dances, which carry a theme, varied from war dances to an owl dance to an honor dance. The honor dance gave tribute to the people who coordinated the conference.

On Sunday, the conference featured several other sessions and came to a close with the election of new student officers for the 1996-97 year.

Elected were: Patrick Smith, president, a sophomore from Klamath Falls; Becky White, vice president, a sophomore from Eugene; Fred Lemary, secretary, a junior from Salem; and Jared Moses, treasurer, a freshman from Warm Springs.

Oregon flood-damaged roads may cause detours over break

■ **ROUTE:** Coast-bound students can call ahead to see if road is closed

By Sherry Rainey
Community Editor

Before you embark on the great road trip to the Oregon Coast during spring break, remember that some highways in Oregon are still closed from mud slides and water damage caused by the floods in February.

The best route to take from Eugene to the Oregon Coast is Highway 126, said Harriet Spitler, operations specialist for the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Highway 20 is fine going from Corvallis to Newport, and traveling south on Highway 101 along the coast is safe, but you will get into trouble near Tillamook, Spitler said.

Highway 101 at Neahkahnie is closed between milepost 39-42 due to continual slide repair from before and after the floods in February. Highway 53 has been set up as a detour route.

Also, Highway 36 off of Highway 99, which goes through Triangle Lake, is closed, Spitler said.

If you are unsure about a road

closure, she said, call ahead to the Oregon State Police and Department of Transportation hotline at (503) 976-7277.

Other highways closed in Oregon as of noon last Thursday include:

- Highway 6 going from Portland to Tillamook at milepost 38-39 to all traffic except emergency vehicles.

- Highway 47 between Mist and Clatskanie. A detour is available.

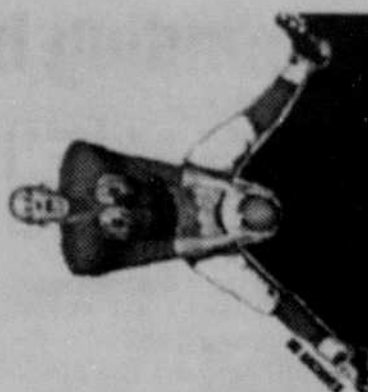
- Highway 224, which goes through Estacada, beyond milepost 26 due to mud slides.

Also, several Forest Service roads are closed in the Siuslaw National Forest due to flood damage.

People traveling these roads will see signs, gates or other barriers to signal that the road is closed to public access.

For example, the road to Marys Peak near Corvallis has been reopened but has only one lane open in places.

Other roads still closed include: road 50, the forest route from Toledo to Waldport, and roads 5200 and 3466, which gives access to Table Mountain near the John Day Fossil Beds.



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