

Opinion uneducated

This is in response to the *Emerald's* editorial on Nov. 12. First, the editorial shows just how uneducated the *Emerald* is. The fact that the paper took the stance makes it obvious that students of color and their cultures are not respected. The editorial also shows that the need for students to have a place of their own is more viable. The editorial is poorly written and poorly researched.

Why do students of color have to outreach? Why can't the uneducated outreach to those who are educated? You at the *Emerald* are the ones who are uneducated and don't know what student of color issues are. You should be taking the first step. People of color have always had to have an open door policy for non-people of color.

Events that ethnic unions put on are not for their own entertainment. These events do educate those who choose to attend the events. I pose the question to you: When is the first or last time, whatever the case may be, that you attended an event put on by an ethnic union? It could be an event put on by the Asian/Pacific-American Student Union, Black Student Union, Native American Student Union, MEChA, Jewish Student Union, International Student Association or the ASUO Multicultural Center.

I propose the question to you: Where were you when NASU had a Pow Wow last weekend? Where were you when BSU had its opening reception for Kwanzaa on Nov. 11? Where were you when MEChA and NASU had their Indigenous Day Celebration? Where were you when MEChA and numerous campus and community members honored the Day of the Dead? I ask you: When is the last time you walked down the hallway where the ethnic unions are? If you did this recently, you would know the unions do work together.

You make reference to division among the unions. But if you were educated, you would know about the Multicultural Center and all students of color as well as those that are not students of color utilizing the MCC. Everyone who comes in the MCC knows it is a safe place to learn and be "at home." It is a place for coalition building and inter-ethnic communication as well as a place to improve race relations.

Perhaps the editorial board should visit the MCC as well as the ethnic unions to learn exactly how wrong it is.

Dee Eason
Co-Director
ASUO Multicultural Center

Unions necessary

As a minority student at the University, I am involved extensively with many ASUO programs. I serve on the board of directors for the ASUO Multicultural Center and on the Programs Finance Council. Last year, I was a director of the Native American Student Union. I have participated in many committees such as the Race Task Force and the Long House Committee. I believe I am eminently qualified to talk about matters on racism at the University.

After reading your editorial regarding racism at the University and the responsibilities of the ethnic student unions toward the rest of the student body, I have to disagree with the argument proposed by the unknown editor. One of the goals of an ethnic student union is to provide a place to feel "at home" with "your own" as proposed by the author. But as to the isolationism of these student groups, I have only a few examples of a counter argument.

At NASU, we produce at least two gatherings of natives, called Pow Wows, every year. The

Spring Pow Wow is traditionally the largest event produced by a student organization in a school year. I personally cannot think of a better example of an outreach event. Last year, we had the Hawaii Club perform traditional Hawaiian dances at the Pow Wow. This year, MEChA and NASU collaborated to have Indigenous Peoples Day on what is traditionally Columbus Day. At all of our functions, we have invited the whole student body, faculty and staff to participate. The Spring Pow Wow was even covered by the *Emerald* last year. If the editorial staff of the *Emerald* does not participate in these events, that is not the fault of NASU or any other ethnic student group.

Secondly, regarding the argument that ethnic groups should be "educating" the rest of the student body, I have serious problems. Perhaps I am strange, but isn't one of the main problems that ethnic students have to deal with in the racism issue the fact that ethnic people have been largely reeducated themselves by what is referred to as "white" society? Why should ethnic people be expected to educate the white people in this light? Isn't this the job of the institution of higher learning we are all attending? The role of the ethnic unions is not to "educate" but to provide a cultural environment where their voices are heard equally.

Thirdly, regarding the issue of the "innumerable student groups," I am not sure what everyone's perception of America is. But my point of view of America is that it is made up of "innumerable ethnic groups." But, as many of us minority group members know, America is controlled by a "white" majority. To many, this is discrimination. To tell one ethnic group it cannot be recognized by the ASUO would be discrimination. All ethnic groups deserve to

be heard, and a student union is the best way to concentrate their energies in that effort.

I stress to the editorial staff of the *Emerald* that they actually come down and visit the ethnic unions. The author of the editorial obviously does not know what the ethnic unions are about, does not know contemporary issues and is severely misinformed as to the history of racism in this country. I suggest the editorial staff becomes informed before writing any other needless articles.

David Lewis
Humanities

MCC needs expansion

Since the ASUO Multicultural Center came into existence two years ago, it has done some incredible things for the University. Its programming has been second to none and inspiring to the entire campus community.

For this reason, it is the feeling of many students who have been associated, used and involved with the MCC that it be expanded and included in the \$4 million renovation of the EMU. The space that exists presently is one of the most comfortable environments at the University. Its design and layout make it one of the few atmospheres in the EMU where people from all walks of life, cultures and backgrounds can enjoy each other's surroundings and ideas.

As it stands now, the MCC is small, quaint and accessible to issues of cultural diversity and education. For that reason, it is becoming more and more evident that the MCC be expanded. Events that would normally be scheduled for the MCC have not been able to take place there because its capacity does not allow for it. On numerous occasions, the MCC had difficulty in hosting some events and meetings in

which there had been an overflow of people. The alternative of using EMU Scheduling to find rooms in the building is difficult because many other groups want the same space at the same time. The MCC is the only place that is specifically set aside for students whose issues deal with cultural diversity.

Finding room for the expanded MCC would be easily done for a couple of reasons. One, the EMU is renovating as mentioned before. Two, the plan is to relocate Footnotes and replace it with the Campus Copy Center. This plan makes little sense because the Campus Copy Center should be in a place that is more central and accessible to everyone on campus. The space would be better used if it were expanded to house the MCC.

The MCC has been able to bring some incredible speakers to campus and the community in the past year. Historian Howard Zinn had approximately 700 people attend his discussion last November. Scholar and activist Angela Davis was the keynote speaker at the Hult Center for the Martin Luther King celebration last January. Also, the MCC has been one of the spearheads in trying to improve the University's commitment to promoting cultural diversity. It has been involved with the creations of an ethnic studies major and of a coalition called Students Against Hate and Discrimination.

At the Weaving New Beginnings reception on Oct. 30, President Dave Frohnmayer said he is proud of the University for the steps it has taken and its commitment to diversity. If that is the case, the University has a sweet opportunity to prove its commitment by creating more room for issues that deal with multiculturalism.

Javier Cervantes
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