

# Video and discussion group explores multi-racial issues

■ **CULTURE:** Many bi-/multi-racial students feel that what is important is not what, but who they are

By Autumn De Poe  
Student Activities Reporter

"Blurring the Lines," a video presentation about the lives of bi-/multi-racial people, and a discussion of the video took place in the Multicultural Center Wednesday night. "Being multi-racial is who I am, but it is not my life," said one student who participated in the discussion.

Feelings from many sides of the spectrum were shared in the video, which was filmed at Willamette University in Salem,

as well as in the discussion called "Crossing Boundaries: Being Bi-/Multi-Racial." Some of the panelists in the video shared their views on what it was like to be bi-/multi-racial and how it affected their daily lives and the lives of their families.

"My mother would tell me to look in the mirror. She said I was white and I looked white, but I was also black," said one Willamette University student in the video. Some bi-/multi-racial people have encountered problems with classmates, co-workers, friends and even members of their own family.

Some may not feel accepted by one or both cultural groups that they belong to. "People need to realize that multi-racial

people are a separate cultural group, and at times cannot identify with just one group," said one student.

The problems that many bi-/multi-racial face deal with the physical and cultural aspects of their heritage. Some may look as if they belong to one race, but really belong to two or many races. Many multi-racial students are frequently asked "What are you?"

The answers can be as troubling as the questions at times. Many would rather be identified as who they are than "what" they are.

Presentations and discussions such as Wednesday's are a way of educating students about some of the ways people can handle and learn from troublesome situa-

tions. The presentations may also help students figure out how to move on and discover new sides of their cultures and heritage.

The presentation and discussion was facilitated by Joy Lum, the staff psychologist of the University Counseling Center and Sho Shigoeka, director of the Women's Center.

Further discussions will take place on Tuesdays in Room 225 of the University Counseling Center from 5 to 6:30 p.m. The discussions are open to the entire campus community and anyone interested is invited to "say what's on your mind." Interested students, staff or faculty may call 346-3227 for more information.

## Campaign: Response to signature cards positive

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The overall response to the signature-gathering was positive, Carlson said.

"The student body is concerned about the right to know, and that is reflected in the number of cards collected," he said.

According to OSPIRG literature, 72,000 synthetic chemicals are in use today in over-the-counter products, and less than 1 percent of the chemicals are named when sold.

"We want to emphasize the seriousness of toxics all around us;

in our food, in the Willamette River and the general bio-accumulation in our bodies," Carlson said.

Lane Community College and Lewis and Clark College are a few of the other Oregon schools collecting signature cards to send to the EPA, Carlson said.

The cards say how consumers should know if products or food contain toxic chemicals or if toxic materials are dumped in the environment or transported through a community or exist in the workplace.

## Park: Nearby Nature hopes to create a nature center

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Yet Joseph Minato, lead instructor for the non-profit group Nearby Nature, said he felt the parking east of Autzen Stadium would satisfy the needs of Amphitheater customers. "If we're living in a society where people can't walk 400 feet further, something is wrong," Minato said.

Minato was just one of 16 Nearby Nature members showing their concern at the meeting.

The group, which sponsors environmental education and restoration programs throughout Eugene and Springfield, has been working with city officials in the hopes of creating a nature center in an already existing structure in the park.

However, the city's plan called for demolishing the facility Nearby Nature wished to rebuild. "We believe in using existing, impacted land," Minato said. "We're very here, we're very now, we're very available, and I don't want to see our plans lost in a \$20 mil-

lion proposal."

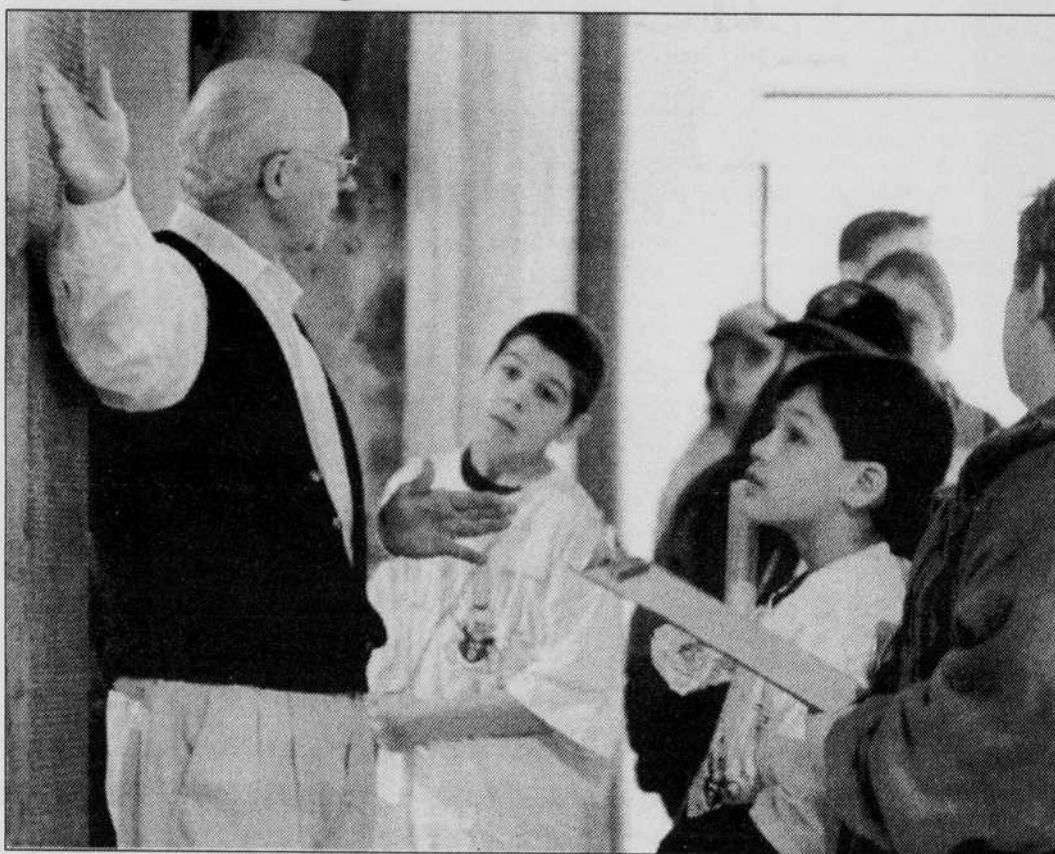
Using citizen feedback, Weber said the proposal will be revised and brought back to the public in March for further review. "We hope to have the plan adapted by spring," Weber said.

The problem with development plans is money. Etter said only the tree garden has received funding, but he is expecting donations to aid in future construction.

A \$100,000 donation was anonymously given to create the tree garden north of Cuthbert Amphitheater.

University landscape architecture students involved in the school's design/build program have been tapped as possible creators of the garden. Stan Jones, assistant professor of landscape architecture, said students could be involved in a large list of future park projects. "It's really a question of timing and funding," Jones said.

## I'm going to college



Fifth-grade students from Patterson Elementary School listen to museum of natural history docent Gary Carter during their "I'm going to college" day visit of the UO campus.

## City: Elmer to focus on Measure 47

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her energies on buying more land for Eugene and working on finding solutions for the long-term financial needs of the city.

A unanimous vote by the Eugene City Council on Jan. 13 confirmed a contract agreement and formally appointed Vicki Elmer as Eugene city manager in a City Council Meeting.

As part of a background check on the candidates, Mayor Jim Torrey, Councilor Tim Laue and

the Eugene city staff traveled to Berkeley, Calif., last December to interview staff officials in Berkeley, Calif. where Elmer was the Public Works director.

The response from Berkeley staff was very favorable, said Laue. They had a difficult time finding people in Berkeley to say anything negative about Elmer, he said.

As part of the hiring process, incoming and outgoing council members participated in the city

manager interviewing process and added input. Incoming council members were not allowed to vote, however.

Inherent to the City Council contract is that the council may fire the city manager with or without reason after an interim six-month period. After this initial period, the council will review the performance and salary of Elmer annually. The city manager is the only position over which the mayor and City Council have employment control.

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