

Pow wow: Youth preserve tradition

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said.

Drummer groups, who travel from pow wow to pow wow during the spring and summer, played a variety of homemade drums and sang in different Native American languages. Red Hawk Canyon and Lightning Creek were among those to perform.

"Not everyone understands all of the words in the songs, but it's so spiritual you really don't need to," said Robert Proudfoot, associate professor of international studies. "These songs transcend language and culture."

University President Dave Frohnmayer, who spoke at Saturday's invocation, thanked Native American University students for the cultural richness they bring to campus. He said he was excited by the Native American Initiative, which would give in-state tuition to those students who are members of Oregon tribes.

ASUO President-elect Geneva Wortman, who is descended from Native Americans, was recognized at the pow wow and given an Honor Dance.

"It's really neat we're going to have a Native American student body president," said Tom Ball, the master of ceremonies. "This is something that doesn't happen every day."

Keeping young people involved in the culture is an integral part of the pow wow tradition.

"It can be a struggle for Native American youth to keep the traditions alive today," said Stephanie DeCouteau, co-organizer of the event. "This is an event we plan for all year."

Vendors selling traditional crafts, including hand-made



Drummers and singers accompanied the dancers during competition on Saturday and Sunday at the 30th annual Spring Pow Wow.

flutes, knives and blankets, said they had been to Eugene for many past pow wows. Ruben Martinez, a Southern Californian vendor on the pow wow circuit, was selling jewelry and furs.

"There are lots of these events during this time of year," he said. "I was at the Denver March Pow

Wow and there were at least 40,000 people there."

Proudfoot said Eugene has an active Native American community. He said seeing young Native Americans carry on ancient traditions makes him happy because he knows the Native American culture will not be lost.

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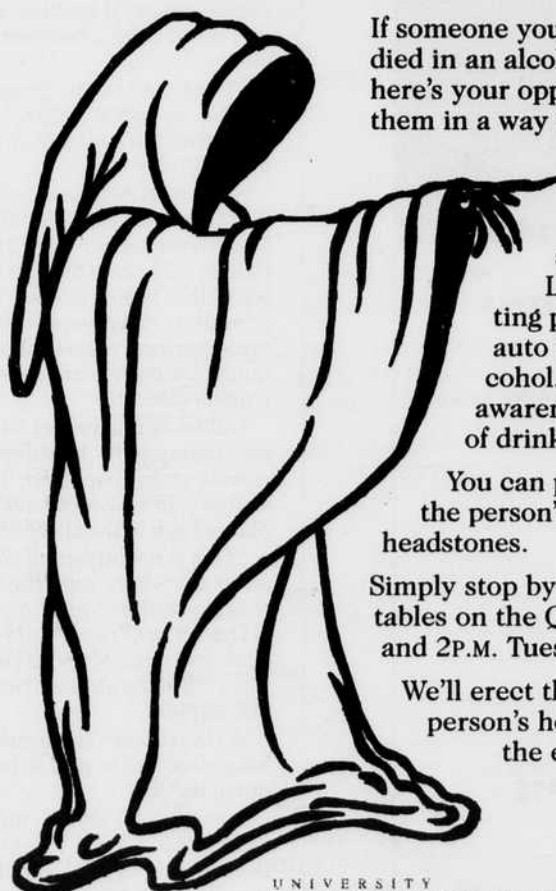
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You can participate by writing the person's name on the headstones.

Simply stop by the information tables on the Quad between 10A.M. and 2P.M. Tuesday through Thursday.

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Want a T-shirt, too?

A limited supply of T-shirts are available for free for the first to register. Call the Peer Health Education room at 346-4456, stop by the Peer Health office, or find us outside the Bookstore on May 18. Registration will also take place on the day of the event between 4:30 and 4:45 P.M. for \$2.



UO Alcohol Awareness Week May 18-22