

Step show will bring African culture to Mac Court

Greek chapters from Oregon, Washington and California will perform

By Erin Snelgrove
Oregon Daily Emerald

Through the use of clapping hands and stomping feet, members of the Black Student Union

will be sharing a part of their culture with the Eugene community on Saturday.

BSU representatives, along with members of several black greek chapters, will be performing in the step show, "Bringing You One Step Closer to Our Heritage." The event will take place at McArthur

Court from 2 to 6 p.m. Tickets are available at the EMU ticket office for \$7 or at the door for \$10. High school students pay only \$5 in advance or at the door.

"Stepping originated in South Africa, and it was meant as a right of passage for boys traveling to manhood," said Ronnie Seawood, the outreach coordinator for the BSU and a member of Alpha Theta Alpha.

Greek chapters from Washington, Oregon and California, along with local high school students, will be competing for a trophy at the event. Additional entertainment will be provided by a hip hop group from Portland and the rap performance of Big Al, a performer from MTV's talent compe-

tition, "The Cut."

Patrick McFall, a graduate advisor for Phi Beta Sigma, said the entertainers have both an informative and enlightening purpose. Their primary goal is to make people more aware of the existence of black sororities and fraternities.

"The black greek system is very different than the traditional greek system, and we want people to understand that," McFall said. "We have different philosophies."

McFall also said the performance is a tactic to recruit graduating black high school students to the University.

"We want the students to know about the existence of the BSU and black greek organizations on this

campus," McFall said. "We want them to realize that they don't have to be athletes to be student leaders."

BSU member Mike Dixon said he is disappointed with the level of ignorance many people have about the African American community. He said he hopes the step show will help change people's perceptions about his heritage.

"We want to educate people on this campus about African American culture, where it comes from, where it originated, where they took it, how they reformed it and how they are using it today," Dixon said. "It's entertainment, but the entertainment is there to bring you to the arena to learn about my culture."

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News Briefs

Judge combines Dixon charges into one trial

A Lane County judge granted ASUO Student Senator Michael Dixon's request on Thursday to combine the charges of the theft and burglary at the Bean Complex with the theft of long-distance services into one trial on May 3.

Dixon, 19, will enter his plea regarding the Bean Complex case at the trial. Dixon is charged with stealing University property valued at more than \$5,000. The property included: computers, camcorders, a television, a video cassette recorder, cleaning equipment and other items, according to court documents.

Dixon has pleaded not guilty for the theft of long distance services. He is charged with one count of theft in the second de-

gree for using a University long-distance account to make unauthorized phone calls valued at \$50 or more between Aug. 1, 1998 and Feb. 24, 1999.

In the Bean Complex case, the other four defendants pleaded guilty to various charges. They will be sentenced on various days.

Dixon is the Student Senator for the business seat No. 17.

Grievance against OSPIRG is denied

Student activist Scott Austin filed a grievance Thursday against OSPIRG's campaigning techniques.

The group posted several sandwich boards urging students to vote in favor of using student fees to fund OSPIRG. Austin, an Honesty Campaign member, which

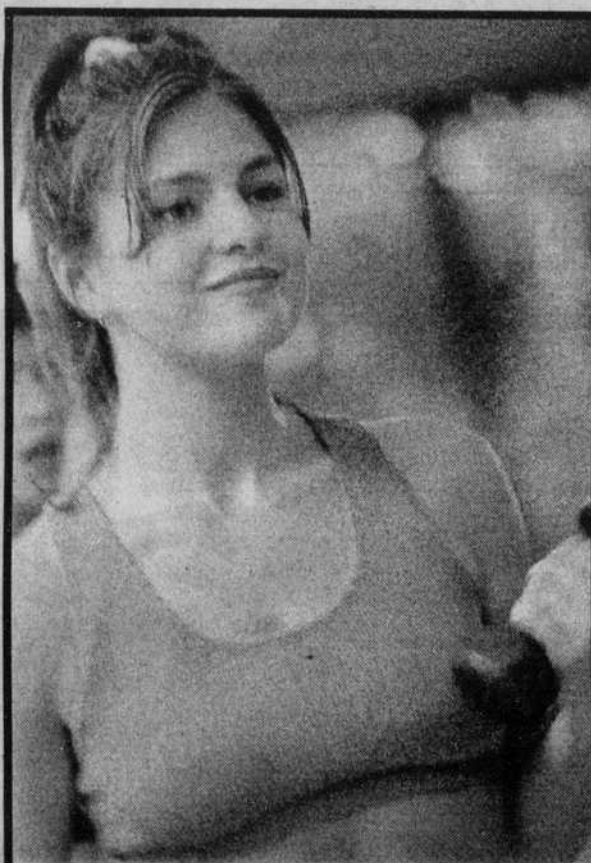
worked to remove OSPIRG's student funding last year, said these boards violate the rules established by University scheduling regarding publicity. He felt that the presence of the boards would influence the outcome of the elections, and he asked to have OSPIRG removed from the ballot.

The ASUO Elections Board denied Austin's grievance but forced OSPIRG to remove the sandwich boards.

"Essentially, we are here to enforce the rules, and that is what we did," said Elections Coordinator Taylor Sturges.

The rule dictates that sandwich boards may only be placed where permission is granted. OSPIRG did not have permission from University Scheduling.

OSPIRG was not available for comment.



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