

VSA will hold cultural night

Students say the event will teach about Vietnamese culture

By Edward Yuen
Oregon Daily Emerald

Students from the Vietnamese Student Association will present "Tradition and Culture in the New Millennium," a cultural night this Saturday in the EMU Ballroom.

Audiences will be able to understand and learn more about this Asian culture through a presentation of cuisine and a series of performances.

"The main purpose [of the Vietnamese culture night] is to promote and make people aware of the Vietnamese culture," VSA co-director Jason Chinn said.

In addition, some VSA students consider the cultural night as a way to celebrate the new millennium.

"We hope to continue the tradition of holding an exciting and entertaining cultural show into the new millennium," said Dean Van, another VSA co-director.

In order to present both the traditional and modern Vietnamese culture, Chinn said one of the performances is a skit that is

adapted from a Vietnamese folk story called "Little Finger of the Water Melon Patch." Students will also perform in a fashion show and dress in the traditional Vietnamese wedding clothing.

Participants will be served Vietnamese cuisine during the event and will have a chance to watch students perform dances and skits that represent Vietnamese culture.

People who don't know much about the Vietnamese culture, the traditions and the way of life that has been passed on," said Phuc Nguyen, a freshman undeclared major. "We live in [the American] culture, but we also know about our own. We also have the tradition of our own."

However, most students from the VSA have difficulties understanding the traditional Vietnamese culture when they prepare the performances because they were born in the United States, Chinn said.

But some of the people who were born overseas and have come here still practice the traditions, and they still have the knowledge," Chinn said. "A lot of these people are key in help-

Culture Event

What: Tradition and Culture in the New Millennium, Vietnamese culture night

When: 6 p.m., Saturday

Where: EMU Ballroom

Contact Vietnamese Student Association at 346-0664 or e-mail vsa@gladstone.uoregon.edu for more information.

SOURCE: Vietnamese Student Association

ing out organize" the performances.

In addition, students from the VSA also rely on their parents, most of whom were born and raised in Vietnam, to fill in the gap about Vietnamese culture and tradition, said Mon Ha, a senior business major. She said although some Vietnamese culture is similar to that of Chinese, there are variations between them.

"I don't think a lot of people on campus really know about the Vietnamese culture because there are so many Asian countries, their traditions, in a way, overlapped. ... They are really close but they still have differences," Chinn said.

Election

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son said, "This decision is an embarrassment on the part of the elections board. ... We are in this race more than ever. We are here to fight for students, not make a mockery of the elections process. This is far from over."

Although Gabbe admitted he and Larson did pay the money for refreshments and had campaign posters and buttons at the coffee hour, he said he believed strongly that he and Larson hadn't actually broken the rule. He said they only spoke about their campaign then urged people to look at everyone's platform and vote.

"We never said, 'Vote for us.' We just said who we are and told people to get out to vote," Gabbe said. "We saw it as a really good forum to do that."

Elections coordinator Ken Best said the elections board clearly agreed with Greenough.

"It is undisputed that they paid for the food and ... there was C.J. and Peter posters and propaganda for people to take," Best said. "It was promoting their campaign."

The board discussed a variety of punishments, including a fine

or limiting how much campaigning they could do. Best said removing them from the ballot was the only action that matched the severity of Gabbe and Larson's actions.

Those reprimands don't "really do anything to deter people from breaking the rules," Best said. "Others could be free to do it too knowing they'd just have to pay a fine. It was obviously worth it to [Gabbe and Larson] to pay money for their campaign at the coffee hour."

He added that board members worried Gabbe and Larson might try to find ways around campaigning restrictions.

The board did have the option to keep them from running a write-in campaign as well but didn't want to inadvertently take voting power away from the students in the process.

"We can't totally ignore the student voice," elections board member Bennett Lacy said. "If all these students say, 'We want them,' we shouldn't say no."

Gabbe and Larson will appeal the decision to the ASUO Constitution Court. If necessary, they also have the right to appeal directly to University President Dave Frohnmayer.

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