

Wise

continued from page 1

has been speaking out on issues dealing with racial, class and other forms of discrimination. He has lectured since 1994, and recently founded a group called the Association for White Anti-Racist Education, which educates white Americans about their stake in the ongoing institutional racism in the country. It was this theme that Wise focused on the most.

Beginning by stating what he was not going to talk about — diversity — Wise made it clear that his focus instead was on equity.

"It's not about holding hands," Wise said. "It is about first and foremost understanding the institutional and structural barriers that prevent diversity."

According to Wise, in order to make sure diversity is followed by racial, social and gender equality, people must first recognize that racism and other forms of discrimination are systems that have been established within Ameri-

can society and are perpetrated by those in power.

Audience member Crystal Middlestadt, a sophomore majoring in sociology and women's studies, said she saw this message as one of the main themes in Wise's speech.

"I thought he made a really good point about the members of dominant groups in society not realizing their role in the oppression of others," she said.

Diversity may exist in American society, Wise said, but all the constituent parts may not be on the same level. "Institutions are more diverse than ever before, but yet we certainly do not have a system of equity," he said.

Equity is the idea that diversity not only should exist, but all diverse parts of the society should be on equal footing.

"If the word diversity is separated from the word equity, it becomes meaningless," he said.

Just as working environments are diverse yet can be without equity, the school system is in much the same boat. Children of differ-

ent colors may be learning together, but they are placed on different paths based on preconceived notions, he said.

"It's about taking responsibility now, about undoing what has been done," he said.

Taking responsibility means looking at the system and breaking it down. Mary Hudzikiewicz worked with the ASUO to bring Wise to Eugene and is an advisor to the senior honor society, the Friars. She said she felt that Wise made a good point about the need to take a look at what is going on and doing something about it.

"It's something that you have to internalize; it's not just something you can say," she said.

Wise tied in issues about economic and gender inequalities along with his speech on institutional racism. "It is in our best interest to stand up against racism," Wise said. "You need to start standing up now."

Wise will be holding a town hall panel discussion tonight at 7 p.m. in the Ben Linder Room of the EMU.

Insurance

continued from page 1

University Health Center. "The fact is they are much more at risk for not having it than having it."

"The goal is not only to have health insurance available, but affordable as well," OUS spokesman Bob Bruce said.

Elizabeth Dickenson, OUS risk manager, said that some students have expressed concern about the proposal because they already have insurance. By including everyone in the same plan, however, the coverage is cheaper, Dickenson said.

"The plan is to have everyone under the same basic plan," she said. "Even if you have another carrier ... this is better coverage at a lower cost."

The proposed coverage also works with other insurance carriers that students may have. For example, it can be used to satisfy a deductible, Dickenson said.

Unlike many other insurance plans, OUS's recommended plan does not include a HMO — health maintenance organization — that limits who a student can receive treatment from.

"Students have a right to choose where they go," Dickenson said.

Dickenson also said that it's important to distinguish the basic and extended coverage plans.

"We're not requiring that students have the extended plan," Dickenson said.

Because of its lower cost, the proposed plan particularly benefits students who are single parents or working part-time, Bruce said.

The proposal calls for year-round health coverage that also supports out-of-state students.

Historically, Portland State University has been the only OUS campus to require students to be insured. The other campuses have traditionally had voluntary plans, Bruce said.

Changes in health care costs, however, have discouraged students from participating in the voluntary programs. Thus, a smaller risk pool forces insurance carriers to raise the price of premium care, Bruce said.

The OUS proposal deliberately mandates that all students must participate in the basic plan, which creates a risk pool of 60,000 students and decreases the premium costs, Bruce said.

Assuming the plan is approved Friday, the task force's next job will be to explore an implementation plan, Dickenson said. This in-

cludes locating potential insurance carriers and seeking bids this summer. It is the group's intention to have a contract signed and the plan in place by September.

Before the OUS plan can be installed, the state's three largest universities must first resolve contracts with insurance carriers.

Dickenson estimates that the mandatory insurance policy would be implemented in fall 2001 on this campus and at Oregon State University and PSU. It would go into effect at Oregon Institute of Technology, Eastern Oregon, Southern Oregon, and Western Oregon universities this fall.

New Study Comparing MS Treatments

Two multiple sclerosis treatment therapies, used by thousands of patients, will be compared for the first time in a head-to-head trial that is endorsed by the National MS Society (www.nmss.org).

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