

Columbus no hero to many

■ The Native American community puts forth its view that the explorer was the leader of a "holocaust"

By Anna Seeley
For the Emerald

Christopher Columbus has traditionally been cast as a hero in American history. He has a national holiday dedicated to his memory and accomplishments.

But today, the Native American Student Union and Native American community are sponsoring the Anti-Columbus Awareness Day to present their message that Columbus is not the hero that history has traditionally presented him to be.

"We want people to understand that Columbus isn't an American hero. It is time to take a stand and get the message out that what happened to us was indeed a holocaust," said Zelda Harow, co-director for the NASU.

The main goal with the event is to raise awareness of issues that are still affecting Native Americans today, as well as present to the public their version of what Columbus did to the Native Americans.

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Co-director
NASU

Cindy Solberg, a kindergarten teacher at Awbrey Park Elementary School, said she doesn't necessarily teach that Columbus was a hero,

but rather, was a famous explorer who faced extreme obstacles in discovering America. She teaches her students why American history honors him on Columbus Day, and what the word "explorer" is and how it contributes to our history.

"The books I use to teach the subject say the Native [Americans] were friendly to him," Solberg said. "I would assume the children got the impression he was a good man."

NASU representatives said they feel Americans celebrate Columbus Day with blinders on, assuming Columbus was a good man. Annelia Norris, a member of NASU, said it is a slap in the face that the government still celebrates this day. She said she feels it is an insult to Native Americans.

"This event [the Anti-Columbus Awareness Day] gives us the feeling that we do have a voice," Norris said. "We want to set an example for future generations to keep fighting and not let our culture die."

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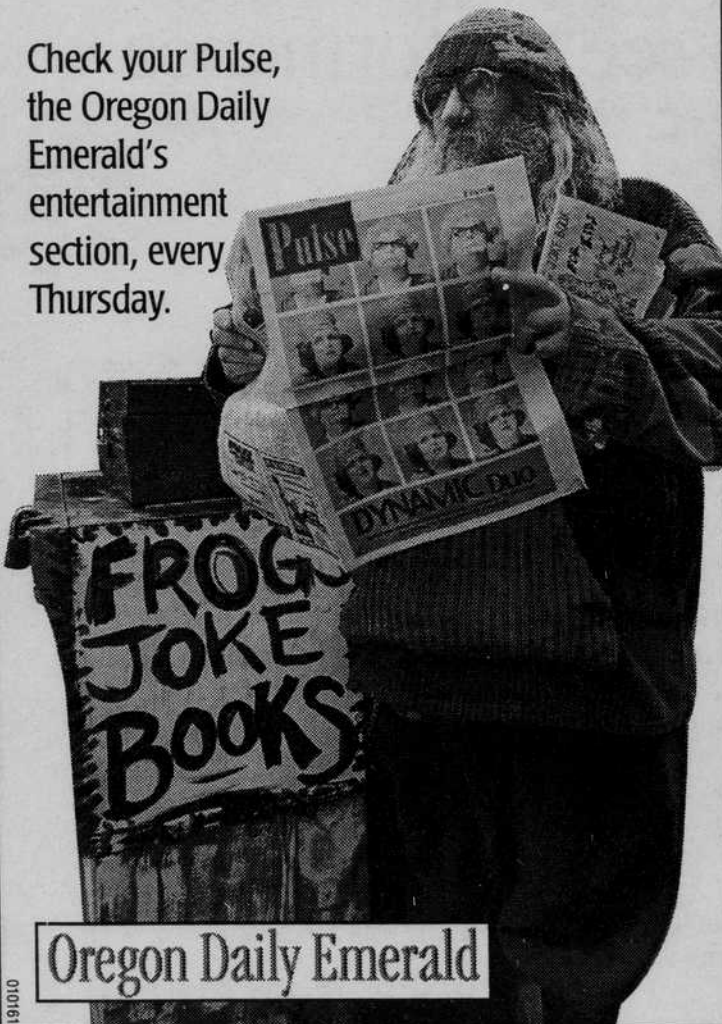
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Debate

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debates to hear the candidates' positions on issues important to the campus area, such as the cost of higher education and the environment.

However, Unger said it's still important for students to listen to the platforms and not watch the debates as if they were auto races, where the spectators just wait for a crash.

"People get wrapped up in what [the candidates] look like. I did. But you have to look at the issues," Unger said.

Jeff Hoyt, the chairman of the Lane County Republican Party, said he watches the debates to compare his political opinions to those of the candidates.

"I sort of answer the questions myself and compare my answers to the answers the candidates deliver up," he said.

He said he hopes the difference between the candidate's stances on government spending, tax cuts and fuel prices become more apparent during tonight's debate. He said he will also listen closely to what the candidates have to say about the recent Supreme Court ruling allowing the Boy Scouts of America to prohibit gays from becoming Scoutmasters.

He said he hopes most Americans take the time to learn about

the candidates.

"It's important for people to educate themselves about political issues, but I don't think the debate is the best way to educate oneself," he said. "If you're waiting until the debates to get your information, you've waited too long."

Unger agreed, and compared the debates to convention speeches that rarely stray from the party lines.

"They're used to gain votes ... and are not always completely truthful," she said.

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Jeff Hoyt
Chairman
Lane County
Republican Party

Phil Barnhart, a Democratic candidate for the State House of Representatives seat representing the Eugene area, said the debates are still a good opportunity to learn about candidates' platforms.

"The debates show the really dramatic difference between the two candidates on a variety of is-

What: The second debate between presidential candidates Vice President Al Gore and Gov. George W. Bush

When: Airs tonight at 6 p.m. on ABC, CBS, NBC and PBS.

Where: The debate will be held at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Format: A panel discussion.

The last presidential debate will air on the major networks Oct. 17.

issues," he said. "The key thing people should pay attention to isn't the candidate's debate style, but what the candidates want to do."

Barnhart, who got his start in politics serving on his area's school board, said he hopes the difference between the candidates' education plans are addressed during the debates. He said he will also pay close attention to the candidates' plans for dealing with the national debt and changing the tax system.

George Alvergue, president of the Rubicon Society, a Republican organization, agreed that the debates are important, but said there isn't enough time devoted to specific issues to adequately inform voters.

However, "the debates are obviously better than 30-second sound bites," he said.

Emerald reporter Jeremy Lang contributed to this article.

Response fee

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tying but wasn't intended to discourage responsible partying.

"The goal isn't that nobody can have a party in Eugene any more," McDermed said. "The goal is to reduce the number of disorderly parties and police responses."

The ordinance, drafted by the EPD, is part of the department's larger effort to curb raucous parties and underage drinking. That effort also includes a "zero-tolerance" policy toward underage drinking and the formation of a "Party Patrol," which consists of six officers trained to handle out-of-control parties.

McDermed said that disorderly parties are just as common this year as they were last year. Last weekend, the EPD responded to 26 alcohol-related complaints, she said.

"I understand that partying in this area is an issue that needs to be addressed," Christa Shively, ASUO community outreach director, said of the current draft of the ordinance. "But I don't feel this is the best solu-

tion."

After receiving the Executive's draft, several city councilors said they would consider the suggestions.

"We're looking for partnerships to better the relationships that have eroded between students and the

"If you fine me \$1,000 I will transfer to another school and leave Eugene. We would rather you help us and the community as a whole and come up with something other than a financial burden."

Joe Weber
Sophomore
Journalism

police department," ASUO President Jay Breslow said. "[The current

ordinance] will tear down relations and hurt relations between the student body and the police department."

A handful of University students also spoke against the ordinance, including sophomore journalism major Joel Weber, who said he "despises" the proposal.

"If you fine me \$1,000, I will transfer to another school and leave Eugene," he said. "We would rather you help us and the community as a whole and come up with something other than a financial burden."

Three property managers supported the current draft of the ordinance at the hearing.

"This ordinance will be an effective tool for Eugene and for property managers to control the ever-increasing cost of responding to large gatherings," property manager Bob Siegmund said.

City Council will vote on the ordinance Oct. 23. A vote was originally scheduled in June but was postponed, at the request of the Executive, until this fall so students returning from summer break could offer input.