

## What does Black History Month mean to you?



"I think it's such an awesome opportunity to see the awesome things our culture had done ... We have a lot of diversity in our nation, and it's neat that we have the ability and freedom to celebrate that."

**Anami Armstrong**  
freshman



"I think of my grandfather ... he was a Panamanian black and he always tried to write his music uniquely, but keeping his heritage in mind."

**Arel Cordero**  
senior



"It's about recognizing racist oppression, and a history that hasn't been included, and looking at the interconnectedness of that with current oppression. We need more education."

**Kelly Raydon-Feeney**  
junior



"It's a chance to let people of all races, all ages, all cultural backgrounds get to know our culture, and to get rid of the stereotypes ... It's a chance to learn the truth and learn new ideas about black people in general. We're lucky we have a month to celebrate."

**Andric Brown**  
junior

## Black History

continued from page 1A

Library and the University, originated because bias toward blacks emerged as a concern in the early 1900s.

One of the first people to be actively concerned with bias toward African-Americans was Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who earned a doctorate from Harvard University. Woodson started the African-American celebration in 1926.

For one week in February, a special observance was made in hopes that all Americans would be reminded of their ethnic roots and develop a mutual respect for diverse backgrounds.

During the American Bicentennial celebration in 1976, the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History expanded the celebration from one week to the entire month of February. This allowed for more programs, observances and celebrations.

Millner, a University graduate

who has publicly spoken on the role of blacks in American history for 25 years since the celebration was expanded to a month-long event, said he is excited to be speaking to the Eugene crowd.

"History has been helpful to me as an individual, in helping me to come to grips with racial realities," Millner said. "Because it's been so helpful to me, I want to share it with others in hopes that they will be better informed."

Millner's speech will focus on the role of blacks during Oregon's pioneer days and why blacks remain a minority in Oregon.

"There are many interesting racial issues that stem from the pioneer days that contribute to why there are less [people of color] in smaller areas of the state," Miller said.

Millner also said that Black History Month is a kind of "medicine."

"Information on black history is negatively and racially distorted," Millner said. "This month is an antidote that can inform people on

the real black history experience."

Cleveland, who will be gearing her musical workshop at the library toward kids, said she is participating in the programs because it's important for youth to realize the influence of black music on today's music.

"The more kids are exposed to this kind of thing, the more knowledgeable they'll be," Cleveland said.

Cleveland said her performance will be interactive, with singing, hand clapping and foot stomping.

University Professor Tom Wheeler, who plays in Cleveland's blues band, said that Black History Month is important to Eugene because of the small minority population.

"It's also important from a parent's perspective," Wheeler said. "We live in a community that is overwhelmingly white, which means it's even more important to be aware of how a diverse culture has brought about our current culture."

## UO, OSU both fit for Bend

■ An advisory board gives the state board no advice about which should open a branch in Central Oregon

By Andrew Adams  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Both the University of Oregon and Oregon State University are capable of fulfilling Central Oregon's higher education needs, a group of Bend-area business and education leaders decided Wednesday.

During the final meeting of the Central Oregon Regional Advisory Board, members decided to pass the final decision regarding which institution could open a Bend-branch campus to the State Board of Higher Education without any strong recommendation for either school.

Although the final decision has always been in the hands of the state board, the advisory board's feedback and recommendations have played an instrumental role in the process of bringing a four-year university to the Bend area. In its final meeting, advisory board members decided the only recommendation they would give Joseph Cox, Oregon University System chancellor, was that both OSU and the University of Oregon offered what Bend residents needed.

The State Board of Education will make its decision during its meeting Feb. 16.

"I think we're really moving on," said Patricia Moss, a Bend bank executive and advisory board member. "The choice really belongs to

the state board."

She said the Central Oregon Regional Advisory Board meeting brought closure to the issue. "We've done what we were asked to do," she said.

Bob Barber, president of Central Oregon Community College, is also a member of the advisory board and said the next step will be planning the structural changes on the COCC campus to be ready for whatever university is selected to open a branch campus. If all goes as planned, Barber said, the branch campus will be ready in September.

"We're just working on implementation," he said.

Barber said he was pleased with the role Central Oregon was able to play in the process and said it is now up to the OUS to determine how the new campus will affect the rest of the state.

Stephen Pyke, a computer firm executive and regional advisory board member, said he was satisfied with how the process went and looked forward to the state board's decision.

"I think whatever way they choose will be good for Central Oregon," he said.

Though the Bend community has seen some bickering between Ducks and Beavers over the issue, Pyke said there was none of that during the meeting.

"None of the [Central Oregon Regional Advisory Board] members took the opportunity to voice an opinion one way or another," he said.

Pyke said it was also gratifying to see both John Moseley, University of Oregon provost, and OSU Provost Tim White offer each other an "olive branch" by committing to work together.

Moseley acknowledged that he offered to collaborate with OSU but downplayed the significance of the offer.

"I think that's not really anything new," he said.

Even though advisory board members did not explicitly support the University's proposal, Moseley said that in itself, it was almost a success because people in Bend didn't warm to the University proposal from the start.

"The ... board early on didn't really see the UO as being a serious and committed player in this," he said.

With the final decision about two weeks away, Moseley still feels good about the University's chances.

"I remain just as optimistic as I have been about it," he said.

Jerry Colonna, Redmond Public School District superintendent and advisory board member, said all board members were happy to keep the momentum going for the branch campus. He said while there may be a few more hurdles in the state legislature as it wrangles over budget issues, most people in Bend are confidently awaiting their new campus.

"This may be the most important event for Bend," he said. "It absolutely changes the fundamental fabric of the community."

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