

Tension

continued from page 1

ferred to remain anonymous, said he experiences tension daily in the community. For example, he said he and some friends have been asked to speak English in bars instead of their native tongue.

Although his nationality is not Middle Eastern, he said he still appears to pose a threat because he looks "non-American."

"Before Sept. 11, I never had that kind of experience in Eugene," he said.

Linda Liu, advising coordinator at the Office of Multicultural Affairs, agreed that it is not just Middle Easterners who feel uneasy in the community following the terrorist attacks.

"From personal experience, as a person of color, I do feel uncomfortable with all this patriotism and being surrounded by flags. I feel uncomfortable, but I can't tell you why," she said. "You get that feeling that people look at you and think 'Well I don't know if I should trust you, you don't look American' — that expression of 'Go back to your own country.'"

She added that people who already had biases may now lash out at people of color under the guise of patriotism.

"Something like this opens the

door for people to express their biases and say this is patriotic and American," she said. "They can use this as an excuse to say, 'You're only American if you're white.'"

Jacob, another anonymous student of color, said a grocery store clerk recently asked him where he was from. When he told her his international origin, she asked "So, do you like America?"

"Something like this opens the door for people to express their biases and say this is patriotic and American. ... They can use this as an excuse to say, 'You're only American if you're white.'"

Linda Liu
advising coordinator,
Office of Multicultural Affairs

"People never asked me these kinds of questions before," he said.

Students like Henry and Jacob immigrated to America — or their parents did — and they

probably always felt like a part of the country until now, ASUO Vice President Joy Nair said.

"I don't want to generalize for all students of color, but some students are now feeling that the American flag is not theirs," she said. "Some feel secluded from the acts of patriotism around them — the feeling that some citizens aren't accepted in that unity."

Assistant Dean of Diversity Programs Mark Tracy said the University's Bias Response Team has received some bias reports after Sept. 11, but such incidents are generally "underreported on campus." He mentioned other campus resources students should take advantage of, such as the University Counseling Center, Office of Student Life and OMA.

Some student groups have also been working with University and community offices to show support for students of color, International Student Association co-director Shruti Shah said. She added that in a meeting with students a few weeks ago, Sen. Ron Wyden encouraged students to report both subtle and blatant incidents of bias.

"I think some people are scared to say anything in fear of more of the same thing coming because of it," Shah said. "Or they think it's not very impor-

tant because it's happening to everyone or it's a non-verbal form of harassment. But harassment is harassment and should be taken seriously."

Islamic Cultural Center director Tammam Adi said he has also spoken with many people of color who speak only English and dress "American" in public for safety reasons.

To help stop the apparent racial and ethnic divisions, Adi said more people need to discuss the aftermath of Sept. 11 and try to understand each other's perspectives. He added that 500 Muslims in the World Trade Center alone, along with many people of color, were also victims of the attacks.

"There is certainly the need for some dialogue and an airing of the feelings of both sides," Adi said. "I think there is a wrong assumption that people of color, especially foreigners, are not patriotic or are against America. People should realize that Muslims and students of color are not the enemy."

"This is not about religion, color or race, and it is the wrong time to be divided."

Beata Mostafavi is the student activities editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald. She can be reached at beatamostafavi@dailymerald.com.

Campus Resources

University Offices

Bias Response Team:
346-1139
Conflict Resolution Services:
346-4240
University Counseling Center:
346-3227
Office of Multicultural Affairs:
346-3479
Department of Public Safety:
346-5444
Office of Student Life:
346-3216

Student Organizations

ASUO Multicultural Advocate:
346-0631
Multicultural Center:
346-4207

Community Organizations

Human Rights Commission:
682-5177
Youth for Justice:
485-1755

News brief

OUS to define scope of athletic audit

Auditors met with University Athletic Department officials Monday to discuss which files they will secure to begin a financial investigation of athletic teams' travel expenses.

The Oregon University System auditors, led by Director of Internal Audits Patricia Snopkowski, are

conducting a survey to establish which sectors of the Athletic Department business office hold information pertinent to the investigation. After defining the scope of the audit, Snopkowski and her team, including University Audit Coordinator Heidi Sann, will gather information and review records in earnest in November and hope to produce a report in early December, Snopkowski said.

University Athletic Director Bill Moos requested the audit Oct. 10 because he said he was concerned

that fraudulent abuses of team travel funds may be undetected. An audit of University softball team expenses this summer by the secretary of state's office revealed that head softball coach Rick Gamez misappropriated \$5,748.64 in team travel funds.

Snopkowski's team of auditors will report its findings to OUS management or the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, depending on which is deemed appropriate for this investigation.

— Eric Martin

Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Responses to Aftermath of September 11 Events

Department of Political Science
presents a teach-in series
Wednesdays 3:30-5:00
110 Fenton Hall

October 31

"The Clash of Civilizations?"

Presented by Christine Kearney (Political Science), Ronald Mitchell (Political Science) and Dennis Galvan (Political Science & International Studies)

CALL TO FACULTY

The Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Responses to Sept. 11th would like to be notified of any published opinion pieces by University of Oregon faculty concerning the Sept. 11th events and aftermath.

The committee would also like to be notified of any courses of interest planned for winter and spring terms that may have relevance to or include information about Sept. 11th events.

The University Senate Ad Hoc Committee serves to coordinate and facilitate informed discussion, from a variety of perspectives, on the events of September 11th and their aftermath. The Committee does not take positions on issues of policy, politics, or ideology. To ensure its neutrality, the Committee will provide clear identification of the specific sponsorship of campus activities by the groups that carry them out. In all cases, the content of remarks and materials relating to these issues are the responsibility of their sponsors, and do not reflect an official position of the Ad Hoc Committee or the University of Oregon.

To contact the Senate Ad Hoc Committee, e-mail
sept11@darkwing.uoregon.edu or connect to the
Committee's web page:
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