

APASU hosts cultural talent show

Student groups showcase their skills tonight through music, acting, dance, fashion

By Diane Huber
Oregon Daily Emerald

Students from different campus cultural organizations will showcase their singing and acting skills at tonight's talent show, hosted by the Asian-Pacific American Student Union.

Donations will be accepted for the event, which begins at 6 p.m. in the EMU Fir Room, and it will include individual performances and a fashion show by Students of the Indian Subcontinent.

APASU co-programs director

Jeanne Ebuon said she expects roughly 100 people. Individual students and about 11 student groups will be performing, including the Black Student Union and SIS, she said. She added that if the event is a success, APASU will host more cultural talent shows in the future.

During SIS's fashion show, members will wear three traditional Indian outfits, SIS member Rita Patel said. Both males and females will wear a "salwaar kameez," an outfit that can be dressy or casual, she said. Girls will also wear "saris" and "gagras," which are more formal outfits worn to parties or weddings, she said.

Sophomore APASU member Jeff Boyce is one of the performers and will rap in Tagalog, a Philippine lan-

guage.

APASU activities coordinator Gabriel Valenzuela said everyone has a talent, and the event is a chance for different student groups to show it off. He plans to "lyrically riddle."

"I am not an accomplished thespian, but I have many talents, one of which is a musician," he said. "Actually, I am a hip-hop artist."

Valenzuela added that the talent show provides an opportunity for students to "wind down at the end of the day and have fun" and show their style.

"It's a chance for people to show their 'mad steez,'" he said.

Student activities reporter Diane Huber can be reached at dianehuber@dailyemerald.com.

News briefs

MEChA supports farmworkers with fundraiser

MEChA will hold a fundraising dinner tonight at 6 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church at 13th Avenue and Olive Street. The group hopes to raise money for 162 farmworkers who have been displaced from PictSweet, a mushroom farm in Salem.

Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), an Oregon farmworkers union, tried to organize the farmworkers into a union over the summer, and the farm refused to ne-

gotiate for a union contract, MEChA director David Jaimes said. Workers have also complained about safety and health issues, according to PCUN's Web site.

PictSweet employee Enrique Diaz, who lost his arm while working, will attend the dinner, along with two other farmworkers. The salsa band "Lo Nuestro" will perform.

Biology student Jacob Meyer, who is assisting in organizing the event, said several companies across Oregon have boycotted PictSweet mushrooms, including Fred Meyer, Safeway, Costco and Nature's Northwest. He encourages students to come to the

fundraiser and support farmworkers.

"It is a great opportunity for people to come together as a community and promote justice," he said.

There is a minimum \$10 donation to attend the dinner.

—Diane Huber

Lorax to host benefit concert

Local bands Chevron, The Free Radicals and Courtesy Clerks will play at a concert tonight benefiting Justice Not War, Students For Peace and Partners in Solidarity.

The bands will play at the Lorax Student Manor Co-op at 1648 Alder St. from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Cost is \$4.

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