

## Minorities

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still struggling with this issue."

Tracy said some minority students come from urban areas and have mostly interacted with other minorities, while others have grown up in rural areas with mostly whites and only a handful of other minorities.

"The social pressures from these two backgrounds go both ways," Tracy said. "Minority students come in with different dynamics and how they perceive themselves or how they adapt to the University depends upon their diverse backgrounds."

Junior Andrea Rodriguez, 21, grew up in a predominately white Portland community and said she also has struggled with finding her identity. In middle school, she said she wrote her last name as Rod because she wanted to disassociate herself from her Mexican heritage.

"I have felt torn. You want to fit in with the norm," she said.

Rodriguez said she began to appreciate her Mexican culture by learning more about it through

MEChA and her Latin American classes. She said as she has come to understand both cultures she has found the best elements from both backgrounds.

"It would be like choosing between my two parents, and you just can't do that. I get to pick and choose what I want from each culture," she said. "I am very fortunate. I have created my own culture."

Tracy said that for some students who come to the University, it is the whitest place they have ever lived, and for others, the University is the most diverse place they have ever lived.

Before senior Jamar Hayles, 23, came to the University, he had not interacted with many white people. Hayles grew up in a predominantly black neighborhood in Long Beach, Calif.

Hayles said attending the University has broadened his cultural views, but he has never struggled to define himself between any two cultures.

"Coming to the University has been a good experience for me. Before coming here, I didn't really think Caucasians liked black peo-

ple," he said. "But when I came here and interacted with them, they were nice to me, greeting me on campus and helping me with school work. This broke some of my earlier stereotypes."

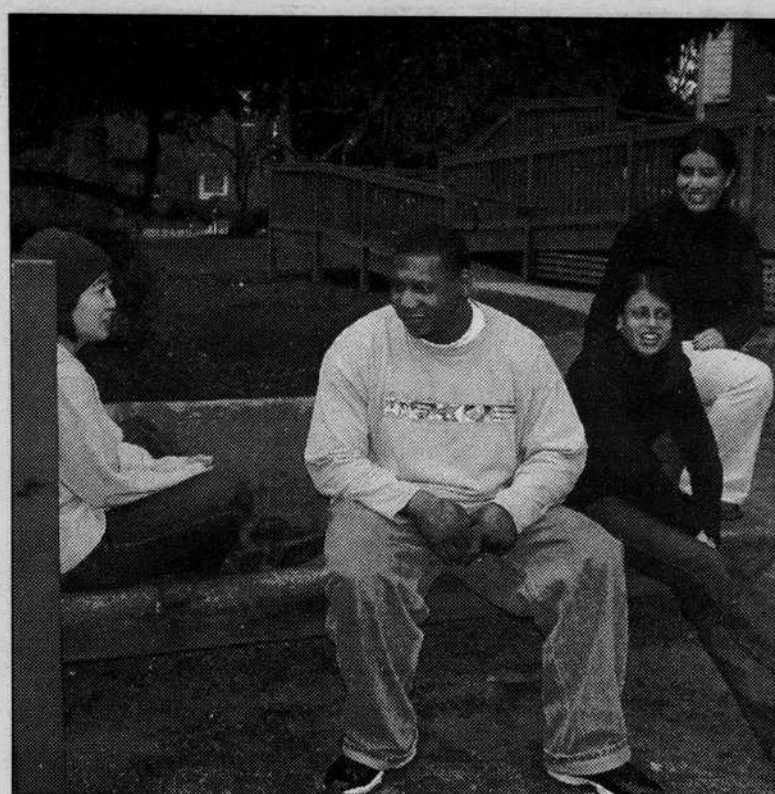
Freshman Allison Prasad, 18, said she has learned to assimilate herself with many different cultures. Prasad is Indian American, and has lived in both a predominately Asian community in Vancouver, British Columbia, and a black community in Portland.

"I am a puzzle piece of all these different cultures," she said. "Every little nook and cranny of me is Asian, black and Indian," she said. "I think to assimilate yourself you must be open-minded. If you are ignorant to other cultures you will feel like an outsider."

As for Hur, she said she still struggles with incorporating the two cultures into her life, but her trip to Korea has helped.

"I am an Oregonian, an American and a Korean," she said. "I am just me — I am Christina and within Christina, I am all these things."

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Adam Jones Emerald

Some students of color say although they experience various social pressures while combining two or more cultures in their lives, remaining open to diversity is key.

## Profiling

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believe race plays a role in traffic stops and crimes. The telephone survey of 800 Oregonians was conducted in December 2001 for the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission and also was intended to test whether people's perceptions about police and race had changed since the Sept. 11 attacks.

"The general findings were that the majority of respondents have generally positive feelings about our police officers," said Phillip Lemman, executive director of CJC.

However, Lemman said that 17

percent of those surveyed believed race always or often played a role in police stops, and 39 percent believed it sometimes did. Thirty-four percent of those surveyed said it rarely or never did.

But Lemman added that many people surveyed had no personal experience with racial profiling — attitudes are often based on what people hear.

"We've found that a fair amount of perception (about racial profiling) is driven by media coverage," Lemman said.

Student Lara Wilhelm seemed to lend credence to that finding. While the University sophomore said she thinks racial profiling is a

serious problem in Oregon and across the country — particularly since the Sept. 11 attacks — she also said her experience with racial profiling is limited to only what she has seen on television or read about in newspapers.

"I've heard a lot about it," she said. "But being a white girl — we're probably the least targeted out of everyone."

Regardless of what inspires such perceptions, Frohnmayer said the fact that they exist creates a problem for law enforcement. Whether people are being harassed is almost impossible to quantify, but the perception of harassment is enough to warrant in-

vestigation and reform.

In response to complaints that the Eugene Police Department engaged in racial profiling, on Jan. 1, the department began requiring officers to fill out cards containing information about traffic stops — including the perceived race of the person being stopped. According to Patrol Capt. Becky Hanson, EPD originally required officers to ask about the ethnicity of people they stopped, but discontinued the practice after officers "found that asking was contentious."

EPD conducted a survey last fall to determine whether complaints that EPD officers made traffic stops based on race were valid,

but because the survey was not conducted in a scientific manner, the results of the survey are not being used to evaluate policy, Hanson said.

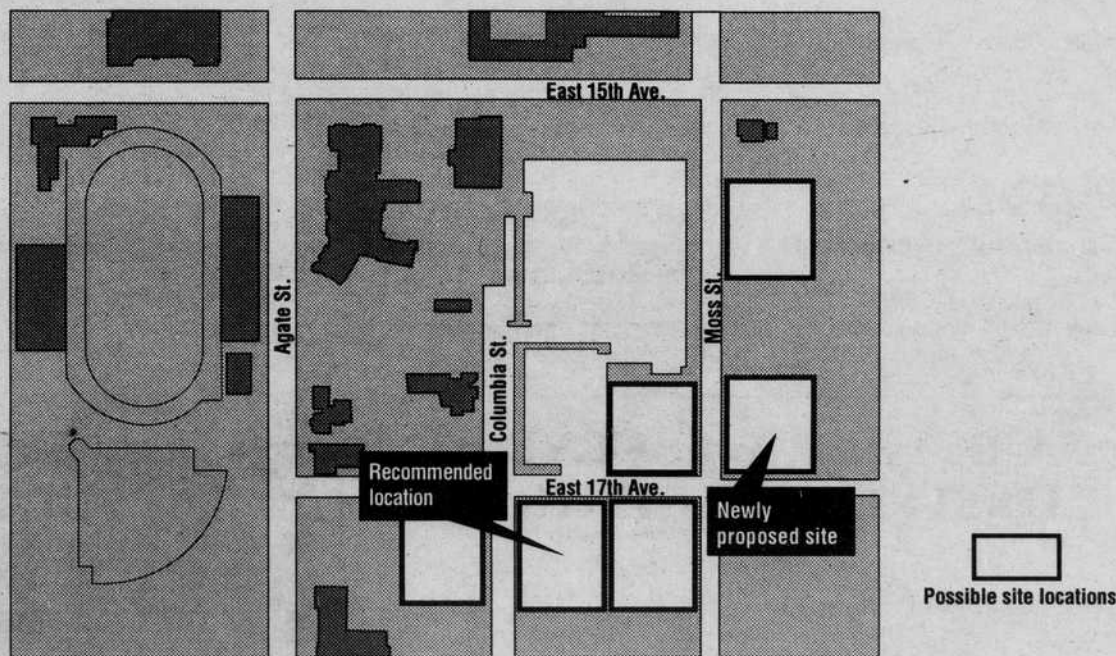
Frohnmayer lauded efforts like EPD's and called the openness and willingness to address the issue among police in Oregon "surprising and gratifying." But he added that more needs to be done.

"There has to be an effort on the part of police agencies to identify the reasons why police act the way they do," he said. "The fact remains, we need better data."

E-mail higher education editor Leon Tovey at [leontovey@dailyemerald.com](mailto:leontovey@dailyemerald.com).

## New child care center

The University Planning Committee has decided to move its proposed childcare facility from the corner of East 17th Avenue and Columbia Street to East 17th Avenue and Moss Street. The \$2.7 million facility will replace the EMU Childcare Center and two off-campus facilities.



Source: Campus Planning Department

Russell Weller Emerald

## Childcare

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Eugene created a contract agreement in the early 1980s to manage University growth east of campus. The plan establishes guidelines for where and how the University can expand.

University and neighborhood association members said tension about center's original site started after the University overlooked

some of the management policies in the agreement. University Planning Director Chris Ramey said he and his staff accept responsibility for the misinterpretation.

"We should have been more fully aware of University policies," he said.

Ramey said the need for a site change "clearly shows those policies need to be updated."

The site proposal is only a recommendation to Frohnmayer's office, which will disregard it only if

some major flaw in the planning commission's proposal is discovered. As the commission is the University entity responsible for reviewing building proposals, its proposals are rarely rejected.

The University has used off-campus houses for childcare since June 1970, and childcare directors requested a new facility as far back as 1985.

E-mail reporter Marty Toohey at [martytoohey@dailyemerald.com](mailto:martytoohey@dailyemerald.com).

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