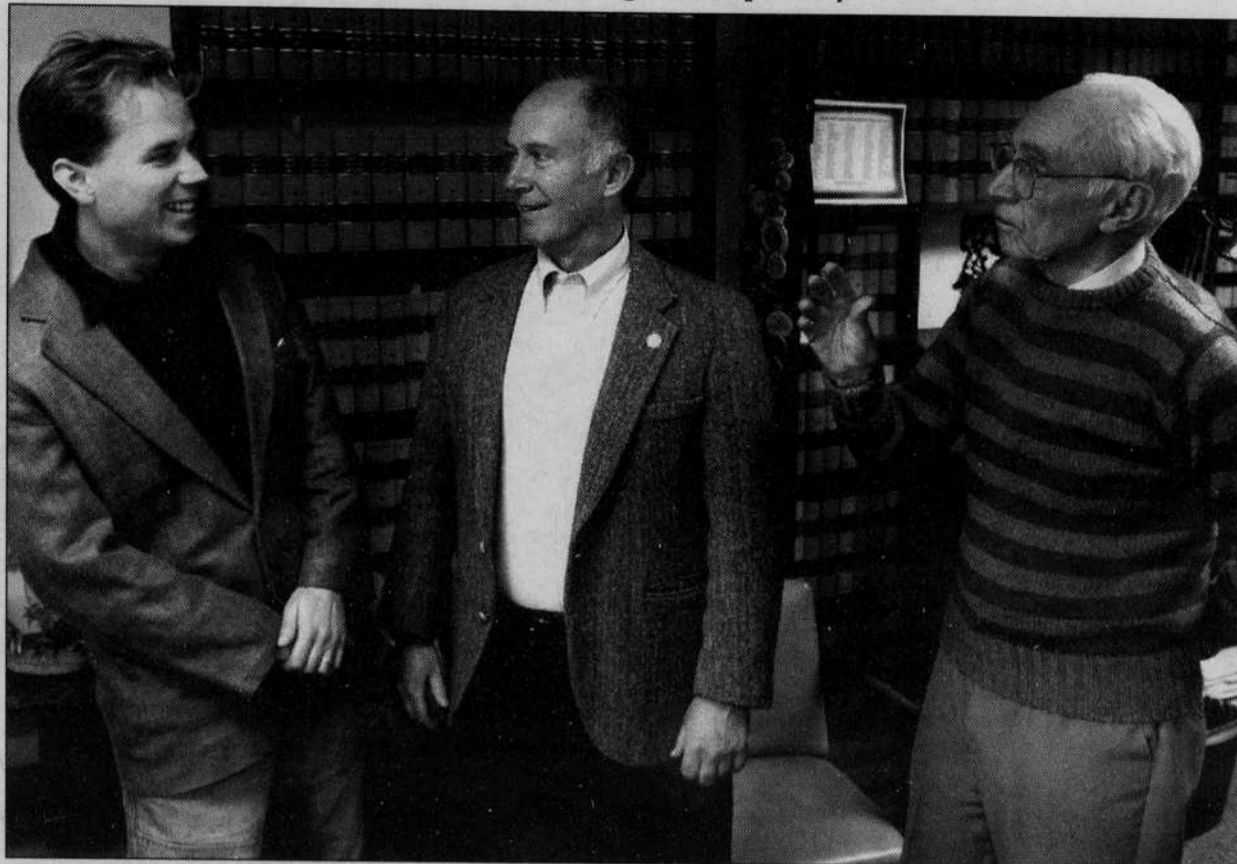




### Campaigning for equality



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Rodney P. Mock (left), John Cougill (center) and Charles O. Porter (right) share a story in Porter's downtown office. The three collaborated to draft The National Reconciliation Act, a bill to remove the word "race" from laws.

## Race for ethnicity

A former University student is campaigning an act that would take the word "race" out of legislation

**Jan Montry**  
Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

John Cougill is leading a fight that has spanned 10 years and cost him more than \$100,000.

Cougill is fighting to level the ethnic playing field.

The fight began in 1992 after Cougill, a Eugene resident and graduate of the University, refused to conduct what he calls "race research" at the National Opinion Research Center. Cougill objected to the research because he disagreed with using "race" as a classification, and he was later fired.

But being jobless didn't change the use of the word "race."

So Cougill founded the Committee to Remove "race" From Our Laws, and enlisted the aid of Eugene lawyer and former U.S. Rep. Charles O. Porter to draft The National Reconciliation Act, a bill that would replace hundreds of references to "race" in federal laws with words like "ethnic group" or "ethnicities." The bill was written by Rodney P. Mock, an employee at the private practice Porter owns.

The former student's goal is to push his idea into Con-

gress and make things change all across America.

The bill would cut off federal funding to research using race as a method of putting people into groups. It would also provide participating states with school grants to teach about ethnic equality. Cougill submitted the bill to congressional leaders Oct. 7.

The act, which is not intended to affect people's civil rights, contends the word "race" in laws doesn't serve any positive legal, scientific, social or political purpose. Instead, his bill intends to recognize people as human beings as equals — not superior or inferior races.

The idea is to get the government to stop classifying people under something that doesn't exist," Cougill said. "Race is just like communism or Nazism: It hurts people."

University sociology Professor Michael Dreiling said the concept of race has a "two-pronged reality."

"On one hand, (race) was socially constructed from the European empire to account for and control human differences," he said. "In that sense, race has no biological grounding and is a myth."

"However, race is very powerful because people organized their lives and perceptions of differences through that concept and belief of race."

Turn to **Race** page 8

## Teach-in aims to show links between war, minorities

Responding to a potential war with Iraq, three student groups will hold a discussion about war and minorities

**Jennifer Bear**  
Campus/City Culture Reporter

Although the United States' thrust toward war against Iraq is a heated topic of debate among University students, some think one important aspect has been completely ignored. Students for Peace, the Multicultural Center and Concerned Faculty for Peace and Justice will show exactly how they feel war with Iraq would affect minority students in a teach-in entitled "War and Students of Color" at 5:30 p.m. today in the EMU International Student Lounge.

Alex Gonzalez, teach-in organizer and a co-founder of Students for Peace, said the event stands apart from other campus activities that have focused on the possibility of war because it approaches the issue from an overlooked perspective.

"I don't think the mainstream media have addressed how war will affect student minorities," Gonzalez said. "It's key to educate people, because once you're informed you can make better decisions."

The teach-in will feature presentations by panelists Linda Kintz, Hope Marston and Matt Garcia, followed by an hourlong question-and-answer session. Kintz, a professor in the English department, will speak about how she thinks war distorts the federal government's social agenda; Marston, a Eugene activist, will speak about the consequences of the USA PATRIOT Act for minority students; and Garcia, an ethnic studies professor, will talk about how war has historically affected minorities.

Kintz said her lecture will address the connection between military spending and cutbacks in social programs, as well as the consequences they could have for minority students.

"As more federal money is diverted into military funding, states cannot provide the sort of tuition help that minorities and lower-income students depend on," Kintz said.

She added that funding for social programs like day care, diversity-building programs, health care programs, unemployment benefits and grant money will be cut down because of federal money being diverted to the military.

Isaac Torres, program director of MEChA, said it's important for University students to attend the teach-in because the information circulating through traditional media channels is one-sided. He added that the war will have a greater impact on ethnic minorities than on most other groups.

"More often than not it is our people who get recruited into the military because of a lack of educational and occupational opportunities," Torres said.

Garcia will address this topic in his presentation.

In disadvantaged minority populations, Garcia said the military is seen as an advantageous career choice and is not

Turn to **Teach-in**, page 8

### WEATHER

Today: High 50, Low 25, morning fog then sunny

Wednesday: High 50, Low 28, patches of fog clearing

### LOOKING AHEAD

**Wednesday**  
Celebrating the holiday doesn't have to happen with family

**Thursday**  
Forgetting about school can be easy for a few days

## Books offer students chance to help

Local organizations welcome volunteers during the holiday season, but they say they also appreciate help year-round

**Ken Paulman**  
City/State Politics Reporter

For most students, Saturday morning provides a welcome respite from books.

This past Saturday, however, Amber Ervin, Lynne Putnam and Christina Skirvin were surrounded by books — thousands of them. At a warehouse in West Eugene, the University juniors were helping the St. Vincent de Paul Society sort a por-

tion of the 40 tons of discarded books they receive each month.

The three women are members of Alpha Kappa Psi, a business fraternity volunteering for St. Vincent's. The fraternity will also help with many other projects this year — from assembling holiday food boxes to assisting with marketing strategy.

The holiday season tends to be a time of year when people look for ways to give back to their community.

Sheyla Norte, volunteer coordinator for Food for Lane County, said she gets a number of calls from people interested in helping out on Thanksgiving and Christmas, although they need volun-

teers year-round.

"We're not doing anything during the holidays that we don't do all the time," she said.

Nevertheless, Norte welcomes the opportunity to talk to people about the organization's needs. Many of the people who call during the holidays, she said, wind up becoming regular volunteers.

"It's a very busy time for us, but that's good," she said.

Terry McDonald, director of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, said that for St. Vincent's, there is no such thing as having too many volunteers.

Turn to **Volunteer**, page 8

### Volunteering is easy

The United Way of Lane County provides links to volunteer opportunities with St. Vincent de Paul, Food for Lane County, and 66 other local agencies.

To contact United Way of Lane County, call 741-6000 or go to [www.unitedwaylane.org/](http://www.unitedwaylane.org/)

SOURCE: United Way of Lane County