

University reports diversity numbers

The percentage of ethnic students enrolled on campus has declined since 1999, despite student body growth

Danielle Gillespie and Brad Schmidt
Staff Writers

As the University continues to grow at record rates, the percentage of students of color receiving an education on campus has declined since 1999.

The University broke the 20,000 threshold for enrollment this fall, but the number of students of color who attend the University registers at just 12.7 percent of the student body.

Dating back to 1997, the percentage of ethnic minorities peaked in 1999, when 13.1 percent of attendees identified as students of color. In 2000, that number dipped to 12.8 percent, and it leveled off at 12.7 percent for both 2001 and 2002.

"A cynic would say that the

numbers haven't increased so that's not good, but I think students of color fared well," Office of Admissions Multicultural Recruiter Tomas Hulick Baiza said. "We are treading water here, but it's pretty difficult to maintain numbers with the University being more selective."

And despite the percentage decrease, in raw numbers, the University has more students of color attending.

From 1997 — when the University had 2,151 total ethnic minorities — through 2002, the number of students of color has increased year by year. From 2001, the University has added 122 ethnic minorities, bringing the total number of students of color to 2,545.

And within each demographic category — which includes Asian/Pacific Islander; African American; Hispanic; Native American; and Multi-ethnic — the overall percent-

ages increased from 2001.

Other than multi-ethnic students, the greatest percentage increase in minority demographic numbers came from Native American, which increased from 200 to 226 students — a 13 percent jump.

Hulick Baiza said the increased numbers for Native Americans is a victory for recruitment, and he said it happened in part because of an office position set aside for the re-

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Declaration of *cultural war*

Students and professors discuss issues such as racial profiling at a teach-in called 'War and Students of Color'

Ben Fuchs
Freelance Reporter

Matt Garcia recalled the horde of military recruiters that swarmed him as he graduated high school. They pursued him based on one factor: his last name. *Garcia*. Sounds Mexican.

Garcia was a commodity because he was a minority. And the recruiters almost succeeded.

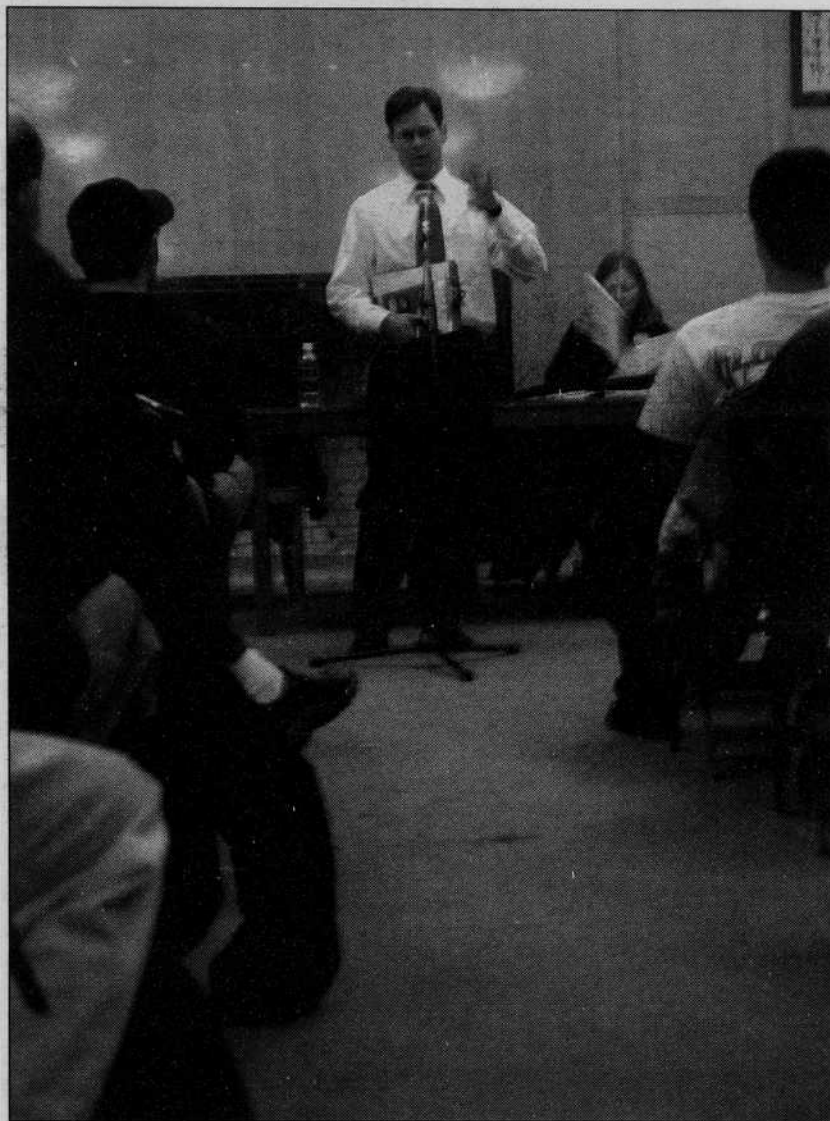
Only a stern three-hour lecture from his uncle, a Vietnam vet so scarred by his wartime memories that he could no longer be a contributing member of society, would keep Garcia from shipping off to West Point.

Now a professor of ethnic studies at the University, Garcia said Tuesday that an abnormally large percentage of the military is composed of minorities. Sold on images of successful minorities such as Colin Powell, many minorities see the armed forces as a road to power and economic stability.

Garcia was speaking at the "War and Students of Color" teach-in at the International Lounge on Tuesday night. The teach-in, sponsored by Students for Peace, the Multicultural Center and Concerned Faculty for Peace and Justice, aimed to create awareness of how minorities are affected by war.

Students and professors discussed issues thrown into the spotlight in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, ranging from minorities in the military to the highly-controversial USA

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Danielle Hickey Emerald

Matt Garcia spoke at a "War and Students of Color" teach-in on Tuesday night in the International Lounge. Garcia spoke about the effects of the military on minorities.

Community offers students holiday meals

Several options are available to students spending Thanksgiving in Eugene, such as having dinner with friends or joining a local community dinner

Jacquelyn Lewis and Helen Schumacher
Staff Writers

Time constraints, scanty bank accounts and myriad other obstacles prevent many students from returning home to spend Thanksgiving with their families. However, "home for the holidays" doesn't have to mean an empty dorm room or apartment this year. Solo students can spend the day with an even larger "family," given that Eugene offers plenty of festive community options on this holiday.

Junior psychology major Kim Merrill has not spent Thanksgiving with her family since she started college.

"It's too expensive to fly home for a short amount of time," said Merrill, who is originally from Deerfield, Ill. "And Christmas break is around the corner."

Instead, Merrill said she will be having dinner with a friend whose family lives in Eugene.

Students who can't spend Thanksgiving at a friend's house can still enjoy a tasty feast and good company at one of several local community dinners.

The largest turkey dinner in the area is the annual Whiteaker Dinner, a free meal available to everyone.

"Everybody and anybody who wants to be a part of the community and share the day with everyone is invited," dinner coordinator Beverly Farfan said.

The dinner will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thanksgiving Day at Whiteaker Elementary School, located at 21 N. Grand Street.

Farfan said about 2,500 Eugene and Springfield residents usually partake in the fare, which includes traditional Thanksgiving grub such as turkey, gravy and mashed potatoes, but also includes stir fry and vegetarian options.

"There will be lots and lots of desserts," Farfan added. In addition to edible treats, the event will also include a huge holiday giveaway, including donated jackets, sleeping bags, blankets and toiletries. Farfan said anyone interested

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WEATHER

Today: High 50, Low 28, morning fog, otherwise sunny

Thursday: High 50, Low 27, morning fog, otherwise sunny

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday

Eating...

Friday

Sleeping...

Students call new logo policy a 'victory'

Student group opposition helped reverse the proposed University logo policy that could have impeded on free speech

Jan Montry
Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

In the aftermath of the "O" logo policy debate, student groups and publications are expressing relief about the administration's decision to make the policy optional for student groups.

Associate Vice President for University Advancement Harry Battson recently confirmed that the policy — which would have required student groups to use the university logo — would be reversed, mainly due to student group protests.

Students from publications around campus were especially happy with the administration's decision.

Oregon Commentator Publisher Bret Jacobson said the policy reversal was a "huge victory" for free speech in student publications.

"This is the right policy that should have been implemented from the beginning, and it's a shame that such a flawed policy was ever tried out in the first place," he said.

Jacobson added that he thought one important lesson to derive from the logo debate was the administration and the ASUO's failure to recognize student group needs.

"It was a miscarriage of justice nine months into the pregnancy," added Pete Hunt, the Commentator's editor in chief. Other student groups also cited freedom of expression and autonomy from the University as primary victories in the logo battle.

The policy change "allows us to keep our identity as

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'O' redux

Student groups: Aren't required to use the logo on their publications but can request to use it if they comply with existing design requirements.

University departments: Are still required to carry the logo.

Contract nonprofit groups: Cannot carry the logo unless administration officials decide the group's message is consistent with the University.

SOURCE: Office of University Advancement