

Duck Call Deactivation

The Duck Call Touch Tone Telephone system will be permanently taken out of service as of February 14, 2003. This action is being taken as the result of the increased use of Duck Web for registration, grade reporting, account balance reporting, data updates and data queries by students and former students.

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Conference educates on issues of minorities

This weekend's eighth annual Women of Color Conference brings to light the issues that minority women face

Andrew Shipley
Freelance Reporter

The eighth annual Women of Color Conference begins at 3 p.m. today on the EMU's East Lawn. The goal of the conference, which is organized by the Women's Center, is to expose University students to issues affecting women of color.

"It's really our event to educate people on issues that women of color face daily," conference coordinator and University junior Andrea Old Coyote said.

The conference, which continues through Sunday, focuses on personal strength and development for minority women with workshops ranging from parenting to time management, interracial relationships to self-defense. This year's theme is "Self-care and Empowerment," with 19 workshops and forums scheduled for the three-day event.

Among other highlights are presentations by Dona Irene Alvarez, a Mexican medicine woman from

Oaxaca, who will lead a number of workshops concerning inner healing and wellness. Accompanying Alvarez is Eugene midwife Anita Rojas, also originally from Mexico, who will act as a translator.

Alvarez's presentations include a "Traditional Healing Methods" workshop that touches on personal healing practices and the "Remedios Caseros" (Home Remedy) workshop, which focuses on natural ways to build the immune system and stay healthy. A complete schedule of events can be found in the Women's Center.

"The reminder here for this conference is that we are powerful working people in a working whole," conference volunteer and event organizer Darlene Dadrás said. "We start at home so that we may support and recognize the struggles we experience."

Dadrás, a senior, will be facilitating the "Privileged Language" workshop, which deals with how different privileges work in the oppression of women of color.

She said the conference was not just for women or just people of color. There is also a men's forum from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. today in the

EMU's Metrolious Room to discuss how men can contribute to the self-care and empowerment of women. Dadrás said everyone is welcome at the conference.

"Students, professors, midwives, day caregivers — they are in the home space, too," Dadrás said. "This conference reminds us of the relationships with one another."

Freshman Kalesha Wiley said she is interested in going to the conference to learn about the issues.

"There are some issues that I think black students face that others don't," she said.

The conference is free and will end on Sunday with dinner and keynote speeches from Alvarez and Susan Masten, the former president of the National Congress of Native Americans. More than 400 students attended the conference last year, and increased participation is encouraged.

"This year's conference may remind us to take part — we are always busy — but empowerment of one's own health and healing is a community effort," said Dadrás.

Andrew Shipley is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Pulse brief

NYU professor to show her 'toxic' film

A toxic weekend is in store for the University, when New York University adjunct professor Judith Helfand brings her film, "Blue Vinyl" to 180 PLC at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. The screening will also include a discussion with pollution expert and University

ecology and evolutionary biology Assistant Professor Joe Thornton.

The film, a "toxic comedy" for the whole family" explores Helfand's research on the manufacture of polyvinyl chloride and its health and environmental impacts. The documentary received the Excellence in Cinematography Award at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival, the first prize for best documentary at the 2002 Bermuda International Film Festival and three other international

film festival awards.

Helfand will also present a lecture, "Women in Danger: Toxics and Women's Health," at noon Friday in 330 Hendricks. She will also be a guest speaker on KLCC's radio show at noon Sunday. In addition, Helfand will present her film a second time at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Churchill High School Auditorium, located at 1850 Bailey Hill Road. Donations are suggested.

— Jacquelyn Lewis

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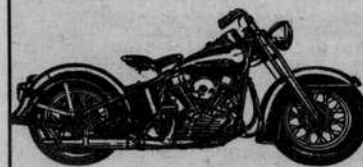
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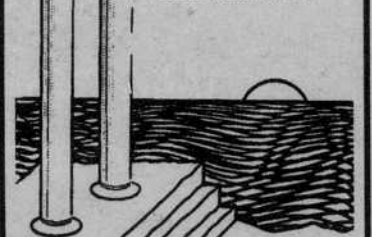
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