

HISTORY

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more than just the "larger-than-life historical figures" of black history.

"I think it's more common for people to think about kind of the extremely positive aspects of African-American history," he said. "It tends to kind of focus on African-American contributions."

Sophomore sociology major Jesse Krichbaum said she learned mostly about significant figures in black history and the civil rights movement during the month when she was in high school.

"I wouldn't say that's all it's about, but it plays a big part in it," she said. "It just doesn't seem right to put it all into a month."

Summers said people need to remember the "gritty underside" of the history and issues like discrimination that exist today in order to put black history into context.

Jennifer Yamada, a senior studying Japanese and international studies, agreed that minority history in

general tends to be "glossed over." She said as part Japanese-American, she is disappointed that Japanese-American history, along with other minority history, is not focused on more by mainstream society. She said for this reason, events such as Black History Month are important.

"It seems like public education doesn't focus a lot on that on its own," she said. "It's kind of like you have to create little holidays for every minority."

Lewis said she feels black history should not necessarily be separated from U.S. history.

"Normally when people in the United States talk about history in the United States, it's excluding minorities," she said, adding that there is no such thing as "Caucasian history."

"The United States history is everybody's history," she said.

Harris said "Africans in America" still have many struggles to overcome. He said, for example, that he will not consider America a "mature civilization" until a

black man or woman becomes president.

"Until then, we're barely worthy of the word 'civilization,'" he said.

Ethnic Studies Program Office Coordinator Donella-Elizabeth Alston said she sees the month as a reminder of her family's accomplishments in the face of adversity.

"It definitely does bring to my mind just sort of the litany of my family struggles," she said.

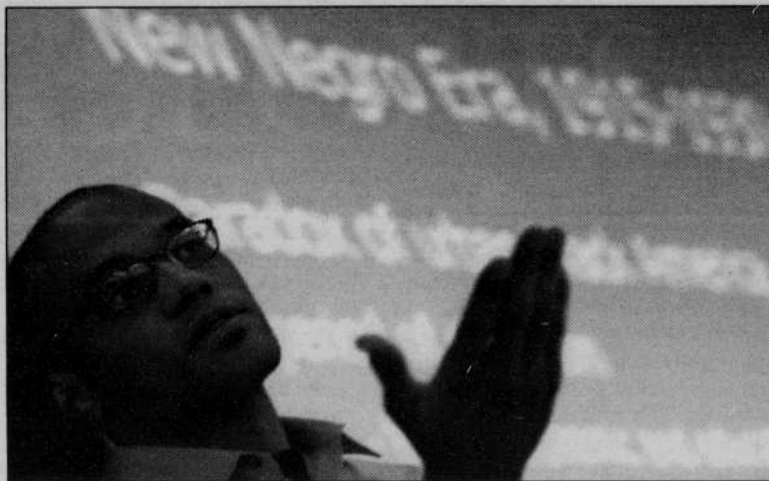
She said the month reminds her that without her family's sacrifices, she wouldn't be where she is today — with a college education working in a program such as ethnic studies.

"In those quiet moments, that's what it means to me," she said.

She said there is still work to be done, although there have been many human rights improvements in America.

"There are a lot of things that still need to be changed," she said.

Lewis said the BSU will hold events throughout the month, including the Black Heritage Ball on



Adam Amato Senior Photographer

Assistant Professor Martin Summers lectures to his African-American History class Wednesday,

Feb. 20. During that week, members will also set up a table in the EMU with information about black history and the BSU.

"It's important to let the campus community know that we are here

and that we're active and we have a voice," Lewis said.

Contact the higher education/student life/student affairs reporter at chelseaduncan@dailymerald.com.

ELECTIONS

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approximately 60 percent of votes against increasing income taxes. Benton County, home of Corvallis and Oregon State University, is the only county that approved the measure as of press time.

"I'm just tired of paying taxes," said Trudy Lyne, a member of the Republican Women of Lane County. "I think the money is there."

Lyne was one of about 30 people gathered in the sports bar of the Oregon Electric Station on Tuesday night to watch the election results. The crowd cheered as the initial results rolled in and Measure 30's failure seemed imminent.

Bozievich said he anticipates that

the Oregon Legislature will convene for a special session.

"I'd like to see them look at having a conversation about what is a priority for the state," he said. "What are essential functions?"

He said state police, state courts, K-12 education and health care for the neediest Oregonians should be a priority, adding that he thought the measure's failure would bolster Oregon's economy.

"I think that Measure 30 failing will actually be a good thing for the students in the University, because I think it will bode well for them to get a job in Oregon," Bozievich said.

Across the Franklin Boulevard bridge in Glenwood, Yes on 30 supporters gathered at Roaring Rapids Pizza Co. and expressed a very different view.

"It's just sad," said Oregon Rep. Paul Holvey, D-Eugene. "I don't think people really understood the implications of this. I think, long term, it really has the potential to harm our economy."

Newly-appointed Oregon Sen.

Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene, blamed the lack of understanding of the measure's implications, in large part, on false information.

"It's frustrating that we have individuals that are giving misinformation without being accountable for what they say," he said.

Prozanski said the Legislature has tried to prioritize spending and was simply forced to slash budgets, contrary to critics' contentions.

When the Legislature last convened, it made a list of official cuts in case Measure 30 failed. Nearly \$545 million is scheduled to be taken from public safety, human services and education.

While legislators already made some cuts in their last session, their hands were tied in some areas, Prozanski said. He said voter initiatives required that much of the general budget go to mandatory minimum sentencing and certain K-12 education programs.

"It's a reality that voters of Oregon are not willing to pay for the services

that they are demanding," he said.

He does not expect the Legislature to convene until the special session set for June.

While Prozanski anticipates that Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski will try to soften the impact of cuts, he said the end result will not be much different from what the Legislature has already scheduled.

"Where are they going to find the money that we couldn't find in the seven-and-a-half months we were there?" he said.

Kulongoski was more upbeat in a statement he released Wednesday morning, however.

"I remain optimistic about Oregon's future," he said. "As Oregon's governor, I have focused my energy on growing the economy, helping to create jobs and preserving our quality of life. I will continue to do that work for the next three years, through the tough times and the brighter days that lie ahead."

Certified medical assistant Leslie Seese, who works at PeaceHealth Medical Group, is expecting more tougher times than brighter days, she said.

"So many of my patients are on the Oregon Health Plan — and just barely," she said. "It's stretching their budget just barely to pay for housing, medical and social services. They're just going to be so impacted."

More than 80,000 people could be cut from the Oregon Health Plan, according to an argument in favor of the measure in the voters' guide.

Seese said she was angered and shocked, but determined to do her best to support her patients. She added that like many of the nearly 60 people gathered that night, she was also disappointed.

"Even with a face on the victims of this, they still vote no," she said, shaking her head.

Contact the city/state politics reporter at nikacarson@dailymerald.com.

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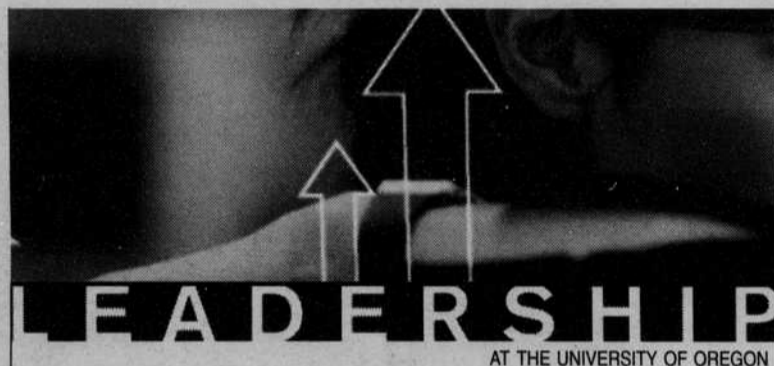
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