

Student staying busy with many leadership duties

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Ambitious is one way to describe Carina Miller. Busy is another.

Miller has gone from a normal college student to a future political powerhouse with her long list of activities and committee positions at the University of Oregon.

Currently Miller is the summer senate chair for the student senate.

In the fall Miller will serve on the student senate as part of the Program Finance Committee after being elected to that position last spring.

Last year Miller served as co-director of the Native American Student Union as well as working on the Multi-Cultural Center Board of Directors—activities that Miller will continue with during the upcoming year.

Miller is also active as a member of the Coalition Against Environmental Racism, Mujeres, United States Student Association, and Oregon Students of Color Coalition.

As part of the Program Finance Committee, Miller and other members are responsible for setting budgets and helping to control student fee dollars—and that's not an easy task when the student senate controls over \$11 million in student fees.

Soon Miller will travel with the United States Student Association (USSA) to Wisconsin where she'll participate in a congressional conference. As part of the USSA, Miller has also traveled to Washington D.C. where she marched the Capitol Building with fellow students and lobbied in her local senator's office.

Through her involvement with the USSA, Miller and her fellow students pick issues to lobby each year. Last year their chosen issue was student loan debt, Miller said.

Miller is also working with the Shadow Project, which conducts surveys with families on several reservations that have



Courtesy photos.

Carina Miller at the U.S. Capital advocating education funding. Below: Miller and her father, Ken Miller, stand with her brother, Dylan Miller. Ken and Carina Miller danced as head dancers at the 40th Annual Mother's Day Powwow.

children from age eight to age 16.

The project aims to pinpoint areas that families need help with, Miller said.

This fall Miller will begin her fourth year at the University of Oregon. Miller is majoring in history and plans to minor in either anthropology or a language.

The daughter of Sue Matters and Kenneth Miller, she grew up in Warm Springs and briefly pursued a career in journalism before deciding to study history at the University of Oregon.

Miller decided to attend the University of Oregon because of the opportunity to play softball as well as their renowned journalism program, and was even published in *The Oregonian* before deciding to change career paths.

Now all of her involvement in student committees is help-



ing her gain an impressive amount of political experience as well as a long list of credentials.

"It's important to be involved with all of these things because its really good life experience for me," Miller explained.

Gospel concert

A gospel concert will be held from August 25 to August 30. The event will take place at Elmer Quinn Park, where a tent will be set up that seats about 200 people. Gospel musicians from various areas will be present, including musicians from Montana, Arizona, Utah and Washington. Call Valerie Governor at 553-2576, Easton Aguilar, or Anita Davis at 553-2525 with any questions.

From learning about the legislative system to knowing more about certain laws, she said, the activities she is involved with are helping her create a future for herself.

After college, Miller added, she plans to become a teacher—but that's not all she is planning.

"I also kind of have my own secret ambitions to be a politician," Miller said.

As part of her leadership duties, Miller said, she took pride in serving as a leader for her fellow Native American students.

"It was really great last year being a leader for the Native American community," Miller said.

When she was campaigning for a student senate position, Miller said, she experienced a lot of negativity from people who criticized affirmative action and believed it created reverse racism.

While some suggested that she received recognition because of her race, Miller said, "Its also because I'm more skilled. I'm more prepared for a job."

To Miller, race isn't some-

thing that she feels is important to her success.

"What I really want to do is succeed outside of minority groups," Miller said.

For Miller, the experience she is gaining while in college is something she plans to use for the benefit of all people.

"I want to go and I want to learn and I want to help these organizations," Miller said. "Not just for Warm Springs or not just for the native community but for the community as a whole."

Growing up in Warm Springs, Miller said, she saw recognition being given to those who excelled in athletics but very few examples of success in academia.

That's something that she hopes to help change.

"When people from Warm Springs go to college, we don't often know that, or see their academic success as impressive as sports," Miller said. "Our future lies in education and the younger generations, and they need people who have been through college to come back

and prepare them and encourage them."

"I want to go far in my higher education and come back to Warm Springs and be a part of the community because I want kids to know going to school is something they can all do," Miller said. "It is hard, but its possible and that isn't always the mind set."

In Miller's opinion, "We are all a lot smarter than we think we are, and we deserve to know what our potential is."

Birthday dinner

Carina's family is having a birthday dinner her on Wednesday, August 20 at 5 p.m. at 2642 Quail Trail. She will be registering new voters. All family and friends are welcome to attend.

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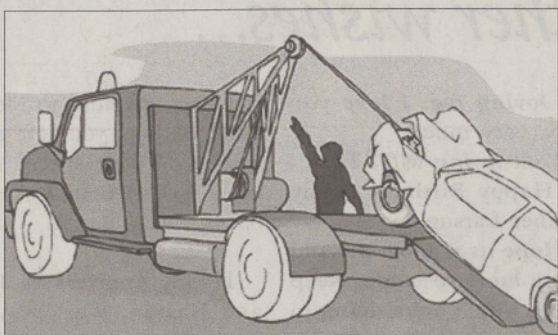
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