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## Will students buy at the 'bake sale?'

By *MEAGAN BALINK* Colorado Daily Campus Editor

A bake sale for a cause is always a nice idea: sugar cookies, cinnamon tarts, and chocolaty brownies arranged colorfully on a table for hungry passersby.

But what if customers' buying power at this bake sale was based upon their race?

Wait a second, what kind of bake sale is this?

Say a white CU-Boulder student walks up to the bake sale and buys a sugar cookie for \$1, but the Latino student in line behind her is sold the same kind of cookie for 50 cents. And what if the sugar cookies are sold to black students for 25 cents and given to Native Americans for free?

If this is beginning to sound like racism, that is exactly the idea.

Joined by state Sen. Ed Jones (R-Colorado Springs), CU's College Republicans and Equal Opportunity Alliance (EOA) will sell cookies for the prices above at their Affirmative Action Bake Sale, to be held at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow outside the Hellem's Arts and Sciences Building on the CU-Boulder campus.

The event sponsors' purpose is to illustrate what they say is the major flaw of affirmative action: programs that provide race-based preferences in hiring, admissions, and in this case, cookie sales to increase cultural diversity draw harmful conclusions about students of color.



A legal twist could also make the bake sale interesting, indeed. Ron Stump, CU Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, cited two federal laws under which the university calls the bake sale illegal, Colorado General Statute 24-34-60 and the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

"Our position is that such an activity is illegal based on the university's non-discrimination policy," Stump added.

But CU's College Republicans are not the first conservative student group to hold the controversial bake sale as a protest of affirmative action.

In 2003, Northwestern, Southern Methodist and Illinois State University students held similar sales on their respective campuses and were shut down by university administrators because of safety concerns, according to the U-WIRE news service.

A University of Wisconsin bake sale turned violent when some detractors started throwing cookies at the UW Republicans, who were demonstrating at the same time as a traditional black fraternity.

Sales held at Texas A & M and Indiana Universities in November, 2003 were held without incident, according to U-WIRE, and prompted heated discussions among passersby.

Colorado Daily Staff Writer Erin Wiggins contributed to this report.