

Sharing, unified feelings evolve from conference

By BECKY YOUNG
Of the Emerald

Feelings of sharing and unity evolved from the first statewide Third-World Women's Conference held last weekend in Salem, a panel of women who attended the conference agreed Tuesday.

The women talked as part of the Women/Speak series sponsored by the YWCA. More than 100 women and men attended the three-day conference, which was held at Willamette University.

Workshops involved the entire

attendance, with topics ranging from multicultural childcare, to the concept of "macho," to multicultural care for senior citizens.

Carolina Murillo, co-chairer of the planning committee, said every person participated in each workshop because conference organizers decided no one should miss anything.

The panel said the purpose of the conference was to start some kind of statewide network because third-world women have been culturally isolated from each other.

Terri Lum said the men and

women were made aware that many of the problems they faced were the same.

"Sometimes you get frustrated when you feel you're the only one who has to deal with these problems," she said, "We found out everyone does."

Gretchen Studd said the conference decided to start a statewide newsletter and set up organizations for multicultural women in key Oregon cities.

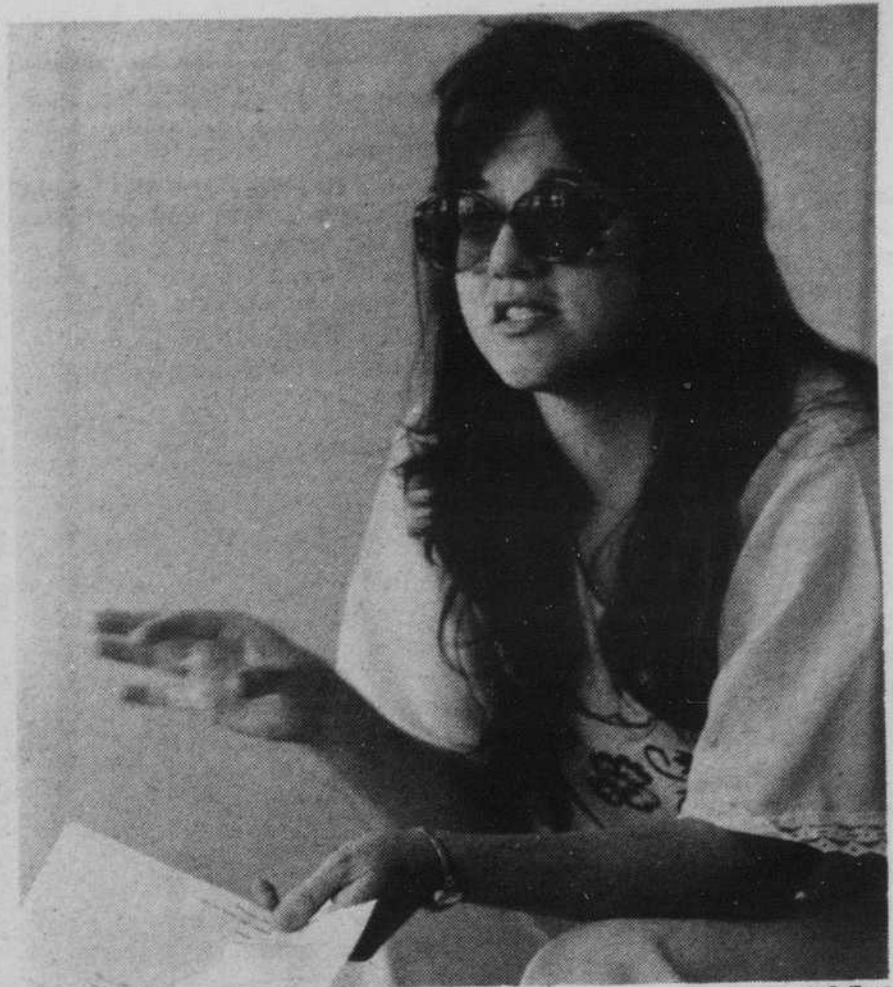
Valerie Fong said the conference progressed from awareness of the problems to discussion of resources and ways to cope.

"People were very open and honest when discussing problems they had faced," she said. "You could tell a lot of people were saying things for the first time."

Murillo said the conference was completely organized by volunteers. "There was a very good feeling of unity among the volunteers," she said, "and the organization wasn't just half-assed."

She said organizers decided beforehand that the conference would be open to everyone, including non-third-world people, and men.

"We were psychologically pre-



Carolina Murillo

Photo by Patrick Sullivan

pared for the conference. White people were welcomed and included in the discussions. We did not feel threatened by them."

Thyme Seagull who recorded parts of the conference (to be broadcast on KLCC Sunday from noon to 3 p.m.) said she felt conspicuous as a white woman.

"It was educational to be a white

woman in the minority but I don't think I'd go to another conference. I'm a radical from way back and it seems as though third-world women should be left to themselves to come to solutions."

Murillo said those who attended the conference didn't feel that way. "We're past the state of wanting to isolate. We want to share."

GTFs demonstrate, desire 'fair' contract

By MIKE HOPKINS
Of the Emerald

The Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation (GTFF) began informational picketing Tuesday at various locations on the University campus and will continue today and Thursday.

According to Bill Ratteree, GTFF vice-president, picketers will carry signs and distribute leaflets describing issues the GTFFs feel are necessary to make a "fair" contract.

The GTFF also has scheduled a rally for Wednesday at noon on the EMU terrace.

The GTFF has been involved in collective bargaining with the University administration since October, 1977. So far negotiators for the two sides have failed to agree on five major issues Ratteree feels are necessary to make a fair contract:

- Wages — Ratteree said the University's wage hike offers are essentially the same raises GTFs would receive without a contract.

- Health benefits — a ruling by the Attorney General prohibits GTFs from taking part in the state

employee's health care plan and prevents the University from paying into any health plan but the state's. The GTFF wants the University to help lobby in the legislature to have the law changed, and in the meantime, help GTFs pay for a separate plan.

- Child care — The GTFF wants the University to support increased child care funding in the legislature, to provide extra child care facilities and to subsidize child care for low income GTF parents. Ratteree says the University has offered nothing on this issue.

- Appointments and reappointments — the GTFF charges that the University refuses to recognize academic progress and work performance as criteria for hiring, preferring to leave these matters to the "unilateral and arbitrary discretion of departments."

- Discipline and discharge — the University insists on using administrative rules from the State Board of Higher Education to govern reprimand and firing of GTFs. Ratteree considers these rules restrictive, inappropriate and subject to abuse.

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