

Quarrels cloud HEP conference

By MARY FORAN
Of the Emerald

The High School Equivalency Program continues its first regional conference of minority education agencies today, but will do so without MEChA, the University's Chicano student union.

Workshops are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Emerald Hall, but the events will be boycotted by MEChA, whose director says the organization was not informed about the conference or invited to participate.

"We're the ones that can inform the students about all the hassles we have to face here at the University," said Manuel Loera, who heads MEChA.

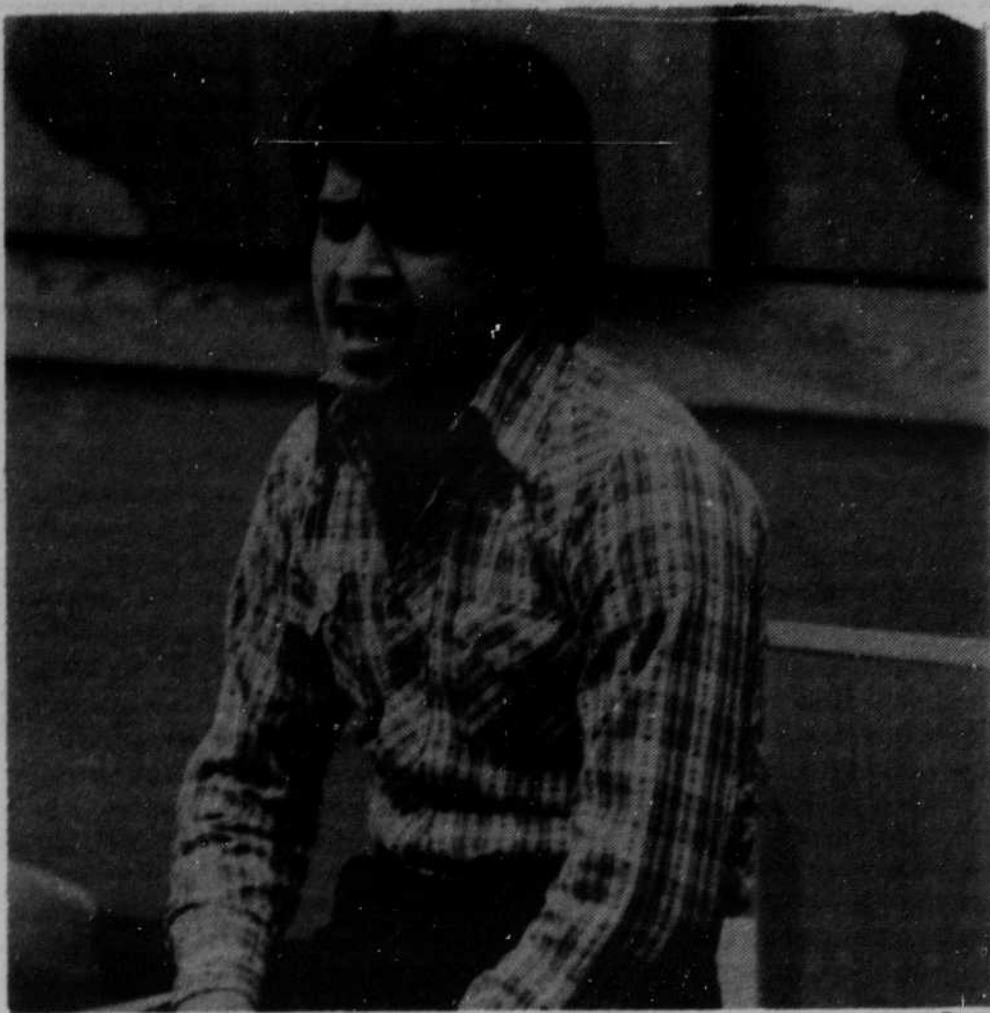
Because they were not invited to participate, no MEChA students will attend the conference, according to Maria

Mesa, ASUO vice president of student programs.

"They've taken personal views and inflicted them on everyone," she said, referring to the recent dispute that arose when Romero fired Loera from his position as a HEP resident supervisor. The firing was upheld by University Pres. William Boyd, who promised an investigation of the HEP program after any possible Loera appeal effort is completed.

Carolina Murillo, assistant director of HEP and organizer of the conference, said MEChA was mailed an invitation and that the conference was open to anyone who wanted to be on the program.

HEP science instructor Alan Holland said no effort was made to exclude MEChA from the conference but that "a complex of innocuous administrative



Sergio Aquilar

Photo by Jeffrey Burns

Director Jim Romero on federal legislation that may expand migrant education programs for secondary and college-level students from migrant farm-worker backgrounds.

The legislation, designed as an amendment to the 1965 federal Higher Education Act, would expand the funding for migrant education programs from \$5 million to \$20 million a year, Romero said. Currently, there are 17 federally funded migrant education programs across the nation, which include 14 HEP programs designed to help students from migrant farmworker backgrounds obtain their high school equivalency diplomas, and three College Assistance Migrant Programs designed to provide support for migrant farm students who are in their first year of college.

Today's events include bilingual presentations on "History of the Native Culture of America," and on "Minorities, drugs and alcohol: The need for a clear perspective." Workshops are planned on employment and training for the migrant student and on getting into and staying in the University.

Mexican music and folk dances, a film on minority opportunities in health care and a no-host social hour, set for 4 p.m., are also scheduled.

There is an optional fee of \$5 for the day's workshops.

PSAF renews bank protest

By KELI OSBORN
Of the Emerald

People for Southern African Freedom will commemorate African Liberation Day today with pickets at two branches of the U.S. National Bank of Oregon.

PSAF members charge the bank contributes to apartheid — legalized segregation — through its involvement in a banking consortium that makes loans associated with South Africa.

Also, the Eugene group calls for U.S. Bank to adopt a policy of not making such loans, either directly or indirectly.

As one of 62 shareholders in the Private Export Funding Corporation, the bank has participated at least indirectly in South Africa-related loans totaling \$176.1 million since 1973. Bank officials said last month that the bank owns shares in the funding corporation, but denied control over any loans made.

Rick Greibel, a U.S. Bank representative, said the bank's holdings amount to less than 1 percent of the total shares in PEFCO, which has its own portfolio as well as its own personnel, who determine the nature of the corporation's loan activity.

Bank officials maintain that no money customers deposit is used to finance the PEFCO shares.

The pickets will be at the bank's campus branch on 13th Avenue from noon to 1 p.m., and at the Springfield branch on Main Street from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

After the group demonstrated in April, about 100 people withdrew funds from the bank. Also, 19 Eugene-Springfield organizations, including church groups, labor unions and businesses closed accounts.

Groups in Salem and Portland will stage similar demonstrations against U.S. Bank today and next month. Building trade unions are also

at odds with U.S. National Bank, because of acknowledged non-union construction of branch banks in Bend and other locations.

The Oregon State Pipe Trades Association has requested all members to withdraw their accounts from the bank. PSAF hopes to coordinate its own campaign with that of labor unions, and calls for the bank to adopt a policy of contracting all construction to union labor.

African Liberation Day is an internationally recognized holiday.

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