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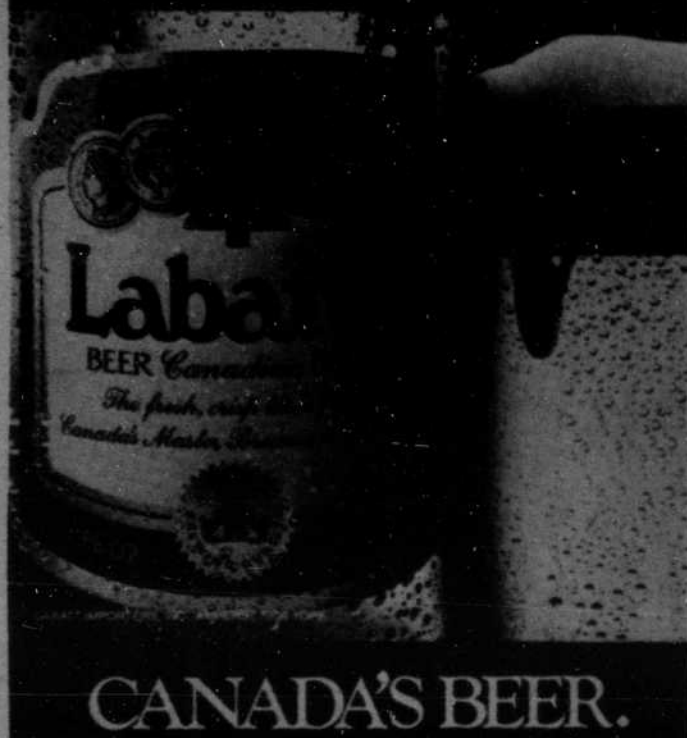
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Nicaraguan band appears tonight

Hot salsa-jazz in the EMU

By Kevin Harrington
Of the Emerald

In spite of the fact that relations between the governments of the United States and Nicaragua seem to have reached an all-time low, cultural emissaries from that embattled Central American nation are going to invade the EMU Ballroom tonight with red-hot salsa-jazz music.

Grupo Mancotal is an eleven-member Nicaraguan ensemble led by singer/composer Luis Enrique Mejia Godoy. Currently in the middle of its first U.S. tour, the band attracted sold-out crowds and received critical raves for its performances in Los Angeles and San Francisco last week. Tonight the group will be accompanied by Norma Helena Gadea, Nicaragua's foremost female vocalist. Opening the show will be Eugene's own reggae-rock "world beat music" band, the J-Walkers.

Godoy and Grupo Mancotal are among the most prominent representatives of Nicaragua's New Song Movement. As in other parts of Latin America, the New Song Movement in Nicaragua utilizes traditional and modern musical forms to express the concerns of the common people. This is in sharp contrast to the foreign pop music that dominates Latin American airwaves.

Before the 1979 Nicaraguan revolution, people involved in the movement were targeted for assassination by dictator Anastasio Somoza's security forces. Godoy's brother Carlos, considered the father of the Nicaraguan New Song Move-



Photo by Margaret Randall

Grupo Mancotal, on its first U.S. tour, sings of Nicaragua's common people. The salsa-jazz band will appear with the J-Walkers tonight in the EMU Ballroom.

ment, was forced into exile in Spain. There, he lived and recorded for several years before returning to his homeland after the revolution.

During the revolution, recordings by Carlos Godoy and other New Song singers were frequently broadcast by the clandestine rebel "Radio Sandino" to inspire the people to persevere against Somoza. Other bands, like Grupo Pancasan, stayed in Nicaragua and lived behind rebel lines, playing in Sandinista camps.

Luis Godoy and Grupo Mancotal are known primarily for their post-revolution work. They have made frequent trips to contra war zones and have performed in some of the remotest parts of Nicaragua. The lyrics to Godoy's songs reflect such concerns as getting enough food to eat. "Pan con

Dignidad" ("Bread With Dignity") was written in response to the U.S. grain embargo against Nicaragua.

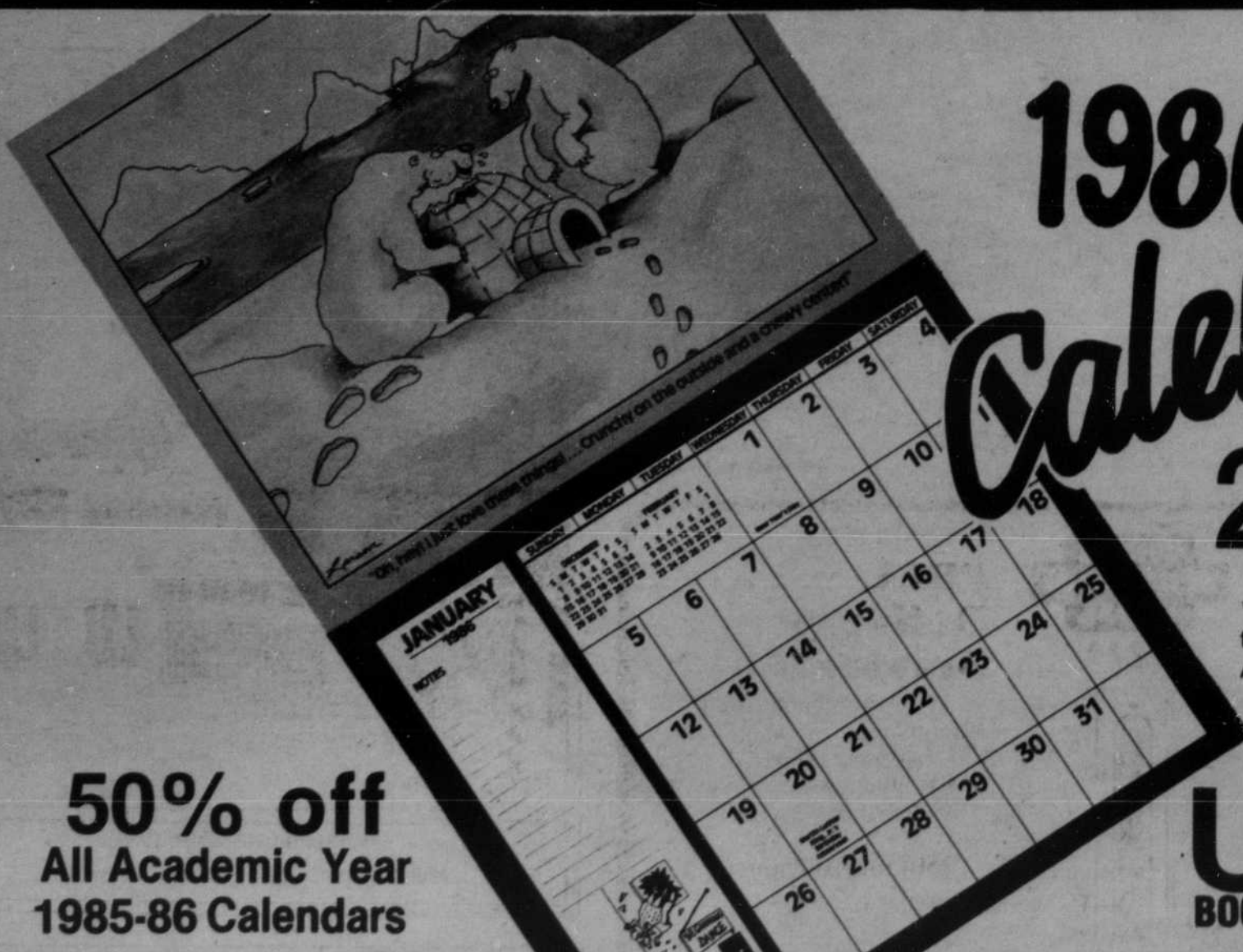
The embargo created a shortage of wheat that caused consternation among some Nicaraguans. Godoy's song reveals the determination of many Nicaraguans to put up with shortages of everything from toilet paper to toothpaste — to bread — in order to preserve their revolution.

The Council for Human Rights in Latin America (which is co-sponsoring tonight's concert with the EMU Cultural Forum) has been responsible for bringing numerous Latin American artists and musicians to Oregon.

Council spokesperson Chris Orsinger sees this as part of the

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