

# Chicano and Hispanic education the focus of MEChA conference

By Leslie Carlson  
Of the Emerald

A very small percentage of Chicanos and Hispanics in the United States attend colleges or universities. To draw attention to this, the Chicano Student Union, MEChA, is hosting a conference focusing on Chicanos and Hispanics in education.

The conference, which began Thursday night and ends Saturday, is designed to "explore the barriers that exist for Chicanos and Hispanics in secondary and higher education," says Petra Constante, co-assistant director of MEChA and chairwoman of the conference.

"There is a high dropout rate of Chicano high school students, and very few go on to higher education," Constante says. In addition, she stresses the lack of Hispanic faculty or a Chicano Studies program as discouraging factors for

University students.

"Our problem is part of a larger problem," she says. "You have a system which works for a specific kind of people — those of European descent — but not for those who are different."

She compares the problems of Chicano and Hispanic students to those of the handicapped because "someone who is handicapped has to work against the system to do the things they want to do. But it doesn't mean they can't do those things."

Workshops will focus on high school issues and the importance of a Chicano studies program at the college level.

Other workshop topics include affirmative action, the recruitment and retention of students, preparing Chicano and Hispanic high school students for college and parent and community involvement.



Photo by Harvey Young

Musical sounds provided by members of a four-piece band were part of the activities Thursday night at the MEChA education conference in Gerlinger lounge. The conference continues through Saturday.

## Campus-area bicycle race open to amateurs and pros

By Allan Lazo  
Of the Emerald

Seasoned racers and amateur cycling enthusiasts alike will have the opportunity to race around campus without being stopped by campus security Sunday during the annual University of Oregon Criterium bicycle race.

The race, sponsored by the Club Sports cycling team, will be divided into three different categories, including one for anyone who would like to race.

The race course will surround the lower part of campus and the dormitories. The square course will take riders along 15th Avenue, University Street, 13th Avenue and Agate Street.

At 10:15 a.m., the United States Cycling Federation licensed senior IV's, veterans, and women will race 40 laps (24 miles) around the course, followed by the Championship Citizen Race at 11:20 a.m.

According to race organizers Diane Easley and Meg O'Reilly, anyone can ride in the citizen's race, and they especially encourage students to come out for the event.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. under the covered tennis courts, and the races will go on as scheduled regardless of the weather. All riders must wear

helmets.

The final race of the day will be a 50 lap (30 mile) U.S.C.F. senior II/III race starting at 12 p.m.

Easley says the University of Oregon Criterium has been run since the cycling team began at the University six or seven years ago, but has become a large event only in the last two or three years.

Two years ago, the race hit its highest attendance when it was part of the annual Tour Willamette, a four-day stage race that attracts racers from along the West Coast.

Easley says she has had many calls from people interested in racing in the Championship Citizen Race and thinks the field will be quite large.

All registration will be handled the day of the race. The entry fee for all races is \$6, and cash and gift certificates from area businesses will be given away as prizes.

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