

Two University students to open Latin American store

By Betsy Clayton
Emerald Reporter

For the past year Oscar Hernandez and Carlos Rosales have been working on making their dream become reality.

The two University students want to open a specialty store and information center for people who are interested in the Latin American culture. "There's a need for it here, especially in Eugene since it's a student town," Hernandez said.

Saturday, Video Latino will open its doors and begin to offer Eugene and Lane County that Latin American flair it needs.

Video Latino, located on 775 Monroe St., will carry video rentals, music and magazines in Spanish as well as clothing and specialty items such as spices. Its grand opening will be from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and authentic Latin American refreshments will be served.

Hernandez and Rosales got the idea to start the store because they see a big need for

something like this in the community. "Our target isn't just the Hispanic population, but for the people who are learning Spanish and for the people who are interested in Latin American cultures," Hernandez said.

"There are thousands of people out there who are learning Spanish. Here at the University most people learn Castilian Spanish, but as a student there is more of a chance that you'll go to Latin America," Hernandez said. Explaining that there are different accents within different areas and the films Video Latino will carry are from all parts of Latin America, he added. "The Latin American film industry is growing and there's a chance to hear different accents."

Rosales emphasized that the store will also be a service center for the community that will help distribute information for Hispanics as well as other minorities. He said that he and Hernandez know a lot of Hispanic people in the area and they can use that to help, too.

Both Rosales and Hernandez are originally from El Salvador and are now U.S. citizens. Hernandez came to California 11 years ago and Rosales has been in Oregon three years.

The High school Equivalency Program brought them to the University. HEP is an alternate educational system that is funded by the United States Department of Education. It is for high school dropouts between the ages of 17 and 24 who have had some background in agricultural work.

Video Latino has close to 1000 films, most of them completely in Spanish but there are some with English subtitles. "If we see a need later on for more films with subtitles then we'll supply them," said Hernandez explaining that any Latin American product that they don't have now but see a demand for can become part of the store. "Our goal is to have people in town ask and we'll try to make it possible."

The store currently has about 15 different magazines. It will

possibly carry newspapers in the future. "We are also thinking about carrying books in Spanish to help supplement what the library here can't provide," he said.

Hernandez thinks that Eugene needs more specialty stores such as theirs because it will make the city more alive. "We're supposed to be a liberal town but in a sense we're homogeneous. Even the Mexican food here is corporation, not authentic. The more things that open up to other communities, such as hispanic, black and oriental, the more this town will have attraction," he said.

Funding for Video Latino has come from Rosales and Her-

nandez's own capital. They said in the future they'll be looking for investors. They obtained all the stock for the store by traveling to Los Angeles and Mexico and by contacting friends in Latin American countries who were able to send them inventory. After the grand opening, the store's regular hours will be 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week.

In order to make the store truly authentic, no price listed on an item will be set. As in Latin American countries, the customer will have the right to try and bargain. "We're here to satisfy people's needs. We will offer the best prices in town," Hernandez said.

Woman speaks about 'goddess-religion'

By Kathy Proffit
Emerald Contributor

Diane Stein, writer, healer, goddess and psychic spoke enthusiastically Thursday at the Unitarian Church in Eugene on the subject of Women's Spirituality, or what she terms, the "goddess-religion."

"Goddess-religion is older than any of us," Stein said. "All the artifacts of women found throughout the centuries in Europe, Asia, and North and South America are goddesses."

In the times of early civilization, it was a matriarchal society, ruled by goddesses who knew the mysteries, she said. Women were the builders, the architects, the birthers, the healers, the child-raisers, and men had a different place, she added.

"Later this was thought to be women's work and looked down upon, but humanity could not have survived without them (women)," Stein said.

"Women's spirituality

teaches women to be creative individuals. It is based on the return of choice, on women's free will and her ability and power to choose her life — to be what she wants to be. The women who make women's culture, who make women's music, art and literature are goddesses — witches."

Stein uses the word "witch" interchangeably with the words "goddess" and "healer."

"Witchcraft is totally positive," Stein said. "It's pre-Christian religion that honors the goddess and the earth. It has nothing to do with Satanism."

From the 13th to the 17th centuries when witch burning occurred, it was for two reasons, she said. First, it was meant to abolish what was left of the goddess-religion and witchcraft, and second, men were entering the medical area and wanted to get rid of women healers. The inquisition gave witchcraft bad press for many years, she said.

"But it wasn't abolished," she said. "It just went

underground. More and more of us are doing research, discovering we are all goddess-women and psychics in some form. This is not just a small thing; it is a world movement."

Stein believes the age of women is dawning now, but said women haven't been taught to be leaders. They have to be forced, because they've been indoctrinated to believe men will lead, she said.

"Spirituality is women's training ground for leadership," she said.

In addition to her knowledge of spirituality, Stein is an accomplished healer using crystals, gemstones and other methods. She will be giving a healing workshop using her stones this Saturday in Eugene. Those interested in attending should call 689-2264.

"Any woman who is a healer learns who she is; how much power she has. She is no longer helpless. We need healers badly. Healing women are healing our world. It has to start with the individual," she concluded.

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tosh or the IBM-PC microcomputers. But, said Shaw, the availability of the public-domain software to the public "gives consumers an idea of what the programs will do."

After working on these pro-

grams, the individual begins to develop a feel for what the program will do, Shaw said. By learning the different features of the programs, "consumers can decide whether they want to get the software or not," she added.

"Because many people are interested in the purchase of microcomputers, this (public-domain software) service has become the most popular feature in our collection," Shaw said.

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SINGAPORE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEETING AND POTLUCK '87

The SSA will be holding a GM on the 16th of October at Gerlinger Lounge from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

A potluck will follow shortly at 6 p.m. You'll have this chance of savoring gourmet food prepared by our students. Please invite your host family and friends. Bring a dish and we'll see you there!!!

All participants in the SWAP (Student's Welcoming and Assistant Program) are required to attend this event.

There will be a best dish competition. Prizes will be given to the top 3 dishes.

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