

# GTFF members approve contract

The union membership of the Graduate Teaching Fellow Federation unanimously ratified its disputed general contract at its membership meeting last Thursday.

The disagreement between the GTFF and the State System of Higher Education was settled after a four-month bargaining process involving health care provisions, comprehensive job evaluations and job descriptions in the GTFF contract.

According to GTF President Chuck Hunt, the new contract also includes a 3.5 percent wage increase a year for the next two years. The contract is effective immediately, and is retroactive to the beginning of fall term. It will expire July 31, 1989.

Hunt is pleased with the new evaluation process, which in the past included only GTFs hired for three quarters. A clause was added to the evalua-

tion to cover possible grievances involving the hiring and firing of GTFs.

"We like this evaluation better because it covers all GTFs, whether hired for one quarter or for three," Hunt said, adding "There is more security and a better basis for evaluation."

"I'm so glad it's over. I find negotiating a difficult process, and not one at which I'm at ease," Hunt said.

# 'Multi-cultural' learning needed

By Kelvin Wee  
Emerald Reporter

The issue of a "multi-cultural" as opposed to a "mono-cultural" America was the focus of the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA) symposium on Saturday.

According to MEChA Director Francisco Garcia, the symposium is the first of a three-part series to be sponsored by MEChA this year.

The symposium opened with a lecture by keynote speaker Dr. Carlos Cortez, a professor from University of California, Riverside.

Cortez, who holds two bachelor degrees, two masters and a PhD in history, began his lecture by pointing out the importance of other languages and cultures, and how they have merged into the American mainstream.

He used the New Random House Dictionary as an example, citing the addition of the word "burrito" as one of the 50,000 new words in the dictionary.

Minority groups need to be integrated into the community, Cortez said, citing a national census from 1970 to 1980 that indicated the Hispanic community grew 61 percent compared to the 7 percent increase in the Anglo-American community.

American people can benefit from a multicultural society, Cortez said. He cited former

U.S. President Jimmy Carter's trip to Poland as an example, explaining that Carter's translator misinterpreted his first sentence to read "I lust for the Polish people" instead of "I love the Polish people."

Another example he used was the marketing strategy Chevrolet used to market its "Chevrolet Nova" cars in Latin America.

"If you break up the word 'Nova' in Spanish, it means 'doesn't go,'" he explained, "No one is going to buy a car that doesn't go."

Cortez said the American higher education system needs to change its focus to include multicultural education. He added business executives need to be in remedial education to help them understand how to function with the "new" multicultural America.

The medical community is beginning to realize the need to understand various cultures

and their folk-medicine, Cortez said.

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