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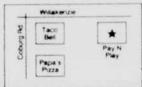
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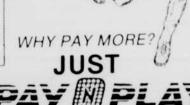
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## min 1991 folk festival Saturday Muhamminimini



Members of Sandunga entertain marketgoers last month at the Eugene Saturday Market.

## Music celebrates Latin American culture

he Latin American folk band Sandunga will take you on a musical tour Saturday as they perform traditional songs from around that region.

The band, made up of eight University students and graduates from Mexico, Chile, Ecuador and the United States, will perform on the Main Stage at 1 p.m.

One of our purposes is to promote the culture, to take samples from each region and show the differences," said Sandunga member Freddy Vilches. "There is a lot of variation, but they all have the same spirit.

Band members play a total of about 40 instruments, each one indigenous to a certain region in Latin America.

We play all these instruments that belong to different regions and that we use for different songs, but we try to incorporate them together so we can create a music that sort of identifies and unifies the whole Latin American culture," Vilches said.

The band was created 10 years ago by Armando Morales and Mary O'Connor, who met when O'Connor went to Mexico as an exchange

In addition to performing in concert and as part of cultural festivals, the band has spent

the last five summers touring migrant farm workers' camps in the northern and southwestern United States.

In 1985, Sandunga joined forces with a theater group and together they spend several weeks each year performing for migrant farm workers and their families.

In addition to playing music, band members perform in the plays, which focus on the dangers of pesticides and the need for education.

'We believe in our cause," Morales said. We turn down other offers in the summer and a lot of people say that's bad for the band, but we believe in our cause.

Keeping the Latin American culture alive for the Latino community in the United States is important, Vilches said, but the band also wants to provide a new experience for those who aren't familiar with Latin American music.

We really promote the culture of Latin America and expose the American people to something they never get exposed to," Vilches

We bring all that traditional music in here and do new arrangements so it suits the band. he said. "The main idea is that we're trying to recover some of the music that has been lost.

Daralyn Trappe

