

Speaker explains NAFTA

By Katy Moeller
Emerald Contributor

The North American Free Trade Agreement could possibly have devastating effects on the Mexican people, a Mexican human rights advocate said Friday.

Mariclaire Acosta, president of the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights, spoke to a group of more than 100 Friday night at the University.

Acosta is a sociology professor at the University of Mexico.

"My country is now run by economists; all Harvard-trained economists," she said. "They look down on us from behind their shoulders and say, 'Oh, these poor Mexicans. They never understand what we are doing for them.'"

Because Mexico has already lowered its tariffs and most of the barriers to trade, Acosta said she sees the NAFTA as having a goal other than free trade.

"We began to understand that NAFTA was about investment not about trade,"

she said. "And what is our comparative advantage? Cheap labor. We provide all this wonderful cheap, docile labor."

Acosta said she does not believe investors are concerned with the welfare of Mexican citizens.

"The issue of democracy is not an issue as far as investment is concerned," she said. "Who cares if there is democracy or not in Mexico as long as it doesn't affect business conditions."

Acosta predicted radical changes in the jobs and lives of Mexican workers.

"It is going to displace people from the countryside," she said. "It is going to displace farmers. It is going to displace all the people from small and medium-sized businesses because they're going to be wiped out by corporations. Mexican cities are going to become even larger and more polluted. And there is going to be more immigration to the U.S."

Acosta said she believes the United States' closed border policy causes human rights abuses of the workers that come from Mexico.

Clark said. They are designed to ensure out-of-state students pay the full cost of their education, she said.

"The state of Oregon is only able to provide for Oregon residents," she said.

Laurie Yokota, a senior at Western Oregon State College and one of two students on the board, said she understands students' concerns about the long-term effects of the rules, but she voted for them for fiscal reasons.

"We're subsidizing students in our system at a time when money is short," Yokota said. "This is a way to increase revenue and give Oregon residents what they've been paying in."

RULES

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The proportion of out-of-state students will continue to rise even after the new rules are in effect, Clark said. A large percentage of the students are from California, where high tuition costs and tough enrollment standards have sent many students to Oregon, she said.

But University President Myles Brand said the administrators will have to work harder to recruit out-of-state students.

The rules are not designed to keep out-of-state students away from Oregon,

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Thanksgiving in Eugene

Students who will be in Eugene for Thanksgiving and away from their families have a few local options to choose from.

The Newman Center, located at 1850 Emerald St., will have Mass Wednesday evening. Both parish members and the community, including students, are invited to attend the service and to bring a favorite dessert or baked good.

Leftovers will be donated to help feed the poor.

The Eugene Red Lion Inn is serving a Thanksgiving buffet from 12 to 7 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, including turkey, potatoes, sage dressing and mincemeat pie. The cost is \$9.95 for adults.

The Black Angus Restaurant is also serving a turkey buffet from noon to 10 p.m. on Thanksgiving. Reservations are recommended for the dinner, which costs \$8.99 for adults.

The Eugene Hilton is serving a Thanksgiving buffet from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Oscar's Garden Cafe, with prices ranging from \$13 to \$17.

Thanksgiving dinner at the Valley River Inn will be served from noon to 6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Day and costs between \$17 and \$22.

Poetry sought for celebration

In honor of Black History Month, February 1993, U.S. Bank, the Portland Trail Blazers and *The Oregonian* newspaper are requesting poetry from people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds be submitted for publication.

The poetry should reflect the theme of Black History Month and should tie into this celebration of black history and experience.

Writers can submit their works to: U.S. Bank — Events, African-American Reflections, P.O. Box 8837, Portland, Ore., 97208. Deadline for submission is Dec. 18. All entries must be typed, preferably limited to 20 lines and double-spaced.

Entries must be original works by the submitter and should include name, school (if applicable), address and telephone number. Indicate whether writer is a child or adult.

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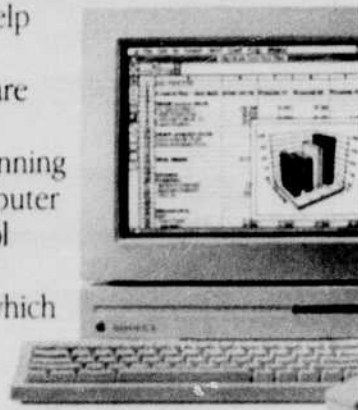


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