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El Día de los Muertos honors spirits of the dead

■ **HOLIDAY:** MEChA will sponsor celebrations of traditional beliefs tonight

By Doug Irving
Student Activities Reporter

Since the Europeans conquered the indigenous tribes of Mexico, people have celebrated El Día de los Muertos — the Day of the Dead.

Movimiento Estudiante Chicanos de Aztlan will continue this tradition tonight at 8 in the Multicultural center with a celebration in memory of the dead that will include speakers, poetry readings, singers and a slide show.

"This is one big cultural event that sums up the week," Andres Barejas, MEChA programs coordinator, said.

Javier Rodriguez, director of popular culture for the Institute of Culture in Guanajuato, Mexico, will speak tonight about the history, culture and significance of El Día de los Muertos.

The celebration is a chance for people to recognize the spirits of loved ones.

"You try to bring their spirits back," Barejas said. "You remind yourself that they are still a part of your life."

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— Andres Barejas
MEChA programs coordinator

Members of MEChA created an altar that will be on display at the Multicultural Center until Friday. The altar, covered with fruit, drinks and baked goods, is a typical altar for this honored day.

"Whoever creates the altar dedicates it to someone very special," Barejas said.

This year's altar is dedicated to the dead heroes of MEChA members and the community in general.

MEChA has also offered workshops this week in preparation of the holiday.

The tradition of bringing back spirits dates back to both ancient European and Mexican beliefs. Both cultures believe that after people die, their spirits live on and might return. El Día de los Muertos is a day commemorating these beliefs.

Requests: Funding for Solar Center is approved

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Also on Wednesday, the Senate confirmed the appointment of Shannon Varney to the EMU Board. Varney has had prior experience as a Board member.

At a Student Senate meeting on Friday, the Senate approved special requests of the University Theatre for \$1,400, Pocket Playhouse for \$1,577 and

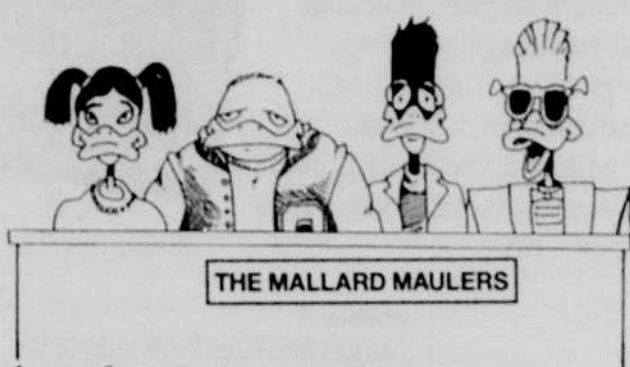
MEChA's women's group for \$2,000.

Sen. Jessica Frahs said she believes the Senate is reviewing many special requests this year because of low-money allocation to programs last year. "There's a ton of special requests this year because programs didn't get the money they needed last year."



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the future, the future won't
take care for us.

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Register: Deadline November 3rd. All residence hall students sign up at your area desk. All others at the EMU Rec. Center, or call 346-4378 for more information.

Preliminary Rounds:
Wednesday, November 8th
Thursday, November 9th

Campus Finals:
Monday, November 13th.

Cost: \$3 per person or \$12 for a team.

In the Nov. 1 issue of the *ODE*, Risa Palm should have been identified as a professor of geography, not geology. The *Emerald* apologizes for the error.

Life
is a
Journey
Not a
Race

Remember...



wherever you go,

there you are.