

Teachers, officials from Mexico arrive as part of exchange

■ **EDUCATION:** Visitors will spend week giving presentations on culture, history and language

By Dawn Paugh
Community Reporter

An official delegation of seven teachers and officials from Oaxaca, Mexico have come to the United States for the first time to participate in education seminars this week as part of an on-going reciprocal program exchange.

The visit to Eugene is part of

an exchange relationship that began in 1993 with the creation of the Eugene-Oaxaca (pronounced wa-HAH-ca) Teacher to Teacher Project.

"We realize the state of importance of relation between the state of Oaxaca and the state of Oregon, and the teachers of Oaxaca to the teachers of Oregon," said Dr. Raul Martinez, director of elementary education in Oaxaca.

The week of activities are in cooperation with the Eugene Education Association, which has participated in two previous

workshops in Oaxaca in 1993 and 1995.

"We are making ties between two states, and in this case, two cities," Martinez said.

During this week's visit, the teachers and officials from Oaxaca will meet Gov. John Kitzhaber on Tuesday in Salem. On Wednesday, they will be in 4-J classrooms to make presentations on culture, history and language.

"We have been systematically looking at education so that now in 1996, we have been able to carry our education in an

improved manner," said Adán Jiménez Aquino, Oaxaca education official. "We have been worried about developing different opportunities in alternative education that we began, in 1992, with cooperative teaching, cooperative education and developing critical thinking."

Thursday, the delegates will be at the University to speak with students in the High School Equivalency Program for migrant worker family students. They will also meet with MEChA, the ChicanoMexicano University student organization.

"They will be meeting and sharing experiences with them and getting to know how those programs operate at the University," said Howard Yang, a Spanish immersion teacher at

Eugene's International High Schools in Sheldon and South Eugene.

Also on Friday, the delegates will contribute to a round-table discussion on NAFTA, Proposition 187 in Oregon/California, global economy and the state of public education in both countries. This will be at the Downtown Athletic Club, from 4 to 6 p.m.

The week-long visit will conclude with a conference titled Solidarity with Mexico — An Action Teach-In. The Oaxacan teachers will lead the morning and afternoon workshops with Primitivo Rodriguez, a Mexican human rights activist, author and analyst of U.S./Mexico relations.

For more information about the conference, call 346-1123.

REPORTING RACIAL HARASSMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

The recent racial incidents on our campus highlight the need for students to know how to report incidents of racial harassment. Reporting can happen in two ways - officially and unofficially. You do not have to be the recipient of harassment to report it. Each of us has a responsibility to our community to document inappropriate behavior.

UNOFFICIAL REPORTING

Unofficial Report Forms provided by the Race Task Force are available in various locations across campus, including the student unions, the Multicultural Center, the Counseling Center, and the Office of Student Life. Staff members in University Housing also have report forms.

What happens when you report unofficially? The forms are returned to the Counseling Center where the information is compiled into a data base of campus statistics. If permission is given on the forms, the stories are transcribed, changing any identifying information, and used as educational tools. The forms are shredded. If you request to be contacted, a member of the Race Task Force will get in touch with you to provide support for you and help you or your friend(s) decide what your next steps could be.

OFFICIAL REPORTING

Official reporting can begin with your Resident Assistant, the Office of Student Advocacy, the Mediation Program, the Student Conduct Office, the Office of Student Life, or the Affirmative Action Office. Each of these "doors" can get you into the university reporting system. Use the opening that is the most comfortable for you.

What happens when you report officially? The university will follow established policies and procedures in prosecuting the perpetrators of the offense. Federal law upholding the alleged perpetrator's rights to privacy does not always allow us to get detailed information back to students regarding the specific outcome of the charge; however disciplinary sanctions can range from reprimand, community service, negative notation on transcript, suspension, to expulsion. These incidents are taken seriously!

REMEMBER:

To stop racial harassment and intimidation on our campus we have to name it! To succeed at this we need your help! REPORT IT TO STOP IT! For more information, contact the Office of Student Life, 346-3216.

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