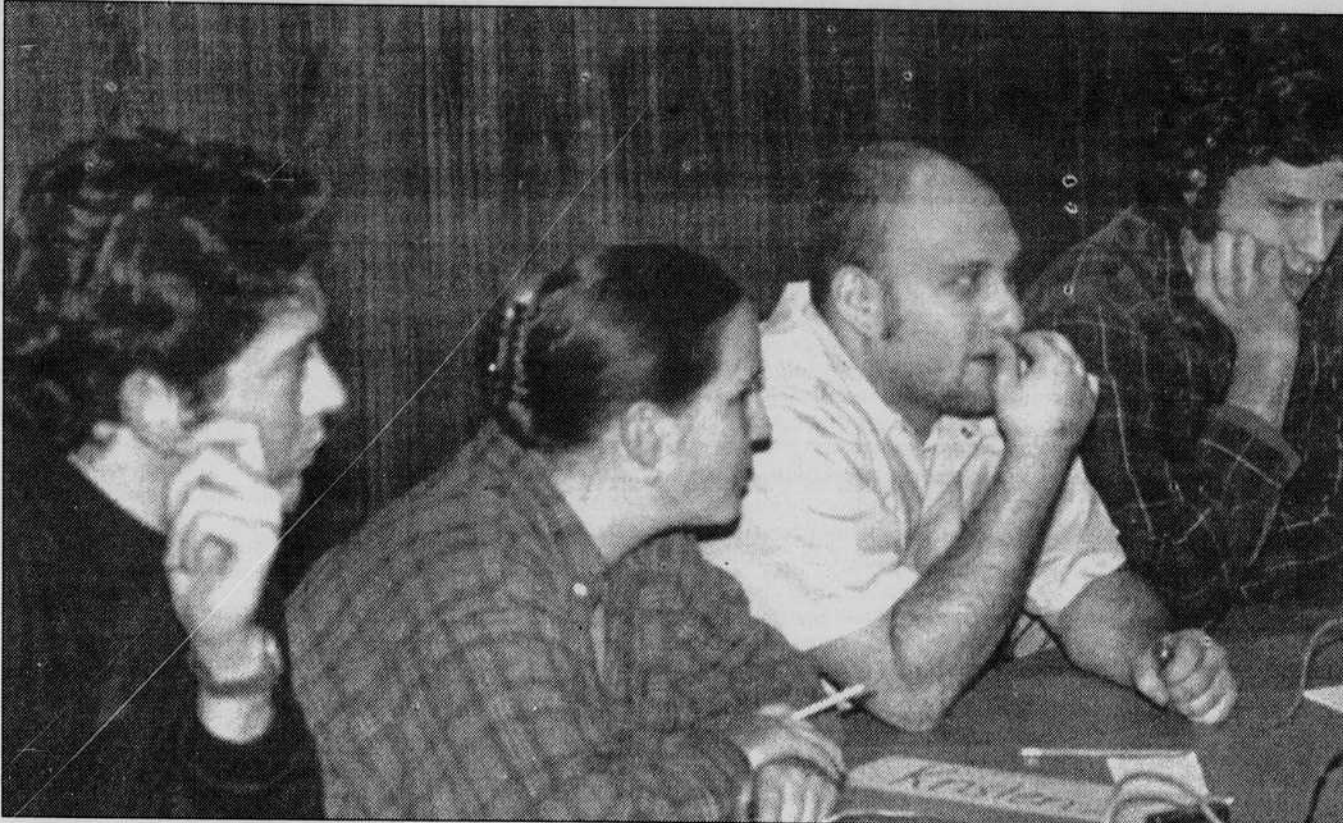


This is ponderous



Members of the "Mulva's Delores" team ponder a question at the College Bowl Wednesday night. The event is a national competition where the teams compete by answering questions. The winners of the competition will go on to the northwest regional competition.

MATHEW STIFFLER/Emerald

Ganas program shares campus life with students

■ **LEADERS:** By reaching out to Chicano students, the program hopes to inspire bicultural leaders

By Dana Williams
Multicultural Issues Reporter

Local middle school students will visit the campus tomorrow to see "a day in the life" of Chicano University students. University students are welcoming a group called Ganas — the Spanish word for "desire."

The Ganas program connects Chicano/Latino middle school students with University students. Sixth, seventh and eighth graders are paired with University students and will visit college classrooms and workplaces. The students will also tour the EMU and the University's libraries, bookstore and residence halls. In addition, students will learn about college admission and financial aid, as well as participate in a computer presentation at the Knight Library Technology Center.

A reception introducing Ganas will be held in the Knight Library tonight at 6:30 p.m. and will include speakers Dr. Anselmo Villanueva, adjunct professor in the College of Education; Glen Banfield, ASUO vice president; Marshall Saucedo, director

of the Office of Multicultural Affairs; Jim Buch, Student Affairs associate vice president; and Kay Mehas, Kennedy Middle School principal. Events will continue on Friday.

Ganas began with Jim Garcia, University assistant director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, who wanted to inspire Chicano/Latino students to become bicultural leaders. Garcia's concern for young students stems from 17 years of working with Chicano/Latino students.

"I see too many leaders that happen to look Latino, and it's assumed that they know about their history," Garcia said.

University students travel to Kennedy Middle School every other week to talk to students about college and to dispel stereotypes portrayed in the media, said Claudia Rodriguez, a University senior coordinating the program. Ganas leaders want to educate students about their own culture(s) and empower young people to be leaders in mainstream society.

"A lot of kids talked about 'COPS' and how it's always a brown person who is in gangs and in trouble," Rodriguez said. "It's important for the kids to see college students who they can relate to; they need to see alternative role models."

Seventh grader Jocelyn Durate said she enjoys Ganas because she can feel proud to be a Spanish speaker.

"In Ganas they accept you the way that you are," she said.

Thirty University students, who volunteer as big brothers and sisters, take middle school students to cultural events throughout the term.

Thirteen-year-old Crystal Brown, a participant in the program, now wants to go to college and study to be a journalist or a veterinarian.

"I wasn't thinking about college before, but ever since I moved to Eugene I've learned more about college, and I see more minorities in college," Brown said. "It inspires me."

Roscoe Caron, an eighth grade teacher at Kennedy Middle School, works with Garcia to make the program a success. Caron explained that the students are behind the program because "it's decidedly cool."

Kennedy Middle School has the largest number of Chicano/Latino students in Eugene. Although only about half of Kennedy's Chicano/Latino students are involved in Ganas, Caron is optimistic.

"We want to start with the kids who really want to be here," Caron said.

Law: Hawaii case central to marriage debate

■ **Continued from Page 1**
rights for lesbians and gay men.

"Without civil marriage, gay couples often face painful, difficult situations, like being barred from the hospital bedside of a partner in a medical emergency," said Lambda Legal Director Beatrice Dohrn. "Lesbian and gay couples have had no access to the legal, economic and practical protections of civil marriage that non-gay couples can take for granted."

According to a Lambda news release, gays do not want "gay marriage," but prefer the term "marriage." "Gay marriage" implies that same-sex couples are asking for special rights or privileges that married couples do not have. Lesbians and gay men simply want equal rights — the same as heterosexual marriage.

"The Hawaii case is so important for gays, lesbians and bisexuals in general that it should be a very interesting speech," University student Karen Vittek said.

Founded in 1973, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund is the nation's oldest and largest legal organization that works nationally to extend the civil rights of lesbians, gay men and people with HIV and AIDS. Lambda is spearheading a national movement to end sex discrimination in civil marriage and to protect lesbian and gay families.

Wolfson has worked as a lawyer for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund since 1989. He has published numerous articles and frequently speaks on issues such as on sexual orientation, HIV/AIDS and civil rights. Wolfson served as Assistant District Attorney for Kings County (Brooklyn) where he wrote *amicus* briefs, which helped win the United States Supreme Court's ban on race discrimination in jury selection (*Batson v. Kentucky*). He also served as counsel on *Bowers v. Hardwick*, the 1986 Supreme Court case which upheld Georgia's sodomy law as constitutional. Wolfson, who taught at Rutgers Law School, is currently an adjunct professor of law at Columbia.

The forum is free and open to the public tonight in the EMU Ballroom at 7:00 p.m. Wolfson will lecture briefly and then engage in a question-and-answer session. The event is co-sponsored by the ASUO Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance; The Unitarian Universalist Church of Eugene; The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Educational and Support Services Program; The Standing Committee for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Concerns and the ASUO Women's Center. The Cultural Forum is presenting the event.

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