

# Prepare for Cinco de Mayo

■ Party options abound, whether you want to dance all night or avoid a tequila-induced hangover

By Joe Walsh  
Oregon Daily Emerald

You don't have to dance. You don't need a car. No matter who you are, there's something to do on Cinco de Mayo.

Celebrate the fifth day of May right here on campus with MEChA, the official voice of Chicano/a students at the University of Oregon. Expect a crowd of about 300 to pack the EMU Ballroom for a free dinner at 6 p.m., followed by traditional Mexican dance, a slide show, awards ceremony and piñata. A dance will follow at 9 p.m.

Or head over to Esslinger Hall for a game of Twister, table tennis, a three-point con-

test and more. The fun begins around 10 p.m. and doors will stay open until 2 a.m. The event is open to all University students with student ID.

There's plenty to do off campus, too:

The Washington/Jefferson Park will be packed all weekend for the 8th annual Fiesta Latina. Free and open to all ages, the fiesta offers several food booths as well as live music and dancing.

But Fiesta Latina won't be the only place to party in West Eugene. La Tiendita y Taco Loco at 764 Blair Boulevard will have live mariachi music all day Friday. Local radio station KDUK will join the party on the lunch hour, offering contests and prizes during its live broadcast. More live music will follow Saturday night, with Los Mex Pistols. A \$5 cover charge will be in effect both days.

While all the Mexican restaurants will be packed, not all will be as happening as El Torito

Mexican Restaurant & Cantina at 1003 Valley River Way. Friday night's festivities include dancing to music by a live disc jockey, as well as drink and appetizer specials. The fiesta grande begins around 2 o'clock in the afternoon, but avoid the long lines and get your \$10 admission bracelet at 11 a.m. The fun will start up again on Saturday when local radio station KDUK broadcasts its show live from the cantina from 4 - 7 p.m. There will be contests and prizes, and no cover charge.

Senor Frog's at 444 E. 3rd Ave. is also planning for a large crowd as they kick off two full days of partying Friday at 11 a.m. The outside area, which will include a beer garden and margarita stand, will be blocked off for dancing. A DJ will get the party going around 10 p.m., at which time a \$3 cover will be in effect. The party will start all over again Saturday at 11 a.m.

For a more relaxed Cinco de Mayo, head to Nacho's at 11th and for low-priced jumbo margaritas and bean dip.

Or check out Chapala Mexican Restaurant at 68 W. 29th for a family-oriented fiesta. The outdoor party will feature a mariachi band that will start around 1 p.m., and patrons can enter a prize drawing to win a catered party with live music for up to 20 people. Tents will be set up in the parking lot area in case of rain.

## May 5 celebrates the fight against oppression

Many people mistakenly believe that Cinco de Mayo (May 5) is the anniversary of Mexican independence. But the holiday actually commemorates the victory of the Mexican army over the French army at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

The emperor of France, Napoleon III, had sent troops to conquer Mexico and a Hapsburg royal to rule the new Mexican empire. But Mexican

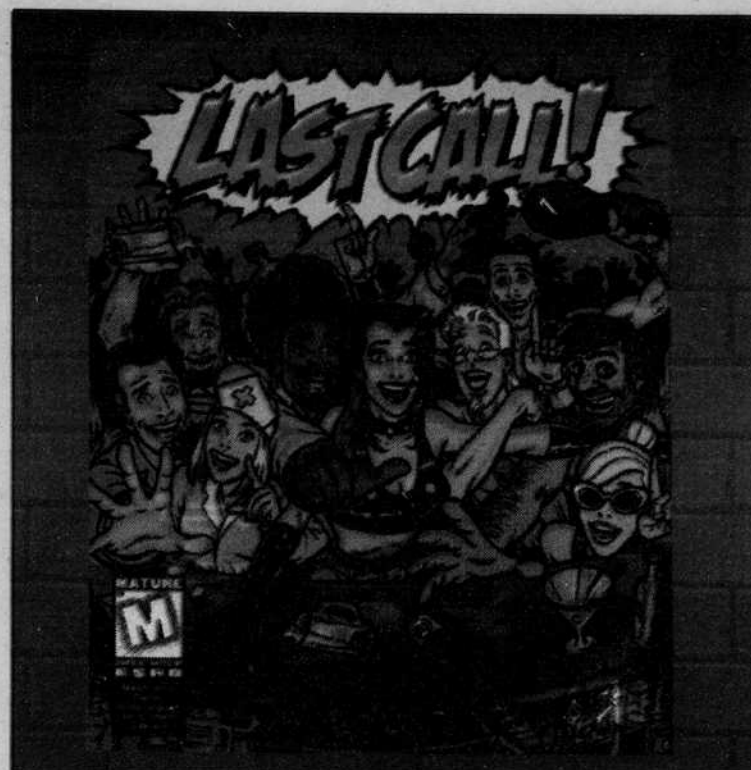
troops, led by General Ignacio Zaragoza, won an against-the-odds victory in the battle, even though their army was vastly outnumbered by the French.

Despite winning the battle, the Mexicans eventually lost the war, and the French royal became ruler in 1864. However, three years later, in 1867, the French withdrew their troops after facing Mexican resistance and pressure from the United States.

Now, over 100 years later,

Cinco de Mayo is a time to recognize the bravery of those who fought — and those who continue to fight — against oppression. In the United States and Mexico, the holiday is often celebrated with parades, festivals, music, dancing and parties.

Sources: Cinco de Mayo Web sites, including [www.vivacincodemayo.org/history.htm](http://www.vivacincodemayo.org/history.htm), [www.worldbook.com/fun/cinco/html/cinco.htm](http://www.worldbook.com/fun/cinco/html/cinco.htm) and [www.cincodemayo.net/eng/history.htm](http://www.cincodemayo.net/eng/history.htm).



Courtesy of Simon & Schuster

## Bartending game has some irresponsible fun

■ In "Last Call," a full-tilt computer game, the player gets tips by mixing drinks

By Joe Walsh  
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The interactive entertainment industry has gone too far.

Cutler Creative, a New York-based video game developer, has created a virtual bartending video game that puts a full bar and complete drink recipe book at the disposal of anyone with a computer.

In a society already burdened with underage drinking, it's appalling that Cutler Creative chose to completely ignore the effects such a game would have on their primary audience of young adults.

But it sure is fun.

The liquor flows as fast as the pick-up lines in "Last Call," the new virtual bartending CD-ROM that teaches actual bartending techniques and over 100 drink recipes. As a virtual bartender, your goal in "Last Call" is to earn tips, and mixing drinks quickly and accurately is the key to raking in the big bucks.

Drinks range in difficulty from the basic shot of tequila to the Alabama Slammer, but you've got to be fast regardless. The faster the pour, the higher the tip.

You've got to be accurate, too. Put too much sour mix in that Vodka Collins, and your customers will flee faster than a minor at a busted keg.

Another key to good bartending is keeping your customers happy. "Last Call" allows you to interact with the customers in several

ways. Flirtation is one, but don't overdo it. Or, on the safer side, you can change the background music depending on the customer. Basically, it's your job to keep the party going.

But more importantly, you've got to keep your customers conscious. You've got to pace them (God knows they won't pace themselves), because they can't tip you after they've passed out.

"Last Call" features over a dozen levels, each with progressively harder recipes and increasingly impatient customers. In the unlimited Drink Specials Mode, you can practice any recipe and earn tips while learning the location of all the ingredients and tools.

There are also 20 different customers in "Last Call," each with their own quirks. Among them are the binging and purging supermodel, Elan, and the chain-smoking European, Anton, who starts out happy but gets frustrated by "American women" as the night goes on.

Entertaining and educational, "Last Call" aims to please everyone from school-age children to full-fledged alcoholics.

### "Last Call"

What: "Last Call," a virtual bartending video game

Price: Expected retail price of \$19.95

Rating: "M" or "Mature" (suitable for ages 17 and above)

Available: Now at most computer software retailers

Website: [www.lastcallgame.com](http://www.lastcallgame.com)

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