

Minority students make inroads

The Chicano and Indian movements, which recently came to the University of Nebraska as an Indian Student Association and a Mexican-American Student Association,

are making inroads in a number of Midwestern Universities.

At the University of Iowa, in Iowa City, Chicanos and Indians have been working at educating and organizing their people. Recently, the first concrete results of their efforts became public as they formally applied for chartered organization status.

The group, which will be called the Chicano and American Student Union, said it hoped the union would unite University Chicanos and Indians "to preserve our heritage and our identity, to raise a social consciousness among our people who for so long have been brainwashed, denied, oppressed, and murdered, and to demand that the University of Iowa recruit more Chicano and Indian students from around the state — a responsibility we feel the state has not met."

Anthony Zavala, spokesman for the organization, said that out of the University's student population of more than 20,000 only 22 Chicanos and 14 Indians are enrolled. The union has also laid plans for lectures, leaflets, academic courses, concerts and other means of education.

Mexican-American students at the University of Nebraska have also recently organized to promote the Chicano culture.

At the University of Nebraska there are not more than 30 Mexican-American students. Mexican-American Student Association (MASA) spokesman Rod Hernandez said one of the main goals of MASA will be to start a program at the University which will make an active commitment recruiting Mexican-American students. Hernandez explained that two

years ago, there were fewer than 40 Mexican-American students at the University of Colorado. At that time, the University of Colorado, in conjunction with the student body, began a fund-raising drive for minority scholarships.

Since then, the Mexican-American student population at the University of Colorado has dramatically risen to nearly 700 students.

About a year ago there were only four Chicanos at the University of Minnesota. These four students felt that there was need for a change.

"It was apparent that the University had done a bad job of recruiting Chicanos," said Nick Castello, member of the newly-formed Latin Liberation Front. "We felt that we couldn't lose anything by having Chicanos recruit."

Their enrollment drive culminated in a demonstration and rally at the University in September. The group hoped

their vocal protest would raise the needed funds for Chicano recruitment.

"They (the Administration) only budged when we yelled at them," said Adam Chavarria, one of the four original Chicano students.

One of the obstacles to Chicano recruitment has been the attitudes of high school counselors and administrators, they explained. When the group met with students at a St. Paul high school, the principal refused to allow a second meeting. According to Latin Liberation Front president Ramona Arreguin, the principal said, "One meeting about college is enough for these kids."

The group paid compliments to the University administration for their recent attitude toward their organization. They said the administration had already granted many of their demands.

A University-sponsored Chicano symposium was held last week. It was also announced that a Chicano studies program is expected to be implemented next year.

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We the undersigned students of the University of Nebraska endorse the PACE proposal for a student supported low-income scholarship fund.

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