Chicano unity urged during culture days

To develop an effective Chicano studies program, Chicanos must "keep the unity of the Chicano community" in mind, according to Simon Orta, director of the Bilingual Bicultural Center in Houston,

Orta, who received his doctorate at NU, spoke on the future of bilingual bicultural education at a Chicano Culture Days dinner

Chicano Culture Days, held April 18th through 27th, were sponsored by UNL's Mexican American Student Association (MASA).

Orta said that by telling UNL Chicano students about biculturalism he hoped he would "give some idea for development" of a program in Chicano studies here. Several Chicano studies courses currently are offered through the Ethnic Studies Department but no Chicano studies degree is offered, according to Ralph Vigil, director of that department.

Past and present

A Chicano studies curriculum must "tie together the past and present" of the Chicano culture, Orta said. An effective curriculum is designed to "influence the identity and personal experience of

Since study would be open to all students, not just Chicanos, it should "produce understanding of Chicano self-concept, culture, and traditions," said Orta. However, he said, the study should recognize the educational limitations of the Chicano student and should be geared to "take the psychological, social and intellectual needs of the Chicano into account."

A Chicano studies department works "best with a diversified curriculum and a varied and qualified faculty" according to Orta. Chicano studies must coordinate with other departments and

"should involve students in grading policies, teaching methods, scheduling and hiring faculty," commented Orta.

Any expansion of the department must be accompanied by an equal expansion of faculty, he said.

Three tracks Curriculum can be structured to take one of three tracks: humanities, social studies or education, Orta said. A student would then select one track and follow his particular interests.

Many areas of study may include specialization in Chicano culture. Orta named courses in anthropology, art, economics, education, English, history, linguistics, political science, public health, sociology, Spanish and theater arts as examples.

"It also is essential to develop a curriculum in lower study divisions where the largest number of students will come in contact with it and can use Chicano studies to fill general education requirements," Orta emphasized.

At the Friday evening dinner, four students were awarded MASA-sponsored scholarships. The scholarships were awarded on the basis of academics, involvement in MASA and financial need, according to MASA adviser Marty Ramirez.

Sally Garcia, a sophomore elementary education major was given \$150. A \$125 scholarship was awarded to freshman business major Randy Sanchez, and Vince Arsiaga, a senior sociology major was awarded \$100 for graduate work.

Professor's roles

"Los Bailadores de MASA" a group of six MASA members, performed four special dances to Spanish music. The dancers performed in hand-made costumes and were directed by Sandy Gutierrez.

Other music for the evening was provided by Mariachis, a

five-member group of Spanish singers.

On Saturday, panel discussions of community and campus issues affecting the Chicano student were held as part of the culture days.

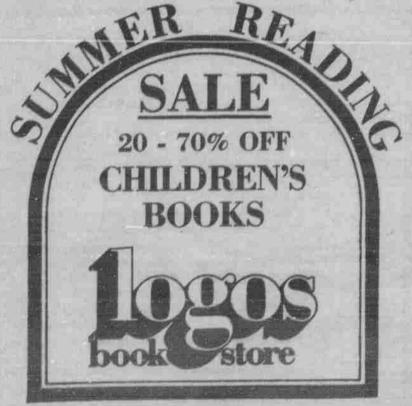
Discussion on Chicano issues throughout the state and identification of agencies for communication among Chicanos were the themes of the Saturday morning panel. **Panelists**

Morning panelists included members of a parents group in Scottsbluff, the G.I. Forum, the G.I. Forum auxiliary, and the Mexican/American commission.

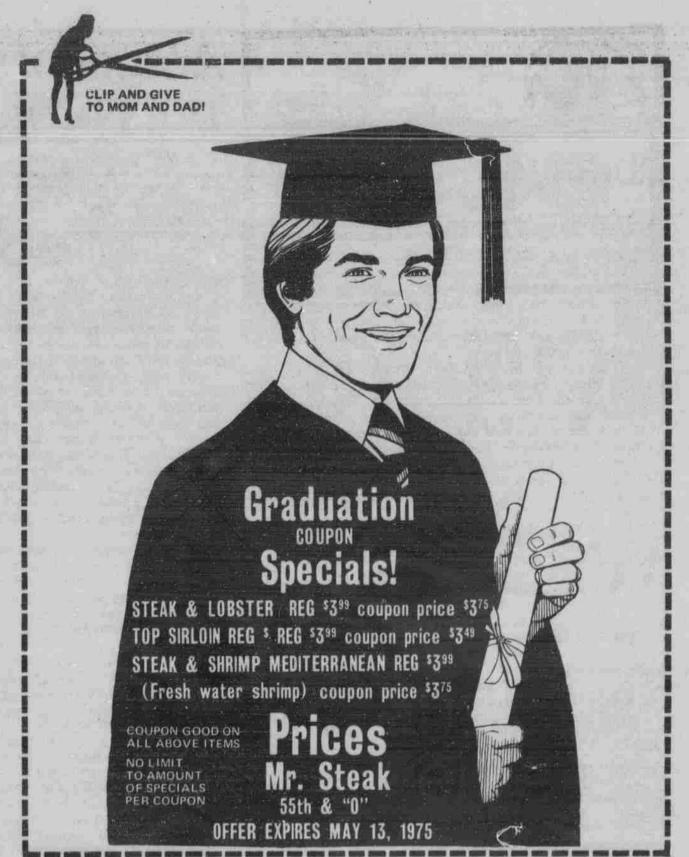
In the afternoon a panel of UNL professors discussed the role of a chicano professor and the activities of individual UNL professors, according to Ramirez.

Saturday evening, a dance featuring "Los Cervantes y los Caballeros" from Omaha was held at the National Guard Armory. Activities Sunday included a film, a special Spanish mass, and a

fiesta at St. Mary's Church. The fiesta was a joint effort of the MASA students and the chicano community of Lincoln, Ramirez stated.



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