

# Ethnic groups set proposal

Before the day is over the administration will be presented with a proposal aimed at bettering the educational processes for Chicanos, Native Americans, and Blacks. The proposal is said to be the first of many steps aimed at enhancing the position of ethnic groups at NMSU.

Dr. Irvin Vance and Gene Leitka, Black studies coordinator and Native American studies coordinator respectively, talked with this reporter prior to the completion of the proposal and both were optimistic as to its future. Working along with Vance and Leitka is Ray Paz, Chicano studies coordinator.

**"We are here to establish a viable and useful ethnic studies program," said Vance, "and this is just the first step."**

Explaining their work Leitka said:

"The proposal we are currently working on, hopefully, will meet the needs of those students who helped in bringing to surface those special needs and problems that confront certain segments of the university student body."

The three men, working from positions created this year, are representing close to 2,000 students according to a previous report from the Chicano office. All three men have praised action by the students in generating interest among the school administration towards ethnic groups.

Vance explained Monday that there was still alot "up in the air," but said that the proposal would be ready by today's deadline.

Vice President Donald C. Roush will be the first to examine the proposal which is expected to concentrate heavily on an ethnic studies program.

**"We'll have a proposal ready for him," said Vance, "it may be that we'll have to go back and work on it some more, but we will make the deadline."**

Leitka said that basically the work of the three men was the same—to meet the specific needs of the students.

"The American Indian student's major problem," said Leitka, "is difficulty in remaining in school until graduation. We want to curb this high rate of dropout, which is estimated to be 70 per cent of the national average."

Vance said that a program of this type will bring additional Black faculty members as well as recommend new courses. He said that one of the major aspects for the Blacks will be the recruitment of new students.

Pointing out that there is no type of ethnic program on campus at this time, Vance stated that the proposal would be an innovation towards ethnic studies.

"I think that any program you have at this time is an innovation," he said. "We will be making a lot of innovative proposals. This is just our first approximation."

Echoing Paz, Vance said that not much time was allowed to formulate the proposal. He said that at the time the men were trying to formulate a structure which may be changed later.

"We certainly can't be expected to come up with a program in two weeks," said Vance.

All three men expressed a need to get feed-back from both faculty members and students. To meet this need several sessions were held to get feed-back from university residents.

Paz said earlier that the coordinators were interested in hearing anyone "who had something to say about minority groups."

Vance said that both faculty and student

sessions were productive. He stated that 12 to 15 people attended each meeting and that alot of what they expressed would be reflected in the proposal.

The Black coordinator said that he alone talked to about 100 students regarding the proposal and that the enthusiasm among them was "very high."

## Chicano Revolution

El Chicano, a rock organization working out of Los Angeles, will perform in Pan American Center Thursday at 8 p.m. in conjunction with the celebration of Mexican independence.

The group recently appeared before a standing-room only crowd in Albuquerque and is well known for its instrumental arrangements.

Sponsored by Los Chicanos of NMSU, the concert is a fund raising project with an admission fee of \$2 per person along with a student identification card. Date tickets may also be purchased for the performance in Corbett Center.