

# Michael Espino

**A** ONE-HOUR INTERVIEW with Michael Espino is like visiting with a best friend. Good or bad, he holds nothing back. He tells you his likes and dislikes and shares with you the things he values most.

He loves his parents and even admits that his major reason for selecting CSU, Fresno was that "it's nice knowing home is only 60 miles away." His greatest experience in life was serving as a summer intern for Congressman Tony Coelho in Washington, D.C. And possibly his worst experience was having to step down from his position as administrative vice president of Associated Students Inc.

Born and raised in Dos Palos some 20 years ago, Michael is an only child. His mother, Alicia, works at a factory and his dad, Louis, is a salesman at a major hardware store.

"We're a very typical low- to middle-class family with lots of love and support," Michael says proudly. "I'm very close to my parents, constantly up to date with them, and they're always concerned with what I do. They brag a lot, which is kind of hard, especially in a small town where everyone knows your name. But I wouldn't be where I am today if it hadn't been for my parents."

In the fall of 1988, when Michael took a bad spill on the concrete and developed a rare infection in his knee, he found out just how fast news can travel in a small community. Imagine, within one hour after being admitted into the hospital, he received five telephone calls from his hometown, and that was just the beginning!

Michael looked for this same kind of "community backing" in a university. "No matter how big Fresno State is, it still manages to maintain that personal touch," he says. "Some of the larger classes with 300 students stray away from that, but what I needed was not to stray away too much from what I had been used to in Dos Palos. I didn't want a drastic change and, at least for me, it proved right. This is the best decision I've ever made."



## Discovery

Call him "outrageous." He won't care, because every now and then Michael Espino is outrageous! A case in point was the birthday surprise he gave a special friend. "Ronda Latimer was celebrating her birthday," says Michael, still unable to hold back his laughter. "Since she lived on campus, I knew she'd be having dinner in the Residence Dining Hall. So I got my saxophone, found her, climbed on top of the table and started playing 'Happy Birthday.' Granted, she was a little embarrassed, but we're still friends."

*Michael A. Espino*

Sophomore, Business

At CSUF, Michael has been involved in a variety of extracurricular activities. His accomplishments include — but are certainly not limited to — being named director of finance for the Inter-Business Council, receiving the Associated Students Outstanding Student Award, and serving as an assistant coordinator for leadership conferences.

At age 19, Michael was elected administrative vice president of Associated Students. He was ecstatic about this accomplishment and excited at the prospect of helping his fellow students. However, his good intentions were cut short in January 1989 when he lost this position because he failed to achieve a 2.0 semester grade point average.

"When it happened, I knew it wasn't going to be the end of my life," Michael says.

"I'm still doing well in school, considering . . . So, I lost out on one aspect of my life, but there are several other avenues I can take, and I'm doing that right now by working for Human Corps, a community service program."

Then he adds, "Since I've been blowing my bubble, I'd like to say one thing. There's a quotation that says the world is run by C minus students. I think I live by that. I don't know if I could actually be an A student. I don't think I choose to be.

"I've always put an emphasis on extracurricular activities. It's a great supplement to my education, but it should not be my entire education. I guess my advice to students would be that they can value extracurricular activities, but they should put more of a value on academics."