

Gloria Fuentes
Trine Rodriguez

The Chicana Alliance seeks to involve campus Chicanas in activities with younger Chicanas in a cooperative atmosphere that will provide role modeling, direction and purpose for the mutual benefit of both. There is no other facility or organization on campus that can fulfill this need.

The task facing the Chicana is monumental. On the one hand, she struggles to maintain her identity as a Chicana. On the other hand, her demands for equity as a woman involve fundamentals cultural change.

The Chicana shares with all women basic needs that cut across ethnic lines. Yet, she has distinctive priorities and approaches, for the Chicana is different from the Anglo woman. The Chicana's world, culture and values most often do not parallel those of the Anglo woman.

In respect to other campus organizations, one would have to understand the relationship between Chicano men and women to fully appreciate why they have not met the singular needs of Chicana women. Let it be sufficient to say, that most Chicanas have many more facets to their lives more tightly controlled by husbands or boyfriends than do their Anglo sisters. Some Chicano men will readily admit that while they are fighting for the needs of their woman, it is not for the kind of status and position that could give women equal footing.

Chicano men often question the goals of the women's movement. Some see it as an "Anglo woman's trip", divisive to the cause of the movimiento. Within this context, the Chicano accuses the Chicana feminist of "selling out" to the majority culture's dominance. The rationalization that it is Chicano tradition to look to the male for leadership, or, Chicanos respect women and care for women, but leadership is seen as a male role. The Chicana is left to reflect on the reality of these suppositions, or if it is that the Chicano himself, is not prepared nor willing to deal with the changing position of Chicanas. Whichever the case, Chicana needs to remain undefined and unmet.

What does it mean to be a Chicana? This question the Chicana alone must answer. Chicanas must not allow their brothers or other women to define their identity. Chicano brothers are often too ready to tell us "who" we are as Chicanas.

Chicanas must raise their own level of awareness. Too many do not recognize the deviance of their own condition and accept it as the norm. They must take responsibility for the condition of their lives and not wait for their men or Anglo women to change it. When they see themselves other than as a static figure without options, then their lives, their children's lives and the lives of future generations of Chicanos will change.