

La Voz de Berkeley

Volume IV, No. 3

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BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA



Zapatistas gather with La Gente in their campo in Chiapas.

Photo by Carlos Bazua

The Environment: New Issue for Racism

By Catalina Garzón

Within the Chicano/Latino community, there is a tendency to regard environmental activism as a "white movement"—which is precisely the reason why more minorities need to become involved in it. This means increasing awareness of why the environment is a Chicano/Latino issue: it concerns our community more than you might think.

Giant multinational corporations routinely exploit Latin America's resources, as in the case of Peru and its petroleum. The U.S.-owned Standard Oil Company developed interest in the Peruvian rainforest east of the Andes mountains twenty

years ago because of its abundant reserves of crude oil. Today, many of the country's rural inhabitants suffer from pollution by petroleum byproducts which irresponsible companies dumped routinely into their rivers over the course of two decades. Imagine drinking water which literally can be set on fire because its petrochemical content is so high. This is true of the water supply in the majority of the region because the twenty-year contracts that Texaco and other subdivisions of Standard Oil had established with the Peruvian government permitted them to drain the land of its natural resources without being held responsible for the proper disposal

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Zedillo Forced to Deal with Chiapas

Zapatistas affecting Mexico's economy

By Pedro Romero

Currently, Mexico is under the eyes of the world, including the United States, regarding its new reprisals against the Zapatista army in Chiapas.

According to plans of Mexican President, Ernesto Zedillo, he wants to end the rebellion of the Zapatistas' army in order to establish political order and boost the Mexican economy, which is waning away as the result of the fear of investors to use their funds in Mexico.

In order to end the corruption in Mexico, Zedillo is trying to improve his image by oppressing the Zapatista army and assuming a role as the Mexican version of Robin Hood. That is, Ernesto Zedillo has shown apparent

determination to pursue corruption in Mexico. Due to his conviction, many Mexican citizens fear that he will end up assassinated just like the former presidential candidate, Luis Donaldo Colosio.

As current Mexican president, Zedillo, seems to be playing with fire by ordering the arrest of the brother of the former president, Carlos Salinas de Gortari. Zedillo's government has astonished the entire Mexican country by ordering the arrest of Raul Salinas on charges of participating in the assassination of the PRI's secretary general Francisco Ruiz Maseu and by promising to uncover the truth about the crime.

Zedillo has already angered important officials of the PRI (Partido Revolucionario Institucional)

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Raza Recruitment Prompts Youth into Higher Learning

By Elizabeth Naty Santana

It is a known fact in history that there is a low number of Latinos that make it into higher education. This is mainly due to the idea that there is lack of support throughout RAZA youth. Raza Recruitment has taken this factor into consideration. They therefore have established programs to encourage our younger generation to continue their education.

One of their major projects took place on February 25. Raza Day is a bi-annual event that unites la RAZA with the intent of supporting la RAZA. Raza Day not only attributes to the

youth, but it also enlarges campus student body involvement with the younger generations within our community.

"As RAZA, we are one big familia. It is our duty to help our little hermanas y hermanos.", says Rosario Arreola, a Raza Recruitment worker.

UCB students participated as mentors, security and as workshop facilitators. Mentors spent the entire day with junior high and high school students. Information about higher education was given to the thousand or so participants from throughout California. UCB students stressed the importance of

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Brown Berets Call for End to Gang Violence

By Luis Angel Alejo

"Raza Stop Killing Raza," people shouted through several barrios in Watsonville during the Peace and Unity Weekend last year which was organized by several community organizations including a local Brown Beret chapter. The event became a community call for an end to a series of killings including that of a nine year old, Jessica Cortez, and her sixteen year old brother, Jorge, in Pajaro as well as another six whose ages range from 14-23. Watsonville, a agricultural based community, near Salinas, has had increasing rates of violence amongst community youth and as a result was the establishment of a Brown Beret chapter by Chicano

youth who wanted to put an end to this madness and at the same time organize others to make other significant changes in their community.

This reemergence of the Brown Berets began in 1993 and what has occurred in Watsonville is part of what is occurring in many communities throughout Aztlan and the organizing is spreading. Currently chapters exist throughout California, Arizona, Texas, and even in areas such as in Minnesota. With increased violence, drug use, unemployment, and numbers of Raza youth being pushed out of public schools, came the need to revive an organization whose origins begin in 1967, during one of the height years of the Chicano Movement.

Starting as the Young Citizens for Community Ac-

tion (YCCA) in East Los Angeles, the Brown Berets would eventually emerge as a vanguard for La Raza whose main issues were police brutality and educational reform. They have been viewed as counter parts to the Black Panthers and the Puerto Young Lords, in that they became a dedicated group of people who were not afraid of losing their lives fighting for equality and justice and were willing to counter oppression and exploitation with violence. Many Berets were beaten by police, some were incarcerated, and others even lost there lives. However, the Brown Berets would come to be the largest non-student organization having over 5,000 members at one point. They caught

national attention during the East LA "Blowouts" of 1968, the Chicano Moratorium Rally in 1970 (protesting the Vietnam War), the 1,000 mile march called "La Marcha de La Reconquista" in 1971, and the takeover of

Berets which would eventually lead to the disbandment of the organization on November 1, 1972.

Today, however, the Brown Berets are determined not to repeat the mistakes of the past and vow to

once again become a strong voice of the barrio. With a new philosophy, the goals of

"Raza stop killing Raza"

the Santa Catalina Islands in 1972 which all exposed the legitimate grievances of La Raza and brought national attention to them. Yet taking this stance brought pressures and scrutiny from other organizations, the media, and from local and federal law enforcement agencies. The pressures would also cause divisions within the Brown

the Berets are to promote non-violence, education, self-determination, cultural and political awareness, and unity amongst La Raza. The focus of each Brown Beret chapter depends on the community since the needs vary in each community. Small rural community needs vary significantly from the needs

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La Voz de Berkeley

Editor-in-Chief

Lourdes Elisea

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Maria Brenes

News Editor

Evangelina Camarena

Feature Editor

Daniel Santillano

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La Voz Necesita Su Ayuda

La Voz needs writers, photographers, cartoonist. Have fun, gain experience and recognition while learning fascets of newspaper production.

Would like to apologize for misprinting Jose Angeles name in our March issue.- *Dispensanos Amigo*

It Aint Just About ¡187!

- 60% of high school Raza are pushed out
- 52% Cal Raza push out rate
- 3.9% of Raza high scchool graduates are U.C. eligible
- California Civil Rights inititiative will be approved by 80%
- Fees are going up
- Very little Raza faculty on campus

What are you doing for your Raza

Be active Join
MEChA

Tuesdays 6:00 PM
Senate Chanber

Activists for El Movimiento May be Hurting Their own Agenda and Education

Concentrating efforts can maximize La Causa

By Julie Ann Calderón

It happened during the last *La Voz* meeting. We were discussing the topic of activism when I found myself voicing an "older" viewpoint. I kept bringing up the prevalence of burnout, telling stories about friends whose academics suffered due to over-activism. In other words, I felt like one of those veteranas who constantly talks about the days of old. I wondered if maybe I wasn't out of place among all these freshmen and sophomores. After all, I am no longer a student at Cal. Besides, I had already written an editorial about this subject. What more can I possibly say about what it means to be a Latina trying to balance academics and activism at one of the most competitive and political campuses in the nation?

Perhaps the one thing I can say is that I have survived. As a freshman, I had to juggle commuting, math and science breadth requirements, volunteering at the Hayward Boys and Girls Club, and dealing with personal trauma. I also helped start *La Voz*. At the time, I was dealing with too many things to consider becoming involved in other Chicano/Latino organizations. *La Voz* enabled me to create my own political agenda; as founders of the newspaper, we committed ourselves to

reporting and representing the Raza events and activities as fairly as possible. We had to get along (or least try) with everyone. We had to be open to different viewpoints and experiences.

As time went on, my work with *La Voz* led me to become more involved. I attended MEChA meetings and Raza Caucus, volunteered for Raza Day, and participated in the Ethnic Studies demonstrations. There was nothing more exciting or rewarding than this level of activism. I can't explain how strong and proud I felt locking arms with my sisters and brothers, seeing Latino youth protesting non-violently, being part of a larger movement. These were times when La Causa was more important than class, work, or other concerns and rightly so. We needed to show the university how committed we were to our beliefs—and our demands. If we wanted to attain our goals, we needed to make sacrifices, the same sacrifices the veteranos and veteranas had made.

Nevertheless, I somehow managed to find time for my studies. In the back of my mind, I knew my parents didn't work so hard so I could spend all my time taking over buildings. How would that look on a resume? I admit I'm being sarcastic but it was a question that was understandably far from the minds of some of my camaradas. I saw people pull all-nighters to write ten-page papers or study for tests in classes they hadn't attended. I heard people complain

about poor grades or extensions they couldn't get. Eventually, I heard and saw people become demoralized by the struggle itself. There were conflicts that deteriorated our unity and decimated our numbers. I myself found it necessary to choose which way I would support La Causa. I chose *La Voz*—and hitting the books.

As a Latina, I am committed to the advancement of La Raza. One of the ways I made a difference was by taking advantage of the education I have received at Cal. As a prospective teacher, I needed to master my area of specialization and gain preprofessional experience. I had to figure out what I did best so that I could better serve my community. It took time and experience to realize I can do two things fairly well: teach and write. Developing these two skills became my form of activism.

I can't emphasize how important it is to individualize your contribution to El Movimiento. Not all of us can be officers of a major Chicano/Latino organization. Not all of us can be leaders of sit-ins, takeovers, or marches. We need to find what talents we can share with our community. More importantly, we need to graduate. Getting our degree is the ultimate expression of activism. But then, what does an old-timer know?

OPINION

Intelligence not Anger Affirmative for Action

By Myrna Muñoz

I have recently been exposed to many arguments, readings, and comments about affirmative action and feel compelled to say I am sad. Not really by the fact that people want to eliminate it, but because we, have and continue to react in such an angry way (So many times I've heard that what they say about affirmative action must be true because we get so insulted). In my sadness I have researched extensively to find a logical reason for defending affirmative action and came up with the letter presented to you here. I have written this letter with the intention of capturing your attention to something very important: people against affirmative action are upset by the myths about it, and are therefore solely ignorant. In my approach, I hope to promote the idea of education: If they think affirmative action is bad give them reasons to understand that it's not, instead of demonstrating an-

ger... It's a much better solution. I understand and must mention that some people are just plain racist, sexist, and hierarchical. To them I say: learn to live with being upset, because our presence will not be eliminated (In fact, it is predicted that by the year 2004 we will be the majority of the population in California)!

March 16, 1995

Dear Rob:

I understand how you feel. I would be greatly upset if I felt society was acting in an unfair way towards me as well. However, I do believe you are mistaken. Somebody has obviously provided you with the wrong information. In my efforts to answer to your concerns I did some research today and found some important information. First, you mentioned that you thought it was unfair to provide admission to someone based solely on their race, and expressed genuine concern and sadness for those people that are denied acceptance into UC

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La Llorona

The two Chicano/Latino publications at UC Berkeley will host the Chicano/Latino community in a special one night cultural event in April. The staff at La Llorona and La Voz want make this event a collective gathering. We invite Chicana/o and Latino/a poets, musicians, dancers, actors, and artist to participate. If interested contact Mariela from La Llorona @ (510) 524-4819.

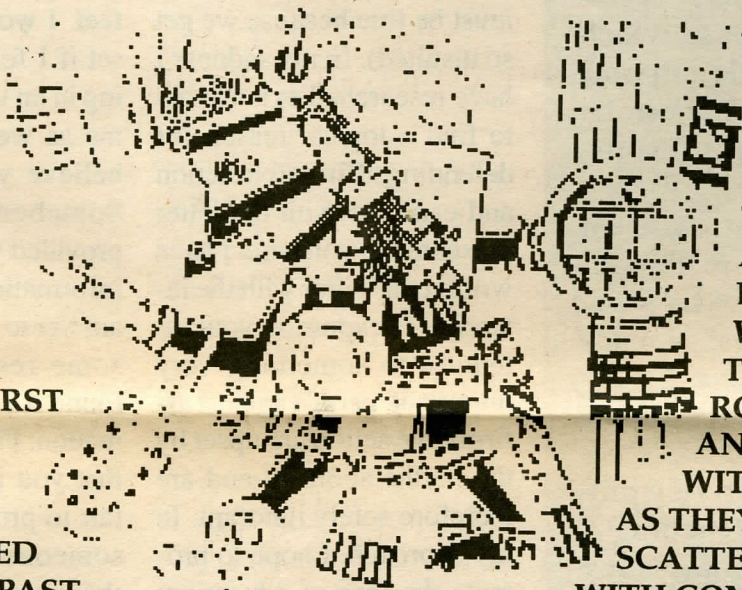
ASUC Sponsored/ Wheelchair Accessible



CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

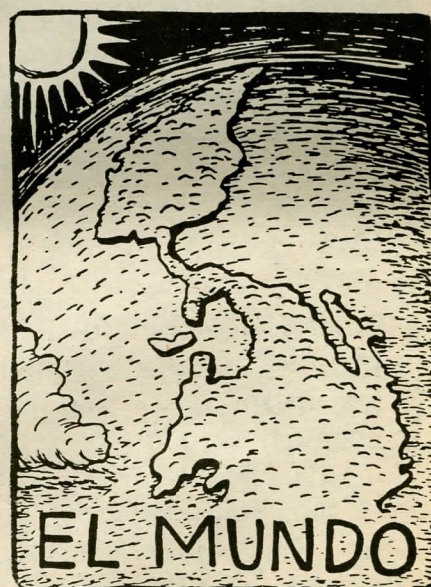
SEPERATED BY A RIVER
 OUTLINED BY A FENCE.
 ONE DOESN'T KNOW IT
 BUT THE PRICE OF LEAVING IS
 YOUR CULTURE
 YOUR HISTORY
 YOUR SANITY.
 THE BEGINING OF A CONTINUOUS
 STRUGGLE
 FUELED BY EACH GENERATION.
 THIS IS AMERICA.
 DIFFERENT RULES TO A COMPLETELY
 DIFFERNT
 GAME.
 ADJUSTING IS
 DIFFICULT
 BUT IT'S A
 NECESSITY.
 BUT, BE CARE-
 FUL
 WALK THAT
 FINE LINE.
 THE TYPICAL FIRST
 GENERATION
 MEXICANO FA-
 THER:
 CLOSED MINDED
 LIVING IN THE PAST
 ACTING ON THE TWISTED INTERPRE-
 TATION OF MACHISMO.
 COMING TO AMERICA
 SEARCHING FOR A BETTER LIVING
 FOR HIS FAMILIA
 FOLLOWING A MYTH
 FILLED WITH OLD LIES
 ONLY TO COME UP EMPTY.
 HE FALSELY BELIEVES IN RETAINING
 "THE OLD TRADITIONAL VALUES".
 CAN HE ?
 OR WILL HE BECOME WHAT HE FEARS
 THE MOST:
 ONE WHO ACCEPTS HIS MUJER AS

EQUAL.
 BEING ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THE VI-
 BRANCE OF LA NUEVA RAZA
 AS ITS RAYS EXPOSE
 THE SOCIAL CONSTRAINTS OF THE
 PAST
 WHICH HIDES IT
 SHACKLES IN THE DARKNESS
 OF THE ALLEYS OF AMERICA.
 LAND OF THE FREE
 TRYING TO BE WHAT A REAL MAN IS
 USING OUTDATED TEXT.
 BUT
 HIS MISCONCEP-
 TIONS
 AND THE TOOLS HE
 USES TO EXECUTE
 THEM
 ARE IN FORIEGN
 LANDS
 WHERE TRADI-
 TIONAL GENDER
 ROLES ARE BURIED
 AND BECOME ONE
 WITH THE DUST
 AS THEY ARE CARELESSLY
 SCATTERED BY THE WIND
 WITH COMPLETE INTENTIONS
 NEVER TO RETURN AS ONE.
 SHE HAS ALWAYS SURVIVED
 MUCH LIKE THE CATERPILLAR IN THE
 SHADES OF WINTER
 HAVING THE STRENGTH
 TO GO AGAINST ALL LAWS OF NA-
 TURE
 ONLY TO LIVE.
 WHAT HE REFUSES TO ACCEPT
 IS
 HER ROLE HAS EVOLVED.
 -Johnny



El Mu

"México is sinking
 California is on fire
 & we all are getting burned
 aren't we? we're just
 a bunch of burning myths!



waspitos, wasperos, or wa
 what if we were the top de
 what if literature was life?
 what if yo were you
 & to fueras I, Mister?"

Untitled

To get to where I'm at,
 was not that easy.
 To get to where I want to be ,
 it's even harder.
 To get here ,
 they made me lose my language.
 To get there ,
 They want me to deny my color.
 To be where I was at...



-Mario Nuñez

These days,
 we walk down the calle,
 with a sense of fear.
 We feel unsafe,
 con miedo as if someone is near
 These days,
 we are being watched and harass

So I ask myself.

How can this be happening?

Is it because not enough of our

Many say that nuestros tiempos
 are the worst ever.
 But if our carnalitos and carnalit
 are not advised and organized,
 the next generation,
 won't get any better.



undo

ned

ns!"
begins to yell at the gringos:
t what if suddenly
continent turned upside down?
t if the U.S. was México?
t if 200,000 Anglosaxions
e to cross the border
n month
ork as gardeners, waiters
chair musicians, movie extras
ncers, baby-sitters, chauffeurs
licated cartoons, feather-weight
ers, fruit-pickers & anonymous po-

t if they were called waspanos?
vaspbacks?
logs?
?

-Guillermo Gómez-Peña

titled

ar
assed by everyone.

ur Raza is down?

os,
alitas

-Mario Nuñez

La Gran Mujer

Dicen que detras de un gran hombre,
Hay una gran mujer.
Al parecer yo solamente sobre,
y tuve que aprender a perder.

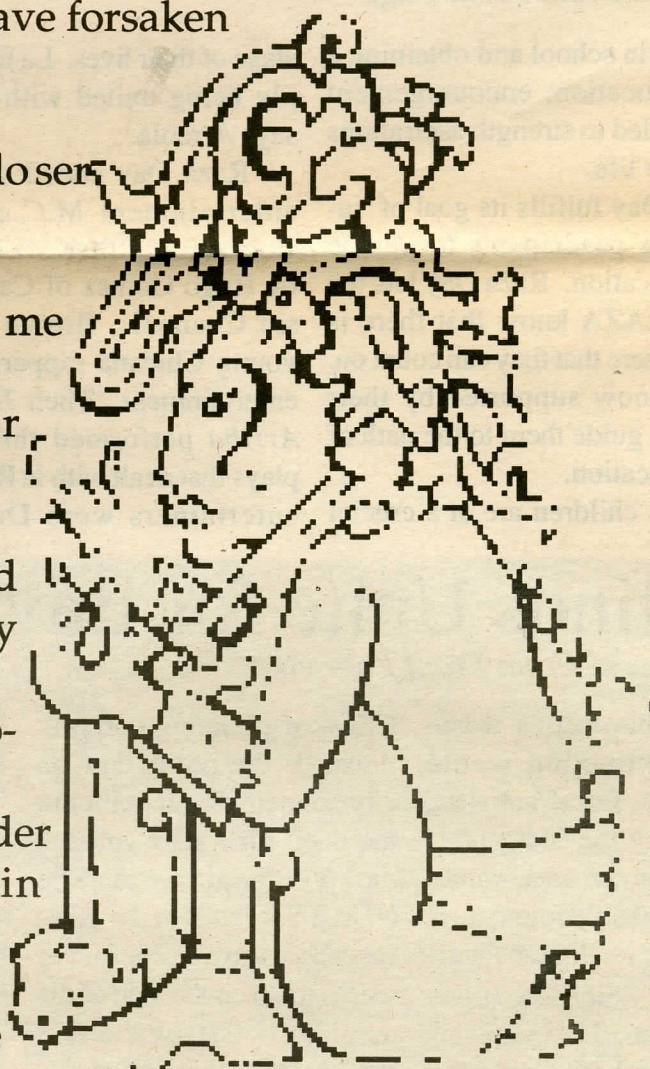
I had an illusion which I passed down to him.
My greatness became known as his,
While I grantec his every whim.
In the eyes of society I functioned only as his
limb.
I gave up my ilusion, I have forsaken
bliss!

Dicen que solamente puedo ser
docil
La fuerza le pretence a el.
Me cren venerable porque me
dejo vencer facil!
Vencer por el amor
confirmado en papel...

I have the ability to succeed
I am unwilling to forget my
dream
With my goals I must pro-
ceed.
For your opinion of gender
roles is no longer main
stream!

Dicen que el amor vence
todo.
Ahora pregunto si es el amor por ti ó por mi
misma
Cuando te pregunten de tu grandesa contesta
con buen modo,
Es ella la gran mujer.
Voy a reclamar lo mio como la gran mujer!

Elizabeth Naty Santana Lepe



Zedillo Forced to Make Changes in Policies

Continued From Front Page

political party, who might later intervene in his plan to end with corruption in Mexico. He has pledged to put everybody who is guilty in jail. The people in Mexico have started to wonder about the length of Zedillo's presidency now that he has crossed the "limits", which have always been respected by former presidents. Mexican citizens believe that Zedillo's daring nature could make him a martyr just like Luis Donaldo Colosio.

In the eyes of Mexican

citizens, Zedillo seems to be

"Zedillo seems honest and decent, but how long will he last?"

performing his true duties as the president of Mexico. Still, they fear the worse for him. "We congratulate this government for doing what it ought to do", said porter Vicente Otero. "But Zedillo has better look after himself.

He is upsetting a lot of important people." People feel that Zedillo is following Colosio's destiny because he is trying to be honest to Mexican citizens.

"We had faith that Colosio was going to change things, and look what happened to him", said Rosa Maria Velazquez, an assistant in a children's toy store. "Zedillo seems honest and decent, but how long will he last?"

Even tough he knows that he is probably going too

far, Zedillo continues his mission of ending corruption in Mexico. According to his rules, nobody in Mexico, without paying attention to political ranking or power, will escape from the law like others have done it in the past.

At a rally in the state of Tlaxcala, Zedillo declared the arrest of Gortari's brother, Raul Salinas. "What is left is clear-nobody can be outside the law. In Mexico, this is the end of impunity, and I am counting on the sup-

port of the Mexican people to make impunity a fact of our nation's past."

Bold words characterize Zedillo's "clean-sweep" strategy. Time will determine the length of his presidency. Until now, he has left many PRI leaders astonished by ordering the arrest of the former president's brother. In this new political arena, it is hard to know where the Mexican government is headed in terms of corruption. Zedillo's future is shaded with uncertainty.

Raza Mentors Open the Consiousness of Youth

Continued From Front Page

remaining in school and obtaining a higher education, encouragement that is needed to strength aspirations for a better life.

Raza Day fulfills its goal of inspiring the participants to pursue higher education. Raza Day lets the younger RAZA know that there is someone there that they can count on. They are now supported by their mentors to guide them to the path of higher education.

"These children are at a crucial

stage of their lives. La familia is simply being united with this event," says Arreola.

Raza Day ended with cultural entertainment M.C.ed by Chuy Gomez from 106 KMEL and D.J. ed by Hugo Gomez of California Music Channel. Brown Sugar, two young Chicana rappers, began the entertainment. Then *Teatro Manos Arriba* performed three different plays that dealt with la RAZA. Other entertainers were Definition of

Brown, Danza Azteca and Reflejos de México.

"Raza Day lets the younger RAZA know that there is someone there that they can count on."

Raza Recruitment along with

other Chicano/Latino organizations on campus really need all the help and participation that is available to increase the success rate of this type of events. If you are interested in cooperating to make this a better world for RAZA call the Chicano/Latino student group advising at 643-5010. Events such as Raza Day are only the start, we must contribute to the cause of la RAZA. We have the power to stop the repetitive cycle of oppression. RAZA UNITE!

Latinos Unite for Environment

Continued From Front Page

of the hazardous waste their extraction would generate. Local activists, primarily the indigenous people in the area, would have probably found their efforts at retaliation facilitated if Chicano/Latinos here in the United States had been better informed of their struggle.

It is not only our Third World roots which are affected. Even in this country, the Chicano/Latino and African-American communities suffer the most from environmental racism. Upper class, predominantly white neighborhoods are rarely, if ever, the sites for factories and sanitary landfills---even though the inhabitants of these same areas often turn out to be the

CEOs of polluting corporations, or the politicians on city council which point out the need for a new garbage dump to begin with. The NIMBY (Not-In-My-BackYard) syndrome never seems to be on the side of the neighborhoods of the less wealthy or of those of people of color.

A perfect example of environmental racism hitting close to home is that of Richmond, California. In June 1993, General Chemical Company allowed a heated railroad car full of raw sulfuric acid to remain unattended outside of its Richmond factory overnight. Without a safety valve, the sulfuric acid reached its boiling point and began to evaporate into the atmosphere of a company. Most likely, Gen-

eral Chemical would have gotten away with its claim that it had no obligation towards the Chicano/Latinos whose health was affected on a regular basis by covered-up incidents similar to these.

Unfortunately, the case in Richmond, as well as the one in Peru, is only one of thousands like it going undocumented every year on a global scale. For this to change, Chicano/Latinos must organize against environmental racism occurring here and around the world. Until then, it will remain one of the most subtle and pervasive mechanisms of discrimination and oppression impacting our people on a day-to-day basis.

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• **VEGETARIAN BURRITO** **\$3.00**

whole beans, rice, sour cream, tomato & salad greens. topped with melted cheese, sauce & guacamole. add .75 for meat.

• **BEAN & CHEESE BURRITO** **\$1.62** plus tax

• **COMBINATION PLATE** **\$3.46** plus tax

Come join La Voz

General meeting held every first thursday of the month
on 7th floor Eshleman

Boricua Conference Combines Art and Politics to Explain the Puerto Rican Experience

By Kahlil Jacobs-Fantuzzi

It was empowering to see the stately Morrison room in the Doe library taken over by a group of Puerto Ricans. The hard work of professor Julio Ramos and Yolanda Martinez-San Miguel culminated in a weekend conference called "Displacing Citizenship: La Condicion Puertorriquena." The tone of the conference was set visually by a display of Frank Espada's photographs, surrounding the parlor style couches with the vibrant and intense faces of diverse Puerto Ricans.

In inimitable Puerto Rican fashion, the conference combined art, politics, and academics. The event began Friday evening with a bilingual poetry reading. The

presenters reflected the racial/ethnic mix of Puerto Rican people. Poets included the nationally known Piri Thomas and Aurora Levins-Morales who's reading added a feminist perspective on Puerto Rican history, a piece often omitted from other renditions. When Mayra Santos, a Black, dreadlocked Puerto Rican poet from the island read her poems, my African American friend asked me "Is she Black or Puerto Rican?" This question underscored one of the topics of discussion: What are the salient issues regarding the polemic of skin color in Puerto Rican culture.

On the second day, Puerto Rican professors from the island and the mainland discussed issues of race and ethnicity in a social, political and historical perspective.



By Kahlil Jacobs-Fantuzzi

Other research presentations examined the portrayal of Puerto Ricans in the cinema, the role of Puerto Rican men in literature, and the concept of translocality put forth by

Mayra Santos. She debunked the myth that splitting time between San Juan and New York produces "people caught between two cultures;" Rather this bilingual/

bicultural reality enriches Puerto Ricans.

Another highlight of the conference was the presentation by Juan Flores, the Director of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College in New York. He discussed issues of language including the use of "Spanglish" and interwove a dramatic poetry reading by Tato Laviera, the famous Nuyorican poet, into the presentation. Later in the day, there was a showing of the movie "Portrait of a Puerto Rican" a semi-autobiographical work by Frances Negrón-Muntner.

The evening ended with a celebration of music, dance and song; fusing our African, indigenous and European roots and traditions. Which is to say; we partied like only Puerto Ricans know how!

Afirmative Action, the Big Question

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Berkeley solely because they are white or Asian. Actually, this is a valid concern, in fact, it is ILLEGAL to accept anyone on the base of race solely. Affirmative action affects minorities, women, people from rural high-schools, residents, the poor, and the disabled, as well as those persons from low socio-economic backgrounds. It can seem as if admissions can say, "oh, he's Latino, in he goes" but in fact, no single attribute can earn an applicant admission. In order to obtain well rounded students, UC Berkeley uses the Karabel report (which is a plan to increase diversity in campuses) in their admissions process.

I also interviewed, as part of my research Mr. Martin Jay Takimoto, Director of New student programs in the Golden Bear Center whom informed me of another interesting fact: UC Berkeley is a public institution of the State of California. Being supported by taxes, Berkeley has a great responsibility to serve the people of Califor-

nia. Since you have clearly expressed a want for fairness, I must argue that it would be greatly unfair to have a school for the service of California that does not reflect it's population. Already, the University does not accurately represent the population of the state. There are many biases against minorities, especially Latinos, and affirmative action is one of the only things that addresses this. For example, Latinos are on their way to becoming the largest ethnic group in California, but according to the US Census data show that "Hispanics" continue to be the least well-off of California's ethnic groups creating a low amount of College applicants (From 1989 to 1992 the amount of

Latino high school graduates in the state increased by 27 percent, but the increase in Latino applicants was only 11 percent).

Another reality that must be faced is that, standardized tests have been proven to have a socio-economic bias. There is a strong correlation between race, income level, resources available, and standardized test scores. As Rodarmor found in his interview with the UC Berkeley admissions director: Test scores in particular tend to be linked to family income, so you could use zip codes instead of test scores and get the same results. I'm sure that with this knowledge you can understand why the Latino people are so upset about the proposal to remove

affirmative action. It tends to make people upset when they are systematically being discriminating. I hope that I have inspired you to at least understand how I feel. I am sure that if your people were under seize, as mine presently are you would react with anger as well.

There is so much that is not said, but it is necessary to understand that affirmative action is an effort of UC Berkeley to make things fairer

for us. If we could, we would rather have equal opportunities through enrichment of our environment throughout our lives. I mean, if we had a choice, we would rather receive a better education throughout our youth life, this way we would not need affirmative action (or defense of it). But because we do not live in a perfect world, we must continue to support programs that show an effort to understand the reality.

CHE

Chicanos and Latinos In Health Education

Meetings Every Wednesday 5-6PM

126 Barrows

Contact Valerie Cordova

PH# 643-0977

Ch.A.L.E.

(Chicanos And Latinos for Empowerment)

Looking for tutors and mentors to work with junior and high school kids in neighboring communities. If interested please contact MEChA at 642-6673 or stop by Eshleman Hall, muchisimas gracias.

1-3 units available

ASUC/ Wheelchair accessible

Putting an End to Gang Violence

Continued From Page Two

of a metropolitan community yet all actions fall under their stated goals. As for the Watsonville Chapter, which has over 35 members, they have made strong alliances with other organizations such as the United Farm Workers, Barrios Unidos, MEChA, GANAS (Gang Alternative North and South), the Black Berets, Si Se Puede, Salud Para La Gente, and many other community organizations in order to make a greater impact and be more effective. For example, the Berets joined the UFW with a march against Prop 187 in which nearly 2,000 people participated ending with a rally in which president Arturo Rodriguez addressed the marchers.

Some of their other most recent events include walks through the barrios, school presentations, graffiti clean-ups, spiritual runs, workshops/forums in the community (such as for Prop. 187), cultural events, and a voter registration drive in which they registered over 200 people, to name a few. Through this organization, have come very effective results in which the youth are taking action. Many other organization have tried what the Berets are doing in Watsonville, but have been

unable to yield the same results. The youth have utilized the leadership roles and are proving once again that they will be heard. They are now organizing other youth and along with MEChA are establishing MEChA chapters on school campuses and have been successful at implementing Chicano studies courses at local high schools. They are voicing themselves by attending school board meetings and on other occasions meeting with city and school officials, as well as gaining support of parent groups such as the migrant parent advisory committee of Aptos High School. Parents and other young children, both male and female, have joined the organization which has broaden the spectrum to be more inclusive of various age groups. Entire families have become involved as well.

The Watsonville chapter also recognizes the importance having a indigenous spiritual base as well as a balance of both genders, and have incorporated them into the organization and in their actions. Some members attend *temescales*, or sweat lodges, regularly which they feel is important when working in the community.

Rolando Ortega, 18, said "the temescales allow us to remain focused and it also keeps our circle stronger and more united." Leadership roles are equally shared and the Berets make a point of keeping it this way. Some of the Berets stated that the chapter has also become an outlet that did not exist before which allows them to learn about various cultural, social, economic, and political issues. Some of the Berets have endeavored to learn danza Azteca or have become active in other areas such as teatro, muralism, or writing.

Former gang members and others who were at risk of joining a gang are coming to the meetings and are now bringing their friends along with them. Some former gang members have become the most dedicated members. Robert Hernandez, 17, said "the youth have a lot of energy and in which it was once being used to hurt each other, it is now used to help our people in a very positive way. We have former sureños and norteños working together."

Currently, with the past recent floods that has devastated hundreds of families in the Watsonville area,

the Brown Berets have set off to help with clean-up as well as aiding at local emergency shelters. They are also working to attain counselors for Watsonville High School, whose student population is 85% Chicano, since they were completely cut with the last year's budget cuts. There is much more planned ahead for this chapter.

However, opposition has come soon enough. The Berets are dealing with city officials, police officers, and many angry Anglo parents who are discontent with the actions the Berets have chosen to take. At Aptos High school, Anglo parents were outraged when MEChA's and Berets took over the student body officer positions for the first time in the school's 25 year history and two weeks later demanded the implementation of a Chicano studies class. Along with the migrant parent advisory committee, they unraveled that the principal, Ron Severson, had misspent a sum of about \$180,000 for the school sports instead of using it to make the campus more culturally sensitive for what it's purpose was. Immediately, Anglo parents went into an uproar against the demands the students were advocating to school

board members. The principal since then has resigned from his position, but the battle continues.

The Watsonville chapter acknowledges that, as a whole, the organization has its flaws but view the changes that are necessary to make a stronger organization as being created by being part of the organization and making them happen, and not just standing on the sidelines criticizing and doing nothing about them. As they continue to work, they admit that some mistakes have been made along the way, but they are learning as they go along. On the other hand, it is important to note that the Berets have created what once did not exist. "People at one time were not listening, today we have forced them to listen and to do something about it," said Monica Morales, 16.

The youth are once again taking leadership to end the violence, such as what occurred in Pajaro, and yet they are becoming involved in a broader scope of issues in their community. With dedication and discipline, the Brown Berets plan to bring back hope, peace, pride, and respect into the barrios and are proving, once again, que si se puede!

In Brief

Acto Conmomerativo al Asesinato del General Zapata Comemaritive Act to the Asasination of General Zapata

Arte Latino Americano (ALA) presents:

Danza Azteca Teocalli
Speaker for Resist 187
Latin America Poetry
Ballet Folklorico

Held April 10, 1995 Sproul Plaza 12 noon

info: Alex 548-4652

Congratulations!

Abel Guillen & Quirina Orozco

Winners for the new majority Reform Slate

Chicana/o Latina/o Graduation

Sunday May 21

Doors open at 12 noon

Ceremony 1:00PM

Contact Lupe Gallegos
642-0243

At Harmon Gym
Volunteers, Ushers, and
Donation needed

HIV-AIDS ON CAMPUS, OUR CONCERNS

April 5-27

Events for students and faculty/staff