

# EL AGUILA

AÑO DE CHIKOEI TOCHTLI

ESTANFORD, CALIFAZTLAN

VOLUME SIETE, ISSUE 1

SPRING 1996

## CCRI: A Blatant Insult to the Historic Struggle for Civil Rights in the U. S.

By Nicole Vazquez

Supporters of the California Civil Rights Initiative, a piece of legislation slated for a popular vote in November, 1996, say that they favor an "integrated America", that they cannot uphold government practices that "mandate inequality", and that anyone who believes in "equal opportunity" should stand behind CCRI. The official text of CCRI reads, "The state shall not discriminate against or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting." This deceptive language spouting notions of justice and equity manipulates the issues behind affirmative action, the struggle for proactive government and systemic reform efforts, and the movement toward real civil rights for all people.

Who can argue with the basic language that the proponents of CCRI use? It is the implications and reality of the effects of such a measure that can be easily ignored and brushed aside in the name of "equal opportunity for all". The campaign chairman of CCRI claims that all people should be judged without regard to their gender or race. The perfect ideal of a color-blind/gender-blind society, with non-discriminatory and non-segregating institutions is just that, an ideal, one of course that we should all strive and work towards. A component of working towards that is the recognition of the inherent deceit and ignorance in the "basic language" of CCRI.

CCRI proponents have begun a battle over rhetoric, effectively villanizing the plight of people of color for justice, as if the movement for civil rights is one that rallies for the unfair advantage, the unearned benefit, the non-merited access. This argument is the biggest slap in the face. It insults the intelligence of people living today and the history of the struggle of people who came before us, those who endured and suffered through the deportation raids, the internment camps, the "colored-only" water fountains, English-only classrooms, Jim Crow laws, and countless other atrocities which conscious and deliberate people imposed upon others, based on



PHOTO FROM MEChA ARCHIVES

simple racial and gender differences, on the color of skin and sex of the physical body.

CCRI completely ignores the history and manifestation of white supremacy in this country. It ignores the compensatory aspect of *small* measures like affirmative action, the inequality and racism that are still rampant in this country, and the inequity that the imposition of CCRI, if enacted, would only work to further institutionalize and perpetuate. In a time when this country is at the crossroads, when the institutions of discrimination, segregation, and racism are beginning to be frowned upon by mainstream society, the

proponents of CCRI, like vultures waiting for the moment of vulnerability, pounce on language like equality, justice, and equal treatment for all as reasons to terminate programs that are finally making reparations to people who have *long* been blatantly victimized and ignored.

In response to the proposal of a national CCRI, called the "American Action Act," campaign manager for CCRI Joe Gelman said, "We are delighted that Congressman Radanovich and his colleagues have taken a firm stand in favor of re-establishing the basic principle of color- and gender-blind government," implying that it was this "fair" system that preceded measures like affirmative action. Have you looked at a real history book lately Mr. Gelman? Proponents of the measure also site the innocent Americans for whom they are fighting "discriminatory" affirmative action laws, once again brushing to the wayside the legacy of racism and white supremacy.

If it wasn't enough that Phil Gramm, Bob Dole, Lamar Alexander, Newt Gingrich, Clarence Thomas, and Pete Wilson strongly support CCRI, proponents also invoke the language of the U.S. Constitution in their arguments, holding up the self-evident truth, "that all men are created equal". It has been a long, bloody, and torn history in this country that shows that most have not been *treated* equally, a very different type of manifestation of equality that supporters of the uncivil, wrong initiative have failed and deliberately neglected to address.



### VOTE NO ON CCRI !!!





# César Chávez Commemoration Speech

María Fernández and Veronica Luna

## Greetings from the Editors:

¡Hola Hermanos y Hermanas! After much anticipation, **EL AGUILA** flies. We thank all of the contributors and people who helped make our first issue of the year a reality. It is imperative that we recognize the role which a publication such as **EL AGUILA** plays in the Chicano/Latino community. As one Raza we are united by language, background, and culture, and yet it is important to recognize the diversity among us. We hope that Aguila serves as a means of education within our community so that we are aware of the issues that we must face in the present and beyond. The attack on Affirmative Action, the racist beatings in Los Angeles, etc. are all signs that our struggle still continues. However, we invite you to read this issue in order to become more informed and to share the experiences of Chicano/as and Latino/as at Stanford, for without input from the community this paper would not have been possible. Of course, the Spring issue would not be complete without informing you on campus election issues. Many people from our community are running for ASSU Senate this year including Jesus Gonzalez, Celia Garcia, Edeline Burciaga, Sonia Gonzalez, Sergio Medina, Pedro Fernandez, Gil Serrano, and Daniel Bramzon. We urge you to educate yourselves on the candidates views and vote for your best choice. And, as you will see, numerous organizations benefit from the Special Fees, including Barrio Assistance, Project Motivation, and the M.E.ChA. Special Fee.

A Special Thanks goes to Marianna Díaz, Queen of Pagemaker, Goddess of Layout. **EL AGUILA** flies because of her.

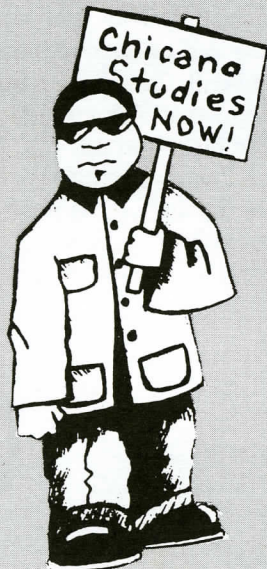
Gracias a todos!

Con sinceros saludos,

Marisa y Felipe

*Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life, as by the obstacles which one has overcome while trying to succeed.*

-Booker T. Washington



*The following is an excerpt from a speech made at this year's César Chávez Commemoration by M.E.Ch.A. co-chairs.*

## The Time is Now!

"Some of the fundamental beliefs that César lived by were to attain equality and justice for farm workers. The injustices borne by the farm workers at the hands of profit-driven farm owners still continues. César Chávez was a dedicated and selfless person who put his life on the line for La Causa through his ceaseless dedication and determination to improve the lives of farmworkers. Students today embrace these same philosophies. He inspired us to continue la lucha and demand what is right. His legacy has guided us as students in our struggles for our community as well.

In our continuing effort to further La Causa, we have worked to make Stanford aware of the pesticides and deplorable working conditions experienced by men, women and children in agricultural fields. As a result of these efforts, the majority of the Stanford campus voted to boycott grapes in their residences this year. For over twenty-six years, MEChA has applied these principles set forth by César in order to organize and bring about the creation of institutions such as El Centro Chicano, Casa Zapata, The Chicano Fellows Program, many Chicano/Latino organizations at Stanford, and the current development of a Chicano Studies major. As students, we cannot underestimate our power to challenge institutions like Stanford for the betterment of our community.

We don't need to look far or hard to see that we are engaged in a battle. The educational system has attempted to make us invisible. For centuries our identity and culture have been ignored in schools. However, we were not completely erased. Traces of us remained in history books to boast the conquest and the "divine civilizing mission". Distorted histories such as that of the Conquista, the Alamo, the role of the Texas Rangers, the death of Ruben Salazar, and immigrants as the alleged cause of California's economic crisis, have been taught to us out of ignorance or hate. Unsupportive educational systems, policies such as academic tracking, and English Only campaigns continue to push our youth out of schools and into despair and frustration. Now, affirmative action attacks are a larger, more blatant step in dismantling our educational rights.

As in our schools, our rights in the work place are also being attacked. César Chávez

struggled for the rights of farm workers to be respected. Our responsibility now is to continue that legacy. The California Civil Rights Initiative which is being proposed on this November's ballot aims to eliminate the gains made by our predecessors in the past thirty years to attain civil rights for women and people of color. This initiative is neither civil nor right. This initiative will ban affirmative action programs in public education, employment, and contracting and weaken the laws that protect against sex discrimination and sexual harassment. We cannot afford to lose the rights we have gained. Like the struggle of farm workers to unionize, today, urban workers are also fighting for their rights. Just down the street on El Camino Real, workers at the Stanford Park Hotel are struggling to maintain their right to organize and advocate for their right to better working conditions and wages.

The movimiento is alive, we can see it, we can feel it. Now reclaim it. Tonight we call you to action. We must come together across all borders, across nationality, across generations, across gender, across sexuality, across humanity. The issues you have heard about tonight are not abstract concepts, but real threats to our rights if we do not unite to stop them. We as students, as parents, as organizers, as artists, as community members can make concrete changes in our communities. The time to do it is now.

We are close to becoming the majority in California, yet we have little or no political representation. Those of you who have the power to vote must not take it for granted. Whether through voting, protesting, or letter writing, united we can struggle to end this climate of hate. We must fight against these attacks for ourselves, our future generations, our children, our younger brothers and sisters, and our brothers and sisters just arriving to this country.

We are the future, the future of Raza in this state, as well as the entire nation. We must continue the necessary strategies for the future of our education and the future of our people. César Chávez had a vision of non-violence, a vision of equality, a vision of justice. It is up to us to make this vision a reality. Ahora, mas que nunca es necesario unirnos para luchar contra los ataques que amenazan a nuestra gente.

In parting, we would like to leave you with a few words that César Chávez once said: "As long as there's one ounce of strength in our bodies, that ounce of strength will be used to fight for this good cause. We will win." The time is now! Together we will win!



## EL AGUILA

Day Editor - Felipe Barragan  
Night Editor - Marisa Espinosa  
Layout Master - Marianna Diaz  
Contributors:  
Cecilia Ballí  
Francisco Najera  
Juan Neria  
Rob Flores  
Maribel Ledezma  
Verónica Luna  
María Fernández  
Alicia Salzman  
Lubia Sanchez  
Nicole Vázquez

Special thanks to: Casa Zapata, El Guiding Concilio, ASSU Publications Board

The content of the articles in El Aguila does not necessarily express the views of MEChA, but is instead the collaborative work of the Chicano(a)/Latino(a) Community.. Contributions and letters are welcome and can be submitted to El Centro in the EL AGUILA box.

**¡Exprésate, libérate,  
y siempre dí  
... y qué!**



# Zoot Suit Week At Zapata

## El Rey del Mambo

Can it be? A mambo club in the 1990's on a private University in the United States? No - wait! - it's the Zoot Suit Dance at Casa Zapata! This is a legendary event and this year I was fortunate enough to attend.

It is important to note that although the members of Stanford's Chicano/Latino community can throw a mean party, they are just as if not more talented in their teaching of the facts. Zoot Suit is not just a dance. It is a week of lectures and readings that help educate and entertain.

I read somewhere that every year, Casa Zapata, in conjunction with various campus groups, sponsors a week remembering the Zoot Suit Riots of the early 1940's. Programs discuss the culture, language, dress, and different forms of expression of pachucos and pachucas of this era. The programs also aim to teach and engage students in dialogue concerning issues facing Chicanos then and now.

During World War II Los Angeles, like many other parts of the country, developed into a center of rapid migration of all races. Xeno-



PHOTO FROM MECHA ARCHIVES

phobia, perpetuated by police and the press, led to segregation in many areas of the country. Papers like the Los Angeles Times reinforced stereotypes of Mexican youth as "hoodlums". After the Sleepy Lagoon case, in which 22 members of a local Chicano group were charged with criminal conspiracy without proof for the death of a teenager at a party, police made indiscriminate arrests of

Chicano youth.

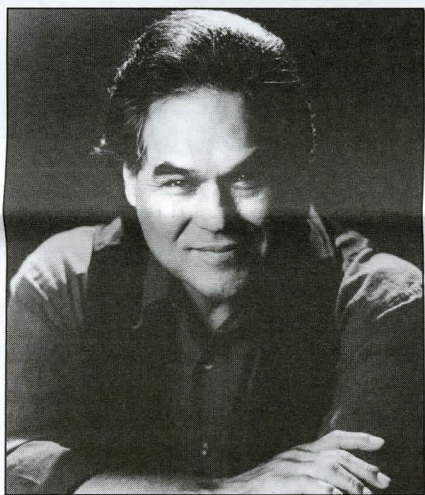
In the Spring of 1943, sailors in cities like Oakland and Los Angeles went into town for a "good time". Their idea of a good time, however, was disrespecting Chicanas and attacking "zoot-suiters". Police did little to protect the Chicanos and Chicanas and in turn arrested them. These attacks continued until June when Los Angeles was finally declared off-lim-

its to the military.

This year, the nightly talks included a screening of Luis Valdez's movie Zoot Suit, and a stage reading of the play "Zoot Suit" prepared by Alma Martinez. The reading of the play involved the participation of numerous community members, including faculty, staff and students.

The week ended on Saturday night with the dance at which Dr. Loco and the Rockin' Jalapeno Band performed. That night, I saw some of the baddest pachucos and pachucas I have ever seen. However, the baddest, as elected by the crowd, were Dulce Scavone and Sal Holguin.

Congratulations to you two and watch out because next year I will be back and I will be prepared!!!



LUIS VALDEZ

By María A. Fernandez

On Saturday, March 9, 1996, El Centro Chicano, Derechos (Stanford's Chicano/Latino pre-law society), and M.E.Ch.A. presented the third annual César Chávez Commemorative Celebration. The Stanford Chicano/Latino Community celebrated the life and contributions of late United Farm Workers' leader César Chávez at Dinkelspiel Auditorium. The evening was highlighted by an address by the nationally renowned film-maker and founder of El Teatro Campesino, Luis Valdez.

Performances included the improvisational theater student group, Teatro Xicano, which stressed the importance of voting and increasing political representation in our communities. Musician Enrique Ramírez filled the auditorium with Music of the Movimiento. A UFW representative described the current status of the United Farm Workers, and the co-chairs of M.E.Ch.A gave an address entitled "The Time Is Now", in which they expressed the need for students and community members to continue the work and philosophy of César. The Third Annual César Chávez Art

## ¡Que Viva César Chávez!

and Essay contest winners from local elementary and middle schools also presented their work.

The commemoration concluded with an address by Luis Valdez in which he discussed his experience and knowledge of the farmworkers' struggle and his relationship with César Chávez. He also described the process of writing and directing the upcoming film "The César Chávez Story".

By the end of the night, the audience witnessed the countless ways in which César Chávez has influenced our lives. As 13 year old essay contest winner, Santos de la Concha wrote, "César Chávez sabía encarar los problemas y solucionarlos con trabajo duro y mucha fé. Yo he tomado el ejemplo de Chávez en mi propia vida y yo voy a hacer un cambio en mi comunidad algún día, porque como dijo Chávez, '¡Sí se puede!'"

May his memory and vision live on.

¡Que viva César Chávez!



## Lora Romero: Zapata's New R.F.

Francisco Najera

Casa Zapata has experienced a number of very important changes in the last few years. Not only has the dorm received a much needed face lift, but it has seen three different Resident Fellows in as many years. Lora Romero, the newest RF, is a Stanford alumnus and has been a professor in the English department for the last three years. She has taught across the country, including Princeton and UT Austin. As one of the few and badly needed Chicana faculty at Stanford, Lora represents a great resource for the Latino community and has demonstrated her eagerness to take an active role among Chicanos both through her classes, as well as through her position as RF in Zapata.

Lora was born in Chino, Southern California, and moved to Santa Ana before her high school years. She received her undergraduate education at Stanford and her Ph.D. in English from UC Berkeley. She first taught at Princeton for two years but was disenchanted by both bad weather and a lack of Chicanos. She then taught at UT Austin for three years which she absolutely loved, and even admits that she feels like a Texan in spirit. Never the less, she decided to come to Stanford and says she is very happy with the Chicano community here and with the communities of color in general. She feels that Stanford has a wonderful faculty and is happy to be among them. However, Lora is not so content with the treatment of issues concerning people of color on campus. She feels that this is a particularly hard time for women

and people of color to be professors due to the backlash from minority gains of the past. We are at a critical point in history in which much of the progress that has come from our struggles is in danger of being lost. She doesn't "know what people who are doing this think they are going to accomplish besides the destruction of the university. Stanford has been protected, but probably won't be for very much longer".

As Zapata's RF, Lora feels she has gained a much better insight into the Chicano community here at Stanford. She has learned a lot in the last year and admits that knowing what she does now, she would have done some things differently. She feels that she cannot replace the Burciagas but will try to do her best given her own experience. One issue she is concerned with is her single status and how it compares to a family in terms of running a dorm. She knows that doing the job on her own will definitely be more difficult, but feels she is up to the challenge. In the name of the Latino community, I would like to thank Lora for taking that challenge in an effort to make us all feel a little more at home.





# It's Here! The MEChA Special Fee

María Fernández

It's spring quarter again and the campaigning by various campus groups for their special fee begins. Posters, flyers and banners are posted everywhere you look, and after a while, you can't remember who to vote for or why. The Special Fee, however, is a tremendously important campaign in order to continue providing programs that address important issues affecting the Chicano/Latino community at Stanford, as well as sponsoring events that reflect the beauty and diversity of our cultura. What special fee are we talking about? The M.E.Ch.A Special Fee.

When you vote "yes" on the M.E.Ch.A Special fee, you will be supporting more than just M.E.Ch.A. The \$25,923 requested under M.E.Ch.A Special Fee (not including a buffer for student fee refunds) will go toward academic, cultural, and social programs sponsored by a number of Chicano/Latino organizations on campus. With the M.E.Ch.A. Special Fee, M.E.Ch.A co-sponsors events with other student groups including: Ballet Folklórico de Stanford,

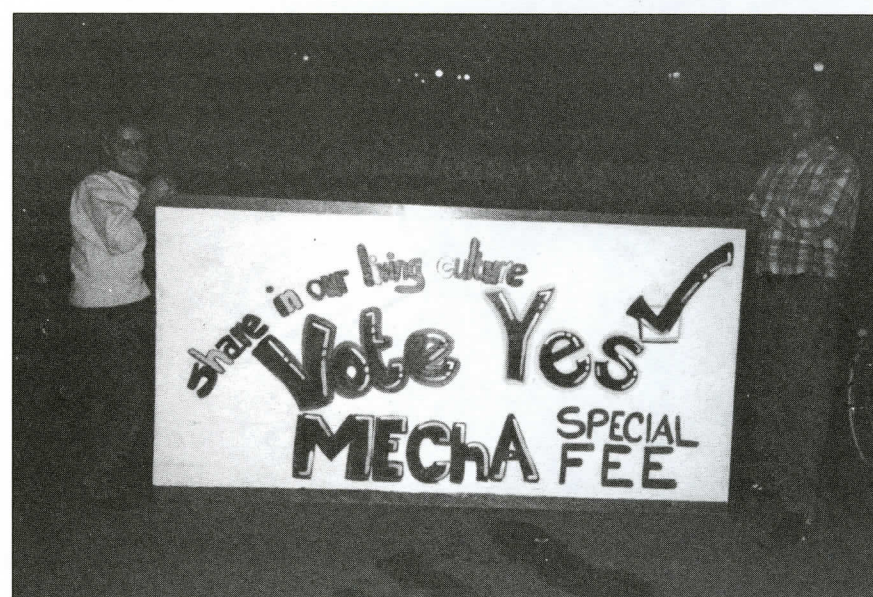


PHOTO FROM MEChA ARCHIVES

Chicanos in Health Education (CHE), Chicano/Latino Graduation Committee, DERECHOS (Chicano/Latino pre-law society), Latino Students Association (LSA), Mujeres at Stanford (MAS), and the Stanford Literacy Improvement Project (SLIP).

Academic programs that benefit students include DERECHOS' panels on law school and law professions, M.E.Ch.A's 6th Annual Raza Day Education Conference for over 350 high school students, and M.E.Ch.A and El

Centro Chicano co-sponsorship of the Chicano/Latino Student-Alumni Symposium. Cultural programs include events such as Día de los Muertos, La Gran Posada, Cinco de Mayo, Zoot Suit Week, LSA's Latino Culture Night, and Ballet Folklórico's Concierto de la Primavera. MEChA also co-sponsors events for the community in and outside of Stanford through programs with the Stanford Literacy Improvement Project, and events such as CHE's East Palo Alto Health

Fair, and the César Chávez Commemorative Celebration, among others. All events are open to the entire Stanford community and beyond.

Throughout the year, M.E.Ch.A actively fundraises to cover costs not included in the M.E.Ch.A Special Fee. The actual amount of the year-round budget is \$40,623, but only \$25,923 is being requested under the M.E.Ch.A Special Fee. Since the survival of these programs can be seriously affected by the loss of the Special Fee, we urge you to vote "YES" for M.E.Ch.A Special Fee. This is not a benefit simply for M.E.Ch.A or Chicano/Latino students, but the community in and outside of Stanford as well.

Remember, this is a community effort. Vote "YES" on M.E.Ch.A Special Fee!



## Project Motivation

Juan Neria

Project Motivation is a student run group whose mission is to motivate underprivileged high school youth to pursue higher education. Our goal is to demonstrate the necessary steps to get to college as well as provide them with a picture of the college experience. We do so through two major programs, High School Visitations and Bay Area Outreach. Our high school visitations program consists of bringing high schools to the campus, where we provide them with financial aids/admissions workshops, tours, and rapp sessions. For those high schools who wish to stay overnight we provide accommodations in dorms, along with meals. This year Pro-Mo has expanded its services to accommodate a larger number of high school students. High school youth throughout the state, as well as a few out of state, visit the campus with Pro-Mo's help. Our other major program, Bay Area Outreach consists of visiting schools around the local area and presenting them with information on the college experience.

Pro-Mo also puts on other programs throughout the year. Currently, we are preparing for Stanford Admit Weekend. We are putting on a banquet for Chicano/a, Latino/a Admits and a small presentation of all the Chicano/a organizations on campus. Also, Pro-Mo, along with SCCLES and NESBE, is working to put on Engineering Day. High school, as well as junior high students will be brought to campus and given a series of workshops and other events dealing with engineering. Finally, we are holding Day with an Undergrad. Several local students will come to campus and shadow a college student for an entire day to see what college is all about. As you can see Pro-Mo strives to motivate youth and make them realize that if "they shoot for the stars, the lowest they can end up is in the clouds!"



**VOTE YES ON  
PROJECT MOTIVATION  
SPECIAL FEE!!!**

## Barrio Assistance

Lubia Sanchez

The 1996-97 year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of Barrio Assistance, Stanford's oldest tutoring program. B. A. is a bilingual tutoring program dedicated to providing Latino children from East Palo Alto and east Menlo Park with academic & social support. Eight Saturdays out of each quarter, B.A. brings students to El Centro Chicano, for a warm breakfast, a one and a half hour tutorial session, and a half hour of arts and crafts. The children that B.A. serves are five to twelve years old and are recommended by teachers from surrounding school districts. This year there are 48 children in B. A., and each child has his/her own tutor. The one-on-one relationship is important to each child who, in a classroom setting, does not receive this individual attention.

"Barrio Assistance" was born out of the vision of a small group of Chicano students involved in M.E.Ch.A who were committed to serving the needs of Spanish-speaking low-income communities. Realizing they didn't need to look far, students turned to East Palo Alto and east Menlo Park to initiate what became one of Stanford's first "non-profit community action organizations".

Today, the Barrio Assistance Tutoring Program is one of those organizations which has carried on the legacy of community empowerment. In keeping the name "Barrio Assistance", the program reminds itself of its commitment to providing the

community with much needed support. In particular, it reminds itself that a community can not be "improved", "bettered", or "strengthened" without first caring for and helping those who are most in need...its children. Barrio Assistance holds steadfast to the belief that in helping our children learn we offer our communities hope.

This year B.A. has begun to expand that commitment by initiating the B.A. Bridge program whose mission is to provide 7th & 8th grade Latino youth with academic support, mentorship and enrichment opportunities. The need to have B.A. Bridge was identified by all parties involved. BA Bridge was created as a direct result of this community demand.

We invite those interested to assist us in creating hope for the future by tutoring in our new program and invite everyone to realize the truth behind the B.A. motto which states "Nuestros niños: las semillas de hoy, la arboleda del mañana".



**VOTE YES ON  
B.A. SPECIAL  
FEE!!!**



STANFORD LITERACY IMPROVEMENT  
PROJECT (SLIP)

SLIP is a ten-year strong voluntary student organization which addresses issues of literacy at Stanford. The program seeks to serve limited and non-English speaking Stanford service employees lacking in literacy skills. It provides one-on-one tutoring for Stanford employees seeking to improve their literacy skills. It also provides training for student volunteers. SLIP also serves as a referral service for citizenship classes and other programs. MEChA Special Fee plays a large part in providing services for all SLIP's valuable services to the community.

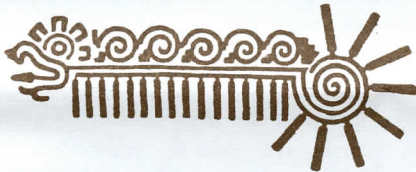
MUJERES AT STANFORD DE M.E.CH.A

MAS aims to encourage and develop the presence and influence of Chicanas at Stanford. One of our main goals is to provide a strong support system through educational, informational, and social programs. Outside of Stanford, MAS strives to preserve the legacy of Chicana/Latina pride and empowerment through programs targeting local high school mujeres. Mujeres at Stanford de MEChA invites you to our weekly meetings on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Casa Zapata Library ¡Unidas saldremos adelante!

CHICANOS IN HEALTH EDUCATION

Chicanos in Health Education (CHE) is an organization for students wishing to pursue careers in health-related fields. CHE serves primarily as an academic support network by establishing mentorships with faculty members and medical students and by providing resources that facilitate the application process to graduate schools, summer programs, internships and other opportunities for research and clinical experience.

With the financial support of the MEChA Special Fee, CHE is able to fulfill its goal to be of service to students beyond Stanford by providing a number of health services to the East Palo Alto community. The fee also makes possible the attendance of its members to important medical conference in order to promote the education of culturally aware physicians, scientists and health care providers.



Where MEChA Special Fee  
money will go:

PROPOSED BUDGET 96-97  
SUMMARY OF EVENTS

<b>Operating Budget</b>	\$800
<b>Ongoing Events</b>	
Issue Pannels and Presentations	\$2,186
Literacy Development Costs	\$886
Speakers	\$322
<b>Autumn Programming</b>	
Fiesta de la Bienvenida/Welcome Reception	\$470
Latino Culture Night	\$1064.50
La Gran Posada	\$935
<b>Winter Programming</b>	
Student-Alumni Symposium	\$1,006
Raza Day High School Conference	\$3,408
Zoot Suit Week	\$1,146
César Chávez Commemoration	\$3,473
Literacy Week	\$549
<b>Spring Programming</b>	
Gran Festival de Cinco de Mayo	\$1,430
Concierto de la Primavera	\$4,930
Adelante Mujer Concert	\$367.25
Noche de Gala	\$91
Chicano/Latino Graduation	\$1,436
East Palo Alto Health Fair	\$450
Slip Adult Learner Event	\$548.50
High School Health Conference	\$259
Fiesta de la Primavera	\$577
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$27,123</b>
<b>NET SPECIAL FEE REQUEST</b>	<b>\$25,923</b>
<b>SPECIAL FEE ADJUSTED FOR REFUNDS</b>	<b>\$33,700</b>

DERECHOS

Derechos is a Stanford support organization for students interested in law and public policy. Founded in 1989, Derechos addresses the Chicano/Latino community's lack of representation in these fields. As an information network, Derechos provides information to its members about internships, graduate schools, and other professional opportunities. As a support group, it arranges discussions about law and public policy-related issues and gives members the opportunity to participate in a mentorship program with Stanford law students. Derechos is also involved ins the surrounding area through community service projects and participation in a statewide program, the annual intercollegiate "Moot Court" competition. All of these services, in addition to Derechos' co-sponsorship of other events put on by the Stanford Chicano/Latino community, such as the César Chávez Commemorative Celebration, are made possible by the financial support of the MEChA Special Fee.

CHICANO & LATINO GRADUATION  
COMMITTEE

In honor of the parents and families of graduating Chicanos and Latinos, the Chicano and Latino Graduation Committee organizes a yearly bilingual ceremony followed by a special banquet for graduates and their families. These special graduation activities have a long tradition in our community, and are made possible with funding from MEChA Special Fee.

LSA

The Latin American Students' Association seeks to promote Latin American culture on campus. Concentration on social events like dances, culture nights, and meals where Latin American food is served, LSA provides an opportunity for all Stanford students to learn more about Latina American culture. LSA is comprised of more than one hundred students that come not only from all over Latin America, including Colombia, Peru, México, Brazil, Venezuela, Bolivia, and many others, but also from European and Asian countries, as well as from the United States. The MEChA Special Fee co-sponsors events with LSA, which brings you events such as Fiesta de la Bienvenida in the fall and Latino Culture Night in the winter, among other events.

BALLET FOLKLÓRICO DE STANFORD

This year Ballet Folklórico de Stanford has grown, not only expanding our focus, like performing for Zoot Suit Week, but also redeveloping old ideas. Along with these changes has come our new director, Elena Robles, who has brought a focus on fundamentals. As a founding member of the group in the early 70's, she bring years of folklórico experience.

We would also like to invite you to the 13th annual Concierto de la Primavera, entitled "Mi Tierra Mexicana." This year the format has been developed to entertain and educate by expressing our culture not only through dance, but through poetry, art, interviews, and music. The show will feature last year's popular suite of Concheros, the group's signature region of Jalisco, and new dances from Tierra Caliente of Michoacán. This year the beginning group will be performing its own suite from the Sureste, encompassing the states of Quintana Roo, Campeche, and Yucatán.

So remember to pencil us in on your calendars for this year's concierto, which will be held Memorial Day Weekend; Friday, May 26th and Saturday, May 27th at 8:00 PM at Dinkelspiel Auditorium. Tickets will be \$8 for general admission, \$5 for students and seniors, and \$3 for children under 12. Group rates are also available. For more information, contact Laura Uribarri at 497-6350.



Your Vote is  
Your Voice!!!



## SSCLES Raza Takes Seattle!

Cynthia Cardona

The Stanford Society of Chicano/Latino Engineers and Scientists, better known as SSCLES, had forty members participate in the 18th Annual National Technical Career Conference (NTCC) put on by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). On Wednesday, February 14, SSCLES members traveled to Seattle, Washington representing Stanford's Engineering Raza. Once there, the group was able to benefit from workshops such as Alternative Careers for Engineers, How to Get a Guaranteed 4.0, NASA's Future Space Projects (lead by Dr. Ellen Ochoa—Stanford Grad and the first Latina in space), as well as being active participants in an Affirmative Action Debate. The conference usually hosts the final rounds of a National Academic Olympiad, Technical Paper Presentation, and Design Competition. This year, SSCLES members Raúl Ruiz, Martha Madruño, and Cynthia Cardona took 4th place in the National Design Competition with their *Bedtime Sky Show*, an interactive children's lamp. Keynote speakers at luncheons and dinners included Microsoft's computer wizard Bill Gates and Gene Krantz from the Apollo 13 mission. The conference culminated in a huge job fair that brought together companies from all over the country seeking Latino engineers. For fun, SSCLES members saw the city's sites from the dizzying heights of the Seattle Space Needle. They also enjoyed a couple of pachangas in the company of 1100 other Latino engineering students from all over the country. SSCLESers also laughed the night away at a live stand-up comedy show, including an act by comedian Rudy Moreno. Next year SSCLES is set to take over Philadelphia, PA—host of the 19th Annual NTCC! We hope to see you there!



## ¡La Lucha Sigue!

**María A. Fernández and Verónica Luna**

On behalf of El Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán, we would like to extend an open invitation to all Raza to come join us in our struggle for justicia and equality. Since 1969, Raza have been on this campus advocating for the rights of our people to be respected and valued as full members of the Stanford community. We have joined together to learn our history, to take pride in our identity, and to celebrate our cultura. We have fought for the rights of our people—for equality, for justice, for political power, and for self-determination.

Through M.E.Ch.A., institutions such as El Centro Chicano, Casa Zapata, the Chicano Fellows Program, as well as several Chicano/Latino student organizations have been established. M.E.Ch.A. has worked to bring more programming and better facilities for El Centro, the C.I.V. Program, and has provided leadership on and off campus.

Now, in the face of numerous attacks on our community, we must continue the struggle for fighting for our rights. Although Raza are fast becoming a majority of the entire population of California, we still have little or no political representation in our communities. Proposition 187, attacks on Affirmative Action, the California Civil Rights Initiative, and English Only campaigns, are part of a long series of attacks on our

## Los Hermanos de Stanford

*"Creating the Hermanos Package"*

**Juan Neria**

This year brings with it a new attitude to Los Hermanos de Stanford. Armed with a burning desire to create a stronger organization, Los Hermanos is striving to create the "Hermanos Package." This goal consists of a re-affirmation of our founding principles, as well as the creation of a solid foundation in the Chicano/a and general Stanford community. Los Hermanos is striving to do this through several projects. The first is our mentorship program at Menlo-Atherton High School. We tutor once a week at MA and offer a workshop on important skills, such as writing resumes, and applying to college. Another one of our projects consists of the building of scenery for the Concierto de la Primavera. Our biggest prop for the Concierto is the building of El Templo Mayor, an endeavor of great proportions. Finally, in order to increase our professionalism as well as to establish a tie with the greater Stanford community we obtained an office in the HAAS Center. This move will serve as a bridge builder between our community and the larger Stanford population.

Another major change to Los Hermanos is an increase in membership. After an exciting winter quarter recruitment process, Los Hermanos is proud to announce the addition of 8 new members. The group will definitely benefit from the experience, energy, and enthusiasm of these new Hermanos. Los Hermanos is planning to hold informational meetings to all those who are interested in finding out more about our group. Discover for yourself the "Hermanos Package!"

## A Perspective on Latinos

**Francisco Najera**

When I first came to Stanford, I was very much impressed with the strength and solidarity of the Chicano/Mexican American community. It was not something that I was used to, coming from New York where their numbers are much smaller. The many organizations available to the Chicano community here have given me great insight into the culture, and living in Zapata has placed me in a setting where being Mexican American is the norm. I have been more than surprised, perhaps even overwhelmed, by the number of Mexican-American students here. The benefits of this experience should be more than apparent, but the question I have, as a non-Mexican Latino student is "Where do I fit in?"

Given this context of learning and living the Chicano/Mexican American experience, it is not hard to see why other cultures within the Latino family have not received the attention they deserve. One merely needs to look at the numbers of students from other Latin American countries to understand this phenomenon. As a Guatemalan, I wish to learn of other cultures, as well as to share aspects of my own. Considering that I constitute half of the Guatemalan population that I am aware of at Stanford, this task seems incredibly difficult. But it is not impossible. The non-Mexican Latino population is a growing minority and constitutes a wealth of knowledge concerning our own cultures, which is all the more precious because it is so rare at Stanford. For example, the huge number of Central Americans pouring into this country have not necessarily made it to Stanford in significant numbers, yet they constitute an important and very real part of this nation.

Considering the academic setting of a university, it should be expected that as students, we should make an effort to seek out as many resources made available to us as possible. The experiences and opinions of Puerto Ricans, Nicaraguans, and Colombians are not necessarily those of Mexicans, and they should not be regarded as such. We all have different views to contribute to the Latino community, and it is this diversity which makes us strong. There is no one Latino experience. Yet it is this ability to come together to fight under a united front that makes us great. That is the challenge that faces all Latinos at Stanford, in the United States, and around the world. We have to set the example. Our positions in this society as those most able to make a difference demands it.

## Voces de la Comunidad

A column dedicated to views de la gente



María A. Fernández 7-5429  
Verónica Luna 7-4278

M.E.Ch.A. Co-Chairs





# Ballet Folklórico Members Speak

By Rob Flores and Marisa Espinosa

Ballet Folklórico de Stanford has been a part of this campus for twenty-five years. Throughout the history group, members have brought with them a variety of experiences, not only in dance but in life. Some have had fifteen years of experience while others have never danced before. Some have grown up in the Chicano community while for others are dancing folklórico is their first experience with our culture. But the common bond that all the members share is a love of dance and a commitment to learn more about the culture. Recently we interviewed three members of the group to share with us their experiences dancing folklórico. Carlo Garcia, sophomore, is in his first year of folklórico, studying with the beginning group. Migdalia Gamboa, sophomore, has been a member of the advanced performing group for a year. Rob Flores, alumnus, has been a member of the group for six years and is now teaching the beginning class. We asked them the following questions to learn more about why they dance.

When asked why they joined ballet, they all agreed that their primary goal was to learn more about the culture. They also said that ballet was a good stress reliever and that it was an expression of their passion for dancing. And hey, let's admit it—the costumes are pretty

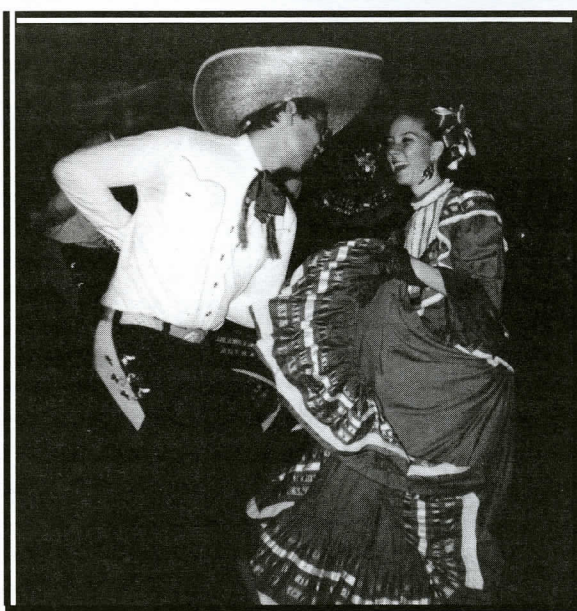


PHOTO BY ROB FLORES

damn cool.

All three had strong feelings about what dancing folklórico meant to them. Carlo said that through dancing he is learning about his culture in a way he never thought possible, and that he is glad to be taking advantage of the opportunities available to him while he has the chance. Migdalia said that she has learned that dancing is about enjoying the moment rather than going through the steps in her head. She also said that it was a way of expressing feelings that she would not be able to express in words; it's a very sensual experience.

They all have vivid memories of their first performances. Carlo relates that during high school he had always wanted to dance but didn't have the courage. For his first performance, at this year's Posadas, he was very nervous and afraid he would make a mistake. Afterwards, he was very proud, realizing that with effort he would be able to perform the dances that he had grown up seeing. Rob said that for his first performance at Posadas he spent the five minutes before the first dance trying to remember any of the steps to La Negra but froze while performing. Migdalia felt that her first Concierto de la Primavera, was a testing ground for her transition to the performing group.

When asked "What do you like about the group?" Carlo replied that he liked how his class is taught in a relaxed and patient manner; keeping a fun atmosphere while sometimes teaching difficult footwork.

They all hope to continue dancing in the future. However, Carlo and Migdalia realize that the time commitment will be a major factor in the extent they are able to participate, and that after college the resources might not be available. Rob said, "I never thought he would be dancing this long, but now I teach and am dancing with two performing groups." Dancing has become a major part of his life. His only regret is that his grandmother was never able to see him perform, but he vows that his children will grow up dancing.

## POESIA DEL PUEBLO

Maribel Ledezma

Excerpts from "Habla Malinche"

These my eyes  
saw sky and land below  
taken from  
the hands of pueblos  
Whose eyes still held  
the glint of hope  
for a newer day

I saw families moved  
miles from the lands  
they lived out like legacies  
Built their ranchos and adobe  
homes to weather storms  
and last generations

They did not know that history  
and time would be destroyed by a  
disease  
Greed and murder  
would cause time, like sand, to flow  
through the palms of white men

Quickly  
Effortlessly

Snatching grains along the way  
Caught up and blown far from home

These, my eyes  
Saw what a small thing  
History and Culture amount to  
For a big-palmed White god.  
Esto vi yo  
Yo la madre de una gente mestiza  
Por mi amor y mis palabras  
A esta tierra entro la muerte  
Un hombre español, una nueva cultura  
Y nos ha quedado aqui en America  
Tristeza y dolor

What we carry in our hearts  
are the steady and subtle whispers  
of a long murdered people.  
It is a rain stick echoing  
from beyond the muddied forest floor.  
It is an African drum  
alongside the melody of a flute.  
What we hold within our souls is this.  
These ghosts are all we have left in

the land emptied out by death and disease.

These quiet whispers  
of a land before conquest  
are the baggage of our souls,  
All we have left that remains.  
And I Malinche must  
bear the burden  
and the beast's children,  
these soft cocoa babies,  
coming from him who claimed  
to love the flutes and drums.  
These low murmurs of life.  
are all we have left.

You died and left your children to rule us...

Los indios  
Los desgraciados  
Nacidos de una mujer malvada y odiada  
Pero no entienden que tambien fui violada  
Un hombre güero tomo mi alma...

Cuando a los Aztecas vino la palabra  
Sentieron que la muerte se acercaba  
murmuraba el norte  
que venia la destrucción y  
a la misma hora vida.

## AN OPEN LETTER TO PROSPECTIVE FROSH

Julia Macias

¡Felicidades! I would like to be one the many people to congratulate you on getting into Stanford! I remember all the questions that ran through my head—can I make it here? Will I like the people? Is the weather really as good as they say? A thousand things went through my head when I saw that envelope, but the biggest question had to be "Is Stanford for me?"

Admit Weekend will give you an opportunity to see Stanford first hand—to experience both the academic and social aspects of the school. However, I am writing to you for a different reason. I am writing on behalf of the Chicano/a, Latino/a community here at Stanford. Our community is like a familia here, and we want to extend a family welcome to you and show you the support and excitement within our community.

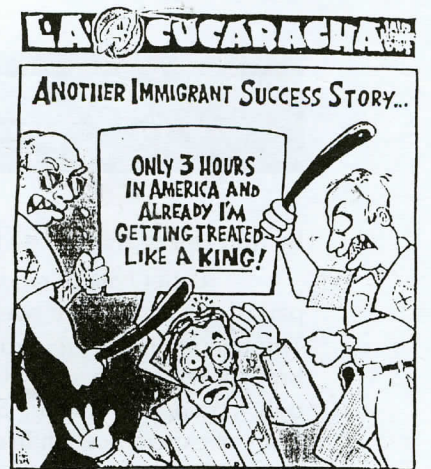
Stanford has planned some fun events to help welcome you, answer questions, and make your stay more meaningful. These events are special in that they give you an opportunity to meet and talk with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other prospective freshmen from the Mexican American community while still giving you the opportunity to participate in Admit Weekend activities.

All of my questions were answered when I visited Stanford during Pro-Mo Weekend three years ago—actually talking to students on campus made the Stanford come to life. Visiting Stanford as a Pro-Mo was the best decision I could have made. Staying in Zapata and really experiencing Stanford life made realize that Stanford was the place for me—honestly, I can not imagine being anywhere else!



# Do You Know What's Going On?

Bob Oso



The anti-immigrant sentiment that pervades this state and the climate of hate that has become ever-apparent in this country was manifested in the savage beating of Leticia Soltero on Monday, April 1st by Riverside County sheriffs. Like the beating of Rodney King, this act of overt racism by Deputy sheriffs Tracy Watson and Kurtis Franklin was caught on videotape.

Leticia Soltero and her boyfriend, Enrique Funes Flores, were two of nineteen suspected illegal immigrants in the back of a pick-up truck who were chased from a border checkpoint 80 miles away to the community of South El Monte, near Los Angeles. It was there that cameras from a KCAL helicopter caught the sheriffs beating Funes-Flores as he covered helplessly near the truck as well as savagely beating Leticia Soltero with a baton and pulling her by the hair. Neither had tried to flee.

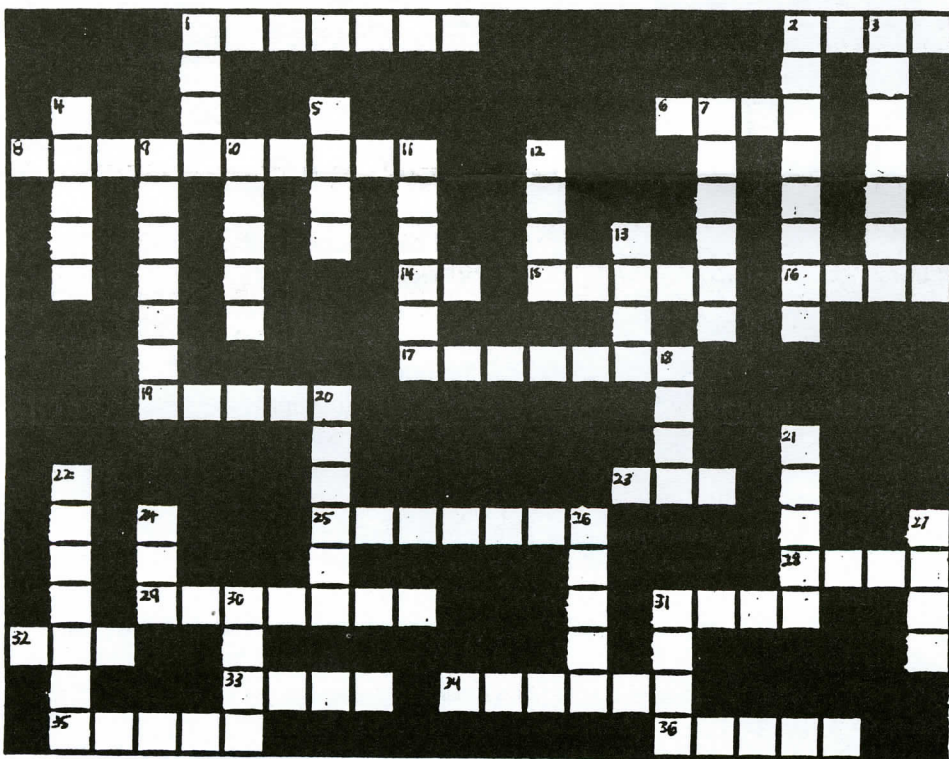
Doris Meisner, the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service expressed her horror at the brutality of the beatings, and the Riverside and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Departments are launching investigations into the officers' behavior. The Mexican Consulate was outraged at the treatment of the Mexican nationals, and President Clinton has ordered the Justice Department to conduct a full investigation into the incident.

The victim, Alicia Soltero, recounted the beating for reporters on a Spanish news channel. She described how, "An officer pulled me by the hair, pushed me down and hit me as many times as he wanted. He didn't care I'm a woman. He attacked me, he hit me, he handcuffed me and he even hit me against the truck. I thought he was going to kill me."

Demonstrations have been organized by immigrant and Chicano rights' groups as well as UCLA students to march to the federal building in downtown Los Angeles in protest of their treatment.

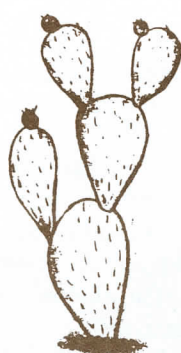
Incidents like the beating of Alicia Soltero and her boyfriend Enrique Funes Flores only serve to show that racism is still alive and well all around us. We must stop the hate that is waged against our Chicano and Latino communities, as well as against all communities of color. The threat of violence should not be levied upon those simply looking for a way out of poverty by finding a decent job. In the words of Alicia Soltero's 11 year-old daughter, "It's not fair what they did to my mother ... we are human beings, not animals!"

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### Across

1. Last name of famous "Woodstock" Chicano guitarist
2. Boycott \_\_\_\_\_ Bell
6. El \_\_\_\_\_ de Santa Bárbara
8. 2nd word of this August 20, 1970 protest
14. Hecho \_\_\_\_\_ México
15. Place/event in Texas where great lies have been written
16. Support the UFW, ¡ \_\_\_\_\_ No!
17. Spanish word for gift, also made for Día de los Muertos
19. Tenochtitlan is the \_\_\_\_\_ capital
23. Spanish Conquistadores sought this (in Spanish)
25. More Chicanos were killed during this war than any other
28. Verde, blanco, y \_\_\_\_\_
29. Last name of Chicano reporter murdered by L.A. Police in 1970.
31. Tlaloc and Mictlantecutli are Mexica \_\_\_\_\_
32. El \_\_\_\_\_ Bravo
33. Un vato \_\_\_\_\_
34. Great Mexican revolutionary from el Sur de México
35. Name of one of these found in Mexican calendars
36. ¡Unidos en la \_\_\_\_\_ venceremos!



### Down

1. Blacklisted break-through film "The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Earth"
2. Nahuatl name for the Sun
3. Tony Burciaga's book "Drink \_\_\_\_\_"
4. "un aguila sentada en un \_\_\_\_\_"
5. ¡Que \_\_\_\_\_ Zapata!
7. Sleepy \_\_\_\_\_ defense for zootsuits
9. soldadera in Mexican Revolution 1910
10. Early Mesoamerican group from present-day Veracruz
11. Mario \_\_\_\_\_, "Cantinflas"
12. La \_\_\_\_\_ Unida Party
13. Dr. Loco's Rockin' Jalapeño \_\_\_\_\_
18. \_\_\_\_\_ y amor
20. César \_\_\_\_\_ Street
21. Chale con this beer
22. We demand Chicano \_\_\_\_\_ now !
24. ¡No \_\_\_\_\_ moverán!
26. Student organization 26 years strong
27. Do this in this fall's election
30. Famous musician, \_\_\_\_\_ Guerrero
31. What you score in soccer

