

Chicano Culture And Philosophy



Semana Devotes Day To Huelga

On April 14, La Semana de La Raza will commence with a day devoted in its entirety to La Huelga. La Huelga is just one aspect of the Chicano Movement but it is one of the most important; for this reason we plan to expose the issue as much as possible.

The plight of the farm workers is very tragic in a nation that boasts of its great wealth, social advances, and technological achievements. Farm workers feed the nation, but they can not even afford to feed themselves. The average American family spends \$1,600 a year on food, but the average farm worker only earns \$1,300 a year. His average life span is only 49 years. Infant mortality and tuberculosis are 125 percent above the national average. Accident rates are 300 percent above the national average. Workers are subjected to grossly unsafe conditions in the fields. In many instances there are not even toilets available, neither can they wash their hands or drink water in the fields. There is widespread and illegal use of child labor.

La Semanz de La Raza committee was very fortunate in acquiring three

speakers from the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, Venustiano Holguin, and Frank and Elizabeth Rodriguez. Venustiano Holguin is a successful co-ordinator in Alameda County and an expert on the pesticide problem and its effects on the farm worker, consumers, and the environment. Working with farm workers is not new to him. He comes from a farm workers family in Cochella and his father has recently been harassed because of his involvement in the movement. He is also a spokesman for non-violence.

Frank and Elizabeth Rodriguez have been co-ordinators in the San Jose area since May of 1969. Both are well informed in the Huelga nationwide. They have a son who has been organizing in Boston. In June, Frank and Elizabeth Rodriguez are moving to Delano where they will work full-time.

With these three speakers, we hope to inform the Chicano community as well as the Stanford community in more detail of the reality of the crises being faced today by the front line of defense—the farmworker.

Chicana Speakers Will Climax Week's Activities

Throughout history, the role of the Chicana Woman has been a very strong one, although a silent one. Today as we hear the call of the Raza and as Chicanos come to life, we see the stirring of the people. With this call, the Chicana Woman also stirs and will leave her mark on the Chicano Movement in the Southwest.

This is one of the reasons why there is one evening devoted to "Chicanas en el Movimiento" in MECHA's Semana De La Raza at Stanford University. The event will be Friday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Church. This event will be the last event to take place in La Semana. Speaking that evening will be Alicia Escalante, Chairman of Los Angeles Welfare Rights Organization, Elizabeth Montoya of the Denver Crusades for Justice, and Geraldine Gonzales, also of the Denver Crusades for Justice.

Alicia Escalante is involved full time in the Chicano Movement. She works and organized the East Los Angeles Chapter of the Welfare Rights Organization. The Welfare Rights Organization is fighting for changes in the welfare system for women in the Barrios. She is also participating in the "Catholicos por La Raza" organization, which had an encounter on Christmas Eve 1969, with the Los Angeles Police Department, at St. Basils in Los Angeles. She is also an active member in other Chicano organizations in Los Angeles.

Alicia, along with Geraldine, and Elizabeth, was invited to the UCLA Chicana Conference held in November of 1969. At this conference she spoke of the involvement of women in the movement and specifically what type of involvement she has in the movement. MECHA of Stanford sent two female representatives to that conference and both agreed that Alicia was truly a dynamic speaker.

MECHA's Semana De La Raza committee chose to invite Alicia to speak this evening because they felt that she could portray the Chicana Woman in El Movimiento Chicano de Aztlan.

Elizabeth Montoya is an active organizer in the Denver Crusades for Justice. Most of her work is involved in the Crusades, where she has organized such things as a Chicano Summer School program. She is a very frank person, and isn't afraid to say what she feels. The Crusades for Justice is a Chicano political organization which is designed to provide help for Chicanos and organize self-help groups. When she was at the UCLA Chicana Conference one of her opening remarks was "you better start listening to your mothers. Most kids don't listen to their mothers. Well, I'm a mother and I'm gonna tell you something. If you're going to a four year school, don't sit on your asses, do something." Linda Lopez, one of the two representatives sent to the conference, said "Elizabeth, is one of the most inspirational speakers, for the Chicana today." Elizabeth will be speaking along the same lines as that of the UCLA Conference.

Geraldine Gonzalez is also from the Denver Crusades for Justice. She too is another active organizer of the Crusades. But Geraldine's involvement is that of a unique one, than the other women in the Crusades for Justice.

Geraldine Gonzales is Corky Gonzalez's wife, founder of the Crusades for Justice. Geraldine symbolizes to me, what I think most women in the movement can do, be a mother, a wife, and become actively involved within the Movement. She also shows that we as women of the movement must believe in our men and become just as involved as they are, equally.

These three women are only three Chicanas who have been active, and are active in the Movement. There are plenty more women, but still more are needed. That is another purpose for this evening. We hope to turn on more Chicanas to the Movement, and also to let the Machos know that we support each other and the courage we have endlessly displayed in fighting for "La Raza."

Raza Inmates Form EMPLEO

"El mexicano preparado, listo, educado, y organizado." These are the thoughts, as stated in their constitution, of the members of EMPLEO at San Quentin State Prison.

Through the work of organizations such as EMPLEO, one is reminded that the Chicano Movement has many fronts: in the barrio, in the fields, in

the schools, and in the prisons. We are trying to present a speaker from EMPLEO for La Semana de La Raza, be he either an inmate or an ex-inmate, thus rounding out the effectiveness of La Semana. It is in this way that one can be better exposed to all the realms of Chicanismo and the Chicano Movement.

EMPLEO is the result of the Chicano inmates urge to attempt a solution to the problems of the Chicano in this country and its penal institutions. The major purpose of the Organization is to develop new programs of assistance to the Chicano inmates. The organization assists in: (1) helping Chicano inmates participate in educational, vocational, and social programs available within San Quentin; (2) promoting programs within the institution that will contribute to the existing programs; (3) dedicating and acquainting the Chicano inmates to the purpose of becoming more aware citizens to participate in organizations that are established to better the conditions of the Chicanos in the barrios; and (4) establishing a society and assistance relation with the Chicano inmates.

Thus, the objectives of EMPLEO are to: (1) establish job development programs; (2) establish educational and vocational programs; (3) establish resident placement programs; (4) establish treasury and assistance programs; (5) establish orientation programs; and (6) develop better relationships with Chicano inmates.

ALMA Asks Justice

On Friday, April 17, as part of our Semana de La Raza, Larry Aguilar, founder of ALMA, will be speaking on the objectives and programs of ALMA.

ALMA (Alliance of Layman Mexican Americans) was formed on July 31, 1968, in East Los Angeles to bind together the Chicanos in the barrios of the South side of L.A. for the advancement of la causa de nuestro raza. Initially there were twenty-eight Mexicanos in ALMA but now it has expanded to involve over five thousand Chicanos in fifteen barrios in the South side.

Directing themselves to self-determination and "the sound of brown" they have joined in a collective effort to eliminate the "patron" attitude which some Chicanos still employ. Also the alliance is striving to end violence against our people at the hands of "Blue Coated Instant Justice" and the "color blind" court system. But their most important goal is to record our heritage and culture in history.



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