

# CHICANA WOMEN

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this added ability. Instead, too often they are expected to take time out from their other work to act as interpreters, then catch up on the same work load as others unable to handle two languages."

Another handicap, she feels, is that more than other women, Latin American women are considered by employers poor risks for promotion, likely to abandon a career for marriage and family.

Ms. Sidhu, who has openly used her position with the Mexican-American Chamber to spread word of the organization and its aims, freely admits that other minority-group female white-collar workers face similar problems, but sees the problems faced by Latin American women the most serious for a number of reasons.

"One is sheer numbers," she explained. "Here in California, 'Spanish surnames' come to some 15 per cent of the population, and the national figure is five per cent. We are concentrated in a crescent along the Mexican border and in a number of big cities across the nation. Most are of Mexican descent or from Mexico, except along the East Coast where there are also large numbers of 'Spanish surnames' from Puerto Rico.

"Spanish-speaking people are this country's largest minority language group, not evenly scattered but found in heavy concentrations."

## Education Important

She feels Latin American women also face particular problems of culture and prejudice, and she speaks from experience. Rachel Sidhu is the youngest of a migrant farm worker's 13 children, and "from the time I was a little girl, I knew

I didn't want to spend my life working out in the fields in that heat day after day. I was lucky — my mother pushed me to get an education."

Even migrant farm workers, she says, realize the importance of an education for their children — if and when possible — but they don't often see it as important for daughters as for sons. "Hands" are needed to support the family, and it is usually the girls who are pulled out of school first.

If the daughters do go to school, "there are too many counselors who see no reason to encourage Latin American girls to study hard and aim high. It's accepted these girls will marry young and raise big families; and if they work, it will be like their mothers — in the fields and factories."

The Latin American Bilingual Secretaries Association has plans to meet this — in Sacramento they've already held one seminar for junior high and high school girls, "mainly but not entirely Latin American.

"We gave them hell — but we also gave them images of successful Latin American men and women they can look up to and identify with. Some said, later it was the first time they had known a Mexican-American could be somebody."

Another aim of the association is to show employers their need for bilingual office help, "and we show both public and private employers how much an asset a Spanish-speaking secretary can be, we'll also act as a clearing house for information on available jobs."

At this stage, the Latin American secretaries plan local independent organizations, in close contact, cooperation on various projects. State organizations and even a

national group may come later.

If the group in Sacramento and the newer groups plan to remain Latin American-oriented, "that doesn't mean," according to Ms. Sidhu, "that we can or won't cooperate with

other women's and minority groups on projects where our needs or aims coincide."

She doesn't have to say it. Even alone, much less in cooperation with other

organizations, a group representing the Latin American women, particularly the working women, of California and the nation could carry a lot of clout. □

## FAVORITE MOVIES

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opening nights, that Richard Burton almost went to her hotel room for an interview.

Through all of her movie colony trivia she remains the same nicely naive collector of trivia she was when she started the racket. And why anyone outside of the immediate Slotkin family would be interested in these lukewarm reminiscences is beyond me. Still, any writer who would take readers directly from interviews with The Manson Family to a jolly account of a *Tonight Show* appearance with Joan Rivers, deserves at least our partial attention.

Ms. Eder says she likes everyone in show biz except Raquel Welch who snubbed her a couple of times. Marilyn Beck, on the other hand, doesn't seem to like anybody in the industry and fails to even mention La Welch in her book.

Ms. Beck, who is a syndicated columnist for the *New York Times* Special Features, whatever the hell that is, is sort of the Clifford Odets of the gossip mongers. The portrait she paints of *Marilyn Beck's Hollywood* is as bleak and barren as the Adobe Salt Flats. She is bitter about the promiscuity, dope-dealing, and despair offscreen and the pornography and violence onscreen. The industry is going to hell in a greased handcar. The new breed of performer is like the proverbial serpents in-

cisor. The new breed of producer is a panderer to base public taste.

She ends with a pessimistic paragraph that warns filmmakers that unless the "bloody, immoral" movies stop, the industry will cease to exist. The irony is that the paragraph was written by some old fuddy-duddy way back in 1909. But the thought is essentially the same

one Ms. Beck has been tossing out for 250 crepe-draped pages. Why would someone write a book and then poke fun at it? What are her real convictions?

No matter. The point to all this is that you should star as far away from the collected works of Mss. Eder and Beck as possible. Bring on the "A" and "B" party lists! □

## GOLDBERG

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the third house than the grass-roots trouble makers who seldom provided any funds.

### Hard Times

The organization never really died but it certainly came on hard times. Too often the conventions ended in bitter self-righteous debates over obscure issues, and personality tantrums dominated the organization on every level. The group stayed in the precincts only in a few counties like Contra Costa, Alameda and San Francisco and in the districts of Congressman George Brown Jr. and Senator David Roberti.

Last weekend the CDC endorsement became important to everyone, including old-style politician Joseph Alioto who a year ago wouldn't have been even interested in associating himself with that label. Independent political action has come back in vogue and the political bosses in Sacramento are will-

ing to use any weapon at hand.

Congressman Jerome Waldie, with strong help from the remnants of the McGovern organization, has spent weeks building clubs all over the state to support him at the endorsement convention. The only problem they faced was that Assembly speaker Bob Moretti has a built-in club movement and was successfully able — with a little help from opponent Secretary of State Edmund G. Brown Jr. — to pull together a pretty good grass-roots organization to stop Waldie. The dust cleared with Waldie only getting 48 per cent of the vote. Moretti looked a little better than Brown and Alioto but, in spite of his inspiring pieces to CDC'ers about working together for the great Democratic victory, still fell on his face.

### Convention Casualties

David A. Roberti and Cathy O'Neil may have become the casualties of the conventions for really not being able to convince the women's caucus of the convention. Roberti has one of the most consistent liberal voting records on every issue but abortion. He has gone into one liberal group after another sticking to his principles in spite of the cost. The women's caucus killed him on the issue. On the other hand, the women's caucus watered down between Cathy O'Neil and March Fong, apparently giving up on Ms. O'Neil in the secretary of state voting.

The big bad guy of the day was Assemblyman Walter Karabian who was booted off the stage for coming out in one direction on civil rights and women only to leave the attorney general race because he thought he could beat a couple of women and a Chicano.

Vincent Bugliosi was the heads-on favorite against William Norris for attorney general. Then the word got out about his view in favor of capital punishment, which wasn't softened by his view against prosecuting in victimless crimes.

When the storm was over, only Senator Cranston, the founder of CDC and still its champion, got an endorsement. This may mean the Democratic Primary will be open; and it may mean that it will not be shattered to the point where, as Mayor Tom Bradley pointed out in the closing session, "The only way the Democrats can lose the next election is to give it away." □

- WHAT IS "PLANETARY ACUPUNCTURE"?
- WHO ARE THE "PHYSICIANS OF THE EARTH"?
- WHY DO THEY USE "DOWSING"?
- WHAT IS BEING DONE TO HEAL THE EARTH?

# RESHAD

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