

# MECHA NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1 NO. 1

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## CHANGE IN MECHA

Reconstruction of MECHA leadership took place at the end of fall quarter. The new format is a board of five chairpersons in place of the chairperson vice chairperson system. Currently serving as chairpersons of the different areas are: Financial, Rene Charles; Cultural, Mario Hernandez; Communications, Norma Zavala; Education, Robert Morales. The fifth position (Political chairperson) is presently vacant.

An E.O.P. Advisory Committee under Robert Morales has been formed to provide student feedback for the Chicano Division office in order to aid the counselors in providing better services.

An effort is being made to set up an expanded program of tutoring and peer-counseling. Rene Charles, working with Daniel Avila, Chicano Division Director, is looking into the possibilities of funding this program, with the hope of organizing it soon. Mario Hernandez is heading the committee for Semana de la Raza and Norma Zavala heads the production of this news-letter.

For any issues that arise which you would like handled by MECHA please contact Norma Zavala, so she can put it on the agenda for the MECHA meetings. All students are urged to attend the meetings, so that we may provide adequate representation for everyone.

## NCHO Provides Services For Students

The National Chicano Health Organization (N.C.H.O.) at the U. W. Campus is presently involved with projects to help Chicano students in the health professional fields.

NCHO is in the process of writing a proposal for tutorial services and preceptorships for those students needing these services; the tutorial services will be for those students going into health related fields, and the tutors will be Chicano students who have already taken the courses. Presently, there are volunteers available whom you can contact for tutorial help, but in the future, N.C.H.O. hopes to be able to pay the tutors. They also hope to provide scholarships for students in the health fields. The preceptorships will depend on the students professional interests.

Another project that N.C.H.O. will be involved with is the Health Science Fair, on April 9th. The Fair will be for Chicano students interested in health fields as well as for those who are undecided in their interests. N.C.H.O. will be bringing 250 high school students from the Yakima Valley Columbia Basin and the Snohomish Valley to the University for the fair.

The Health Science Fair will begin at 10:00 A.M. and continue until 5:00 p.m. It will consist primarily of speakers and tours of the Health Science complex. Entertainment will also be provided, with a show by the Chicano theater group, El Teatro Quetzalcoatl and dancing by Los Bailadores de Bronze. Both groups are from the U.W. campus.

If you would like more information or would like to help in the Chicano Health Science Fair, contact Jim Sandoval, N.C.H.O. Chairperson, or Max Vela, Vice-chairperson.



### **DANIEL AVILA HEADS CHICANO DIVISION**

Daniel Avila has an impressive background of Chicano community involvement and participation. His activities began as early as 1964 when he worked for Chicano civil rights with the Colorado Crusade for Justice. He was drafted and that forced him to withdraw from active participation for awhile. After his discharge in 1968, Daniel joined the Chicano Moratorium against the Viet Nam war.

In 1970, Daniel took a position as a World History teacher at a predominantly Chicano high school in North Los Angeles. He says he was an "unofficial bilingual teacher." At this time, bilingual bicultural programs were just being developed in the California universities. While teaching there, he founded a high school MECHA Chapter, in coordination with the other MECHAs from the University of California in Santa Barbara, Ventura College, and Moore Park College.

Having received his BA from the University of Northern Colorado and his teaching credentials in San Bernardino, Daniel entered the University of the Pacific Law School in Sacramento. During the time he studied there, he was involved with the Law Students Civil Rights Research Council, and helped to set up the Centro Legal in coordination with the Sacramento Consilio. He was politically active at this time with the Raza Unida and Democratic Parties. It was also during his stay in Sacramento that his administrative experience be-

gan, when he assumed the duties of Project Director of a committee on mental retardation among Chicanos. Later, he became Assistant Director of the Consilio, which handles 15 major programs, with a staff of 90, covering 9 counties and 225,000 people.

In December of 1975, Daniel accepted the position of Director of the Chicano Division, EOP. His main objectives as Director, he says, are "to increase the quality and effectiveness of academic counseling; to be supportive of Chicano students in terms of social and cultural activity; to be supportive and encouraging of political activity, but also to allow students to take their own direction in these activities; to throw a vast emphasis on recruiting, especially long range recruitment, involving high school students in the ninth and tenth grades and on up, and to some extent, to utilize all available resources and recruit in California." At this time he feels there are no problems of staff to student ratio, but there are some on a service basis. Daniel says he is encouraging the counselors to "specialize in academic counseling, and in recruiting junior college transfer students. Recruiters will concentrate on high school students and long range recruitment."

The Chicano office will be run under a priority system, said Daniel. The first priority is academic counseling, recruitment and supportive services. The second priority will be community involvement, here at the University and also in the outside community, he added.

Politically, Daniel says he will "encourage dialogue between the Mexican Nationalists and the students with a Third World emphasis." He feels this is necessary because of the problems which sometimes arise between the two factions.

Daniel Avila, on behalf of MECHA, we welcome you to the U. Of W. and hope this year will see the accomplishment of your goals, for the benefit of staff and students.

**BEINVENIDOS, DANIEL!**



### **CHICANO DIVISION OF THE EOP HELPS STUDENTS**

The Chicano Division Office is devoted to helping students cut through the educational red tape of the University and understand its structure. Although we may know the office is there, we may feel reluctant at times to utilize the services that it provides.

The office is staffed by well qualified and experienced Chicano professionals who have access to all the information that can be provided by any other counseling agency of the University, plus knowledge that is especially important to Chicanos. The staff includes the Director, Daniel Avila; three counselors, Jesus Rodriguez, Amalia Garza, Raul Anaya; head recruiter Adrian Moroles; two student recruiters, Enrique Morales and Lucy Lopez, and last but not least, a very efficient secretary, Leticia Riojas. These individuals have expressed a strong concern and commitment to help Chicano students realize their educational aspirations.

If you are experiencing a problem or would like more information of a particular nature, contact any of these individuals. Help is only a question away. Drop by the office on the third floor of Schmitz Hall or call 543-9295.

### **CHICANO GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION ON CAMPUS**

The CGPSA (Chicano Graduate-Professional Student Association) is a newly revived organization on campus consisting of Chicano graduate and professional students in various departments and schools. Since many of the Chicano graduate students are from out of state, efforts to coordinate communications and activities is of great importance to incoming students seeking interaction with fellow students and community members.

Heavy work schedules carried by graduate students, and the relatively small number of Chicano graduate students on campus, have stifled efforts in the past to organize this group. However, crucial issues have arisen and necessitated renewed action. Previous members established contacts with various departments and graduate schools, and efforts are now under way to re-establish those relationships.

We will attempt to assist each Chicano graduate student in matters of financial aid, and provide graduate school advisors to aid in the students' academic survival. Plans for cultural and social functions are under way to encourage interaction among campus and community groups. A lecture series is planned in which Chicano graduate students will offer presentations on topics in their respective fields related to the Chicano experience.

The organization hopes to maintain a working relationship with undergraduate Chicano students. Undergraduates are encouraged to discuss graduate studies with students presently enrolled in programs or to request any information concerning graduate school from the CGPSA. A list of contact persons in schools or departments will be available to interested students in the next newsletter.

Efforts are being made to contact each individual Chicano graduate student. Those students not receiving correspondence from the organization should submit their names so they may have a voice in the function of the organization. Inquiries regarding planned activities or requests for other information may be directed to Luis Aguilar at B501 Padelford Hall, 543-9080.



## A Friend Is Back

A well known Chicano author and teacher, Professor Tomas Ybarra-Frausto has returned to the University of Washington after an extended teaching and research engagement in California. Tomas, who is teaching Chicano Literature this quarter is the author of "TEATRO CHICANO: Punto de Partida," Mexican Artifacts, and along with two associates, Antonia Castaneda and Joseph Sommers, Literatura Chicana Texto Y Contexto. Tomas, as he has done in the past continues to attack his subject area with an enthusiasm and vitality that becomes contagious.

Tomas is known for his teaching of well constructed and emotionally involving Chicano oriented courses. He was the first Chicano to teach Mexican-American history in the Northwest in 1959, and has established the foundations for some of the Spanish programs in the Elementary schools throughout the state. He is probably remembered by many as the Spanish teacher on the Se Habla Español program on KCTS educational television.

Tomas is the founder and organizer of various community and college programs. Together with a group of educators, he was involved in the planning, organization and development of College of Ethnic Studies at Western Washington State College. He figures as Co-founder of The Chicano Education Association, an organization of Chicano teachers in the State of Washington. He also founded and directed La Escuelita, a Chicano alternative school in Granger, Washington.

El Teatro Del Piojo, our Chicano guerilla theater group was first organized by Tomas and a hand full of Chicano students from the University of Washington. They confronted Yakima Valley farmers and their exploitation of the relationship between the farm worker and farmer based upon a structure of oppressive servitude. The teatro has since recreated the reality of the field worker, and the frustration he undergoes while trying to get out of that social condition. The teatro exists today and continues attacking the racism and injustice which continues to oppress all brown-skinned people.

Tomas heralds from Texas where he received his B.A. from the University of Texas at El Paso. He holds a M.A. in

Spanish from the University of Washington, and will be receiving his Ph.D. from the Inter-disciplinary Literature Program in June of 1976. During the Spring quarter, Tomas will be teaching a graduate course in Chicano Literature (Span 480A) which promises to be quite lively and exciting.



## EL TEATRO QUETZALCOATL

El Teatro Quetzalcoatl, a Chicano theater group at the University of Washington, was formed January of 1975. It is composed primarily of university students whose goal is to portray through theater the lifestyle and struggle of the Chicano. Through a series of actos (vignettes) ranging from pre-Columbian roots to the present farmworkers' movement, the group promotes cultural and political awareness of "La Raza."

The name of the theater group, Quetzalcoatl, is derived from the Aztec god of knowledge. Quetzalcoatl is symbolized in the Aztec religion as a feathered serpent.

The group has toured to different parts of the state bringing their message to the Chicano community, prisons, colleges, and universities. They have also been filmed as part of a television show which was aired on a local Seattle station. The group is planning performances in other parts of Washington and Oregon.

For Chicano week, May 1-5, the teatro is planning to present a three-act play entitled, "Manolo." This play was written by the director of the group, Ruben Sierra, who is presently a faculty member in the Drama Department at the University of Washington. Ruben urges people interested in working on this play, along with El Teatro Quetzalcoatl, to contact him at 543-5184.

## CHICANO CONCILIO REPRESENTS YOU

The University of Washington Concilio which was formed during the spring of 1975 as a negotiating agent with University President John Hogness has elected new members. Representatives of the constituencies served by the concilio include: Faculty, Claudio Arenas and Ruben Sierra (chairperson); Classified staff, David Garcia; EOP staff, Amalia Garza; Undergraduate students, Norma Zavala and Jimmy Sandoval; Graduate students, Luis Aguilar (Vice-chairperson) and Joan Augerot.

The objective of the concilio is to represent and negotiate on behalf of the constituencies on all University matters. The concilio meets the first Wednesday of every month at 3:30 p.m., and the meetings are open to the public. If a problem arises which you feel would merit the attention of the concilio, feel free to contact any of the members of the concilio.

## CAREERS A TOPIC FOR THE FUTURE

For the last few weeks some Chicano students have had the opportunity to talk over their ambitions with individuals who are professionally pursuing a career. Jesus Rodriguez along with others in EOP have organized rap sessions for University of Washington Chicanos. Outstanding Chicano professionals have agreed to sit down with students and talk about the possibilities of jobs and careers after graduation.

What are the opportunities and avenues open to the graduating Chicanos? What does it take to get into graduate school? What can a Chicano expect from a job in his or her major? These questions are being answered at the rap sessions and various other topics are also being discussed such as jobs in social work, medical careers, dental careers, opportunities in government, psychology, etc. Other subjects yet to be covered

in the coming months are business, archeology, counseling, dentistry and other careers of interest to the graduating student and students anticipating their ultimate graduation.

For further information on subjects of interest contact Jesus Rodriguez, EOP counselor, 523-9295 or drop by the Ethnic Cultural Center located at the corner of Brooklyn Avenue N. E. and 40th N. E. around 7:00 Wednesday evenings. The information you will receive is both current and relevant in pursuit of the future.

## THE UFW ON CAMPUS

Several years ago there was a vote by the students in the dorms not to have head lettuce served. There has been a complete turnover in the population of the dorms, and according to Ed Romero "many of the students now living in dorms (particularly Haggett and McMahon) are completely unaware of the boycott, are are upset about the fact that they are not being served head lettuce in the cafeteria. These students do not know why they are not getting it, they only know that they aren't being served head lettuce in the dining areas."

These students have already got the 1000 (minimum) signatures on a petition, and there will be a vote by the dorm residents on whether to continue the boycott in the dining areas, said Romero. There are 4000 residents in the dorms, so it's going to be a big job to reach all the people that do not understand the boycott and to get them to support it. To do this, we will really need alot of active involvement by the Chicano students, he added.

At a recent MECHA meeting, Romero appealed to the students for help in reaching the dorm residents. It was decided to first organize groups of people to leaflet the dining rooms, in order to explain the purpose of the boycott and urge the students to continue to keep head lettuce off campus. A sign-up sheet was passed, but more students are needed, so if you are interested, please contact Ed Romero at 325-1315. The UFW needs you on campus.

## RELATIVELY NEW FACULTY MEMBER

Ricardo D. Aguilar has been a member of the Chicano Studies faculty since September 1, 1975. He is a Chicano from El Paso, Texas, who is bilingual and bicultural. He received his B. A. in French from the University of Texas at El Paso and his M.A. in Spanish from the same institution. He is currently correcting the final draft of his dissertation: EFRAIN HUERTA, Su Poesía, in order to complete requirements for his Ph.D. in Spanish, emphasis Latin American Literature at the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque.

During the fall quarter he taught Introduction to Chicano Studies (GIS 302) and Themes in Mexican American Studies, (Spanish 331). Presently, he is teaching: Reies Lopez Tijerina: The Man and His Work (GIS 491), and Systems of Thought: Prehispanic to Chicano (GIS 221).

Next quarter, Spring, he will be repeating GIS 302, and will teach his new course Intermediate Chicano Studies (GIS 304), a new course which establishes a sequence within a core of Chicano Studies courses intended to establish a Major within that discipline. He will also be teaching a continuation of GIS 221, in which he will endeavor to initiate the student in the basics of Nahuatl and the interpretation of Ancient Aztec Codices.

Mr. Aguilar is a published poet and critic. His book Caravana Enlutada will be on sale at the University Bookstore at the beginning of the Spring quarter. One of his interests lies in the field of Mexican Literature, folklore and humor; he is presently initiating research in these fields with the purpose of publishing a much needed book in said field.

He is a veteran teacher of the Spanish language and Latin American Literature (for Chicanos) at both the University of Texas at El Paso and the University of New Mexico.

Aside from this Mr. Aguilar is participating as a member of the Advisory body to Chicano Studies and a Member of the Northwest Chicano Chicano Council.

He intends to make Seattle his permanent residence and working place. He invites all students to visit with him at all hours, not class time in order to establish acquaintances with new students and to solidify old ones with the purpose of offering guidance and academic help.

His office is situated within the confines of the fifth floor of Padelford Hall, B505, phone 543-9080.

After the final approval of his dissertation he plans to participate fully in all Chicano activities on campus and is very interested in relating himself with the members of MECHA, the counseling staff at EOP and other organizations of Chicanos on campus.

In referring to his courses, he states that his primary goal is to help the Chicano student in achieving academic success through work and in-class participation within an atmosphere of freedom of expression and teacher student identification.



## TEATRO DEL PIOJO SERVES LA CUASA!!

Displaying a characteristically fluid bilingual style, El Teatro del Piojo focuses on the historical events y la experiencia del pueblo. As a Teatro they seek to dramatize the social realities de nuestra gente. By working together as a collective body, every member contributes to the total group effort.

They know that, as long as La Palomilla is sitting there listening, singing and feeling with them, their message is getting through and they are sure la gente will act on the message.

Under the direction of Jose Martinez, El Teatro del Piojo performed in Yakima at Davis High School on February 16. A tour to the University of Kansas and to the University of Utah in Salt Lake City is planned for spring break.



## CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS CHICANOS

The Centro de Estudios Chicanos is the academic, cultural and basic communications center for Chicano Activities on campus. Faculty offices for Chicano Studies and Staff offices for the same program are situated on the fifth floor of Padelford Hall, Wing B. The center is presently undergoing modification and restructuring. It is now headed by Dr. James Vásquez of Educational fame, whose many duties encompass the supervision of the Chicano Studies Advisory Council and who responds to a governing body, a Board of Deans, in questions relating to the Center. The restructuring phase of the Centro also includes the solidification of a major program in Chicano Studies (Non Degree Granting) and the seeking out of funding sources in order to expand other phases of said program. Our staff includes Ms. Rosa Morales, our executive secretary, Ms. Mary Alderete our work study secretary assistant, Ms. Nora Hernández, instructor of Mexican folk dance and a fellow in the School of Education's Bilingual Doctoral Program, Mr. Ricardo Aguirre, instructor of Chicano Economics, Mr. Arturo Vargas instructor of Chicano Law and Head of the Seattle Concilio for the Spanish-speaking, Mr. Luis Aguilar, Staff assistant to the Director and Graduate Student Organization Chairperson, and Ricardo Aguilar, Professor of Chicano Studies and poet of sorts.

Most importantly, however, is the participation of the students in the program. We do not have a place in the class schedule yet, but the courses are given under GIS nomenclature. The center presently endeavours to establish a designator for the interdisciplinary courses in said schedule. The Center relates directly with other Chicano faculty on campus as they work together to develop the same program.

For a list containing information about Chicano Studies and interrelated courses to be offered during the Spring quarter, please contact EOP Chicano Division or the Centro de Estudios Chicanos. The Center encourages you to participate in the growing academic program, bearing in mind that those classes subscribe to the goal of academic success through student teacher work and active participation.

## ATTENTION GOLFERS!

All those interested in playing 18 holes of golf during Semana de la Raza, sign up at Chicano Division. Tournament date is Saturday, May 1. Tee-off time 9:00 A.M. Trophies will be awarded.

### ADRIAN ACTIVE IN EASTERN WASHINGTON

A familiar face won't be seen around campus for a while. Adrian Moroles the EOP Chicano Division recruiter has been relocated in Sunnyside, recruiting Chicano students in the Yakima Valley and in the Columbia Basin for the University of Washington. This is Chicano Division's first field recruiter experience. Adrian moved to the Yakima Valley after a two week recruiters conference held in San Francisco. The trip was funded by Chicano Division, MECHA and El Congreso Nacional de Asuntos Colegiales. Adrian can be located and consulted on any matters regarding higher education for Chicanos, whether at the University of Washington or at other college institutes at: Talent Search, 709 South Sixth, Sunnyside, WA. 98944, Phone (509-837-2034) or Meridian North Apartments, 531 South 6th St. Apt. #3, Sunnyside, WA. Phone (509-837-5731).

Aside from this the center is the possessor of data regarding Chicanos and Chicano related interests in the form of books, bibliographies, its own publications, etc., which may be referred to by students who need such assistance. Chicano Studies is in direct contact with the staff of EOP, for it is necessary that academic and counseling programs deal with the same, the most important factor in our community, our sense of purpose, the education of the Chicano Student. The offices are open to students all week-days and for all purposes, if anyone is not there for some reason, appointments may be set previously, phone 543-9080.

## CHICANOS IN SPORTS

The second annual University of Washington Chicano Basketball Tournament was held Saturday, January 31, at the Lincoln High School gymnasium. With six teams participating, a double elimination system was used to determine the champions. The teams were: "Con Safos," "Los Pescados," "Los Manitos," "Los Tecatos," "Los Tejanos," and "White Center," the only non-student team playing. "Con Safos" and "Los Pescados" went out of the competition early, both losing their first two games. The other teams kept up the fight, with "Los Tecatos" finally being eliminated by the White Center team. "Los Tejanos" then handed White Center, under team captain Gil Alaniz, their second loss, moving that team down to third place. "Los Manitos," captained by Ricardo Vigil, remained unbeaten until the last hour, when they lost to "Los Tejanos," under Max Vela. Since both teams had lost only one game each, a final tie-breaker was played. From the grunts of pain and gritos of joy out on the court, "Los Manitos" emerged as the Champions.

The staff of this first MECHA newsletter invite your suggestions and comments concerning this and future newsletter.

We hope our efforts to communicate the happenings of Chicanos on campus will be successful. You can contact us at Chicano Division 543-9295.

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A special thanks to Sylvia Hinojosa, Genaro Padilla and Ricardo Aguilar for their contributions to the editing and organizing of this newsletter.

## SEMANA PLANS

This year Semana will be dedicated to Chicanas. Beginning with the main speaker, the major themes to be examined are: the historical aspects of Chicana contributions to La Raza and the contemporary developments in which Chicanas have been involved. The program will also include entertainment from Chicana groups on campus, and presentations on abortion and birth control.

A basketball tournament on Saturday, May 1, 1976, is an activity in which Chicano teams from Seattle, the Columbia Basin and Yakima Valley will be involved. This year, A Chicana basketball tournament is also being planned.

Saturday is El dia de los ninos, and all efforts will be concentrated on activities such as a pinata party and a puppet show for Chicano children from schools all over Seattle.

As always, a Gran Baile will be held, giving "las rucas" Y "los batos locos" a chance to get down and dance to some good Mexican sounds.

Of course, many other activities are in the planning. If you are concerned about making this year's Semana a success (and you should be), please offer us your suggestions. If there are events from past Semanas which you feel should be included or which should not be included, feel free to let the Semana Committee know about it.

You may contact the Chairperson, Mario Hernandez by leaving a note at EOP, or call 543-0863.



## ATENCION CHICANAS!

The first annual Chicana basketball tournament will be held during Semana de la Raza on Saturday, May 1st. Those Chicanas wishing to participate sign up at Chicano Division.

This is our first attempt for an all-Chicana tournament, so let's get together to make it a success. Practice dates will be posted at Chicano Division.