

## NOTES ON MECHA

- MECHA** "is an organization throughout Aztlan which ties student groups into a responsive network of activists that will respond as a unit to oppression and racism and that will work in harmony when initiating and carrying out campaigns of liberation for our people."
- FUNCTION** Socialization and politicalization for liberation on all campuses. It must not illicit from the people the negative responses that have been experienced in the past in relation to politics.
- POLITICS defined** Re-define politics as a means of liberation.
- SPIRIT** Carnalismo
- POLITICAL AWARENESS** So that they do not fall prey to apologist and vendidos whose whole interests is their personal career or fortune. The ethnic of profit and competition of greed and intolerance which the anglo society offers must be replaced by our ancestral communalism.
- MECHA** Must bring to the mind of every Chicano that the liberation of his people from prejudice and oppression is in his hands. MECHA is a spirit of unity, brotherhood, liberation in a racist society where justice is synonymous to money, and since Chicanos lack this economic base, there is no justice. Further, it must undertake a struggle to end institutional racism as well as individual racism on the grounds of color--that of being Brown and culturally different.
- FUNCTION** Socialize and politicize on particular campuses to the ideals of the movement.
- Attitudes, understanding and recognition of weaknesses and talents of individuals in order to utilize and deploy people in the proper positions of organization.
  - To give new leadership a chance to emerge.
  - No one member should dominate...
- RECRUITMENT & EDUCATION** Following direct action of any type, i.e., demonstration, protests, etc. Recruiting should follow and new members should be made to feel as they have a place in the movement.

- A. Members (new) must be given a responsibility which fits the scheme of things according to his or her best talents and interests.
- B. Fund raising - legal or otherwise---Should be educational, i.e., practicing cultural traits such as bailes, etc.
- C. Best educational device is being and involvement in the Barrio. Mecha -usually are people from the Barrio--understanding the problems of the Barrio is essential. p. 56 Natshell

Planning  
&  
Strategy

Actions of the group must be co-ordinated in such a way that everyone knows exactly what he/she is supposed to do. Strategy and commitment---Avoid confusion! Orientation for success in reaching the objectives. Gain community support!!

Training in the community saves time and confusion before they get to college.

Function-to the campus community  
Important in supportive roles  
Keep guidelines in mind...not too bureaucratic . Coalition---  
does the coalition serve the best interest of the community?

Gaining  
Support

(Supportive roles) such as faculty or students who are sympathetic but limited as to the number of activities they will engage in, i.e. faculty role on academic councils and senates can be instrumental in academic policy...also provide channels to the academic power structure.

Sympathic administrators not willing to jeopardize their positions act as buffers between racist elites and student/faculty group.

Remind Chicano administrators about loyalty and commitment. Both Chicano and non-Chicano administrators.

FUNCTION  
of  
MECHA (Ed)

Lit., Anthro., Soc., Pol. Sci., etc. - nothing written. Must do this to survive as a cultural entity in this melting pot society which seeks to dilute varied cultures into a pseudo-culture of technology and materialism.

Solutions: Study programs  
Centers  
Curriculum development  
Entrance programs

Careful not to be co-opted. Not compromise programs essential for Chicano education. Not so engrossed in programs and bureaucracy games they forget needs of the people.

Barrio input given full and open hearing . Jobs filled by competent Chicanos. Too often in the past the dedicated pushed for a program only to have a vendido, sharp-talker come in and take over and start working for his Anglo administrator.

Tying the campus to the Barrio--

MECHA in the Barrio --Located near or in the same town as a Barrio.

- A. Establish close working relationships.
- B. Not to overstep boundaries.
- C. Relate to all segments of the Barrio from the middle class assimilationists to the Batos locos.

Involvements steps pp. 61

Scientists - Peace Corps, etc.  
Stay out of the Barrio!!