Friends of René Campos

Press Release **11/10 /1988**

For Immediate Release

On Saturday, November 19th, 1988, Friends of René Campos, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA), and Comite Aztlan will sponsor a Bailé-Dance/Fundraiser to support the civil rights suit against Dane County and the city of Madison for their role in the brutal death of René Campos. The event will be held at Turner Hall, 21 S. Butler St., Madison from 7:30-1:00 am. Since René's death there have been numerous press reports detailing patterns of racial abuse and mistreatment of arrested citizens of color by jailers and police officers.

Recent civil suits and physical abuse complaints against Dane County jailers by people of color, John Wayne and Rambo-like actions by deputies/jailers at parties and the recent firing of the only minority deputy all speak to the prevalent racism practiced by Lacke and his charges. Add to this city/county public officials' implicit support of racial incidents in Madison and on the UW campus, as evidenced by the continuing reports of racial incidents. We also take particular issue with the recent firing of Gene Parks by Sensenbrenner for his condemnation of racist incidents and exposure of public officials for their failure to act . Given this sorry state of affairs we feel compelled to send a strong message to Dane County and city public officials that we will not tolerate racism in any form and we will not accept inaction or piecemeal reform by those public officials entrusted with the welfare and safety of its citizens, both white and of color.