UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

Chicano Studies Program
College of Letters & Science

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# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** August 23, 1993

**TO:** La Colectiva Cultural de Aztlán
MeCha
CHUI

**FROM:** Jim Escalante
Acting Director

**RE:** Dr. Jesus Negrete

Enclosed are materials sent to me by Dr. Jesus Negrete, who is interested in visiting our campus with his presentation, "500 years of Mexican Folk Songs." I regret that I am unable to fund his request to visit during Hispanic Heritage month. Are any of you interested in bringing him anytime between September 15 and October 15?

Call me if you have any questions or suggestions.

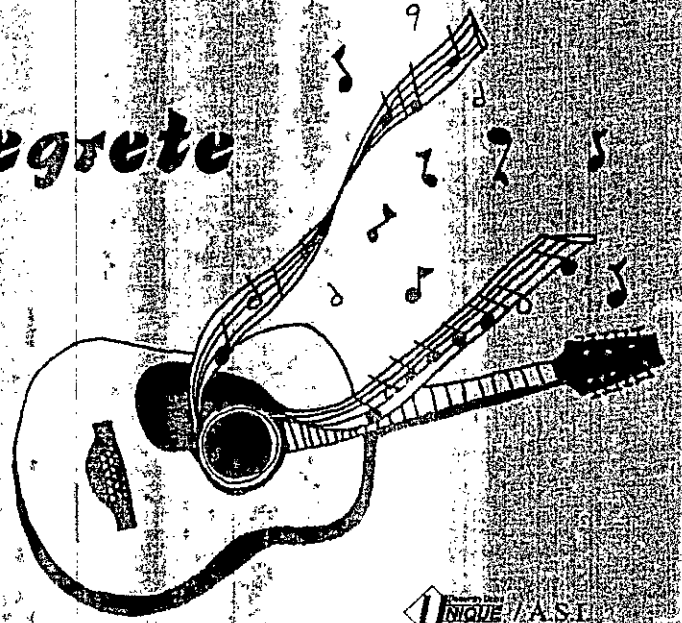
Enclosures

# "500 Years of Mexican Folk Songs"

FEATURING...

# Dr. Jesus "Chuy" Negrete

This Nationally know musician and Chicano music scholar plays corrido music blending guitar, harmonica and visual effects for an extraordinary performance!



UNIQUE / A.S.I. CULTURAL AFFAIRS SERIES

**Wed., May 5 • NOON • Univ. Union South Lawn • *Free***

BIOGRAPHY

JESUS "CHUY" NEGRETE

Jesus Negrete is founder and director of the Mexican Cultural Institute of Chicago, which is dedicated to the study of Mexican-American musicology, Chicano folklore and culture, educational anthropology and the social problems of Mexican-American communities.

Negrete holds an honorary Ph.D. in musicology and popular culture from the University of California at Berkeley. He was a Tinker Scholar at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, where he completed coursework for the Ph.D. in educational psychology. He earned a master's degree from Chicago State University and his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago, both in bilingual education.

Negrete received Smithsonian Institution grants to complete the research in Mexican-American musicology that led to development of multimedia projects on "Images of Mexican Labor" and "Mexican Women and Their Music." He was commissioned by the National Hispanic Council on Aging to complete a research project and multimedia presentation on Hispanic gerontology.

Negrete has worked extensively with the National Hispanic Institute on Drug Abuse and stands alongside Angel Gutierrez, Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzalez and the late Enrique "Kiki" Camarena as a recipient of the group's highest award.

He has won a number of academic and professional honors, including the Stanford Humanities Award, the Rockefeller Foundation's New Artists Award and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

As one of the nation's foremost authorities on Mexican-American folk songs (particularly the corrido), Negrete has been profiled in two films: "America, I Remember You," part of the "Aztlan Chronicles" series by Los Angeles filmmaker Daniel Jacobo, and "Chuy Negrete: The Repertoire of a Folksinger" by Richard Olivares of KTEX-TV in El Paso, Texas.

Throughout his career, Negrete has been active in developing programs for Latino youth. He presented keynote addresses at the California Youth Conference, the National Council de la Raza Youth Day and the MECHA California Conference. He is a consultant to the Rogers Park Youth Congress in Chicago, working under the auspices of the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs. Along with Appalachian folksinger Hazel Dickens, Negrete represented the United States and its music as a delegate to the International Conference of Youth in Cuba.

Negrete, a native of Mexico, spent his early years in Texas but has lived most of his life in Chicago, where he currently resides with his wife, Rita, and two sons, Joaquin and Lucas.

Mexican Cultural Institute 1756 W. Columbia Chicago, Illinois 60626

See DUTY Page 2
INDIANAPOLIS STAR 7-25-93

# Memorial gathering lauds leader of laborers

## Speakers emphasize the need to carry on Cesar Chavez's battles.

By James L. Patterson Jr.
STAR STAFF WRITER

*Up to California from Mexico you have come,*
*To the fields of Delano (like Indianapolis) to toil in the sun.*
*With your wife and seven children they are working every one,*
*And what will you be giving to the children in the sun?*

Jesus "Chuy" Negrete, founder and director of the Mexican Cultural Institute of Chicago, sang those words Saturday during an emotional 2½-hour tribute to Cesar Chavez.

Chavez, 66, founder of the United Farm Workers of America, died on April 23.

Speaker after speaker remembered Chavez, who began his career as a migrant farm worker, and later earned acclaim as an advocate for migrant workers.

Mario K. Brito, Midwest coordinator for the United Farm Workers, promised about 100 people gathered in the Christian Theological Seminary Chapel that the work Chavez began will continue.

Brito urged the audience to support a boycott against California table grapes because of the harmful effects the union alleges pesticides have on migrant workers.

Every year, 300,000 farm workers are infected with diseases caused by the chemicals used in the pesticides, Brito asserted. Eighty percent of the chemicals, which are sprayed on grapes year round, are for purely cosmetic purposes, he said. "It's environmental racism."

The pesticides cause an extraordinarily high rate of cancer and birth defects among the migrant farm workers, who have a leukemia rate 1,400 percent above the national average, Brito maintained.

"We have to ban all chemicals that are known to cause cancer," he exhorted.

Chavez taught commitment, action and penance, Brito recalled. "He fasted for 36 days in 1988. The best homage you can pay to Cesar's legacy is to continue that legacy."

The memorial service was organized by Friends of Cesar Chavez, consisting of civic, labor and political leaders.

Included were songs, poems, anecdotes and speeches. There also was intermittent, rhythmic applause, the kind that Chavez taught to his followers. Mayor Stephen Goldsmith sent a letter of recognition.

"He called on all of us to be better people, to be more responsible citizens," said Rep. John Day, D-Indianapolis, "and to live out that which is best in our Judeo-Christian tradition; to pursue justice and promote human dignity."

"What was he like?" asked Will Watt, who worked with Chavez in the early 1970s. "Like an old shoe — very comfortable and very supportive." Watt compared Chavez's genius to that of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Cesar taught us that until we begin to appreciate each other as humans, only then will we be able to appreciate the differences between us," said Monica Medina, director of the Hispanic Center in Indianapolis.

"He was a very sincere and dedicated person," said City-County Councilman Elwood Black.