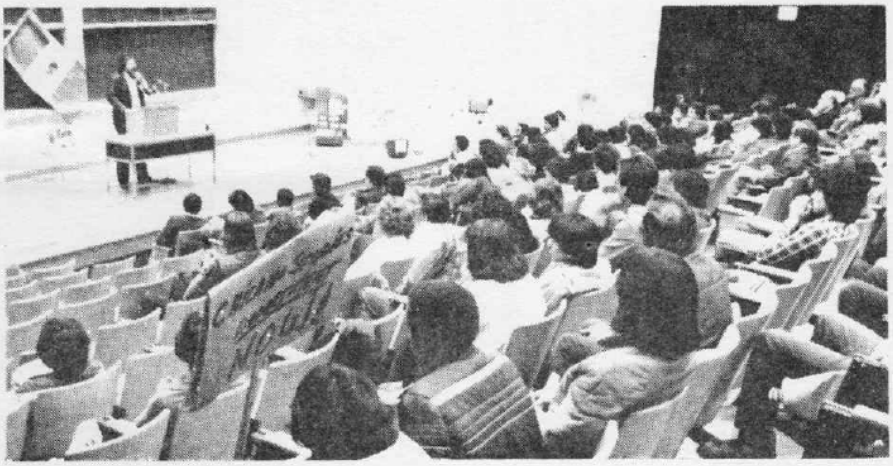
EL PORTAVOZ

Vol. II, No. 1 M.E.Ch.A. UW-Madison March 8, 1982



Activist Reis Lopes Tijerina was the keynote Speaker.

CONFEREES BACK MEChA RESOLUTION

A M.E.Ch.A.-initiated resolution demanding the University establish a bona-fide Chicano Studies Department carried by acclamation during the Chicano Studies Conference held Saturday, February 20.

Students, faculty, and staff joined conference speakers and participants in endorsing a united call to the University that program-type responses to needs justified by the Chicano Advisory Committee in its call for a department in 1975 would no longer be accepted.

The well-attended conference included community participants from Milwaukee's United Migrants for Opportunity Services (UMOS), for many, their first trip to a university. Racine, Wautoma, Oshkosh, and Kenosha were some communities represented.

Recently-appointed associate vice-president to the University of Wisconsin System Vernon Lattin joined the Chicano community's call for departmental status saying Chicano Studies is "an important and academic discipline of any university."

Jesus Salas, here during the 1974-'75 efforts to establish a department, outlined the history of struggle carried on by Chicanos then in Madison

cont...p.8

Farmworker Rights Attacked

By Mario Caballero

A case now in Wisconsin courts could result in the loss of the few gains made by farmworkers and migrants in the state.

The case concerns a claim by Edwin Yesca, a Waushara county grower, that farmworkers are independent contractors and not employees of individual farmers.

Should this claim be upheld by the courts, growers will no longer be held responsible for paying social security and unemployment compensation. Also, migrants would not be able to benefit from worksmen's compensation if injured on the job.

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INFORMES

Dictadura perfecta?

"Mexico es la dictadura perfecta porque a nadie le parece una dictadura, pero lo es en el sentido de la estabilidad y permanencia que solo tienen las dictaduras. Ahora, al mismo tiempo, es una dictadura que se renueva periodicamente, en la que el supuesto dictador gana las elecciones limpiamente y en el que todos los elementos y los ingredientes del sistema parecen obedecer a una planificacion con un rigor realmente fuera de lo comun."

Mario Vargas Llosa
Escritor Peruano
Exelsior 1-25-1982

Disinformation war rages

Claims by Secretary of State Alexander Haig that Nicaraguan troops invaded Honduras and massacred hundreds of Miskito Indians have been proved groundless by the magazine which first published photos alleged to depict the atrocity.

Le Figaro said it had published pictures taken in 1978 of a Red Cross cremation of victims of combat during the Sandinista revolution in error and identified them as Miskitos allegedly killed by Sandinistas.

Haig cited the photographs as evidence of "atrocious gencidal actions" by the Nicaraguan government against the Indians.

Labeling the pictures and text "fraudulent," the prestigious French publication said it was withdrawing the story.,

CBS Radio News
3-1-1982

Our Man in Washington...

Subtle evidence that the Reagan Administration is determined to end the federal program of legal aid to the poor surfaced recently in the appointment of George E. Paras.

Paras, a Reagan nominee to the California apellate bench, was named January 1 to the board of directors of the Federal Legal Services Corporation by his former boss.

While in California, Paras is best remembered for having accused noted Chicano Rural Legal Asistance director Cruz Reynoso, also a judge, of being "a professional Mexican.

"You must ever champion the 'oppressed,' meaning those who so designate themselves, such as criminals, handicapped, welfare receipients, demonstrators, 'minorities,' and miscellaneous other have-nots," Paras wrote Reynoso.

"Your problem," he counseled Reynoso, "is that you feel it is your obligation to be a professional Mexican rather than a lawyer."

Legal Aid anyone?

New York Times
1-25-1982

The Squeeze is On.

Yet another "review" of an important monitoring position is in progress and remains "frozen," pending re-evaluation.

The position of Director of the Office of Client Services, Civil Rights Compliance, has been indefinetely "frozen," according to the former occupant.

Gladys Benavides Corbit said her former post remained unfilled and that the entire state, 8,500 agencies in 72 counties, was under the oversight of one person, who not only overlooked affirmative action programs, but also enforced comliance.

"With an affirmative action priority, there are very little direct services provided," she said.

"All you get is paper compliance. "

The condition is further aggravated by the fact that with the merging of both positions, as has been proposed by Department of Health and Social Services, Donald Percy, would not only restrict compliance monitoring, but also leave the entire state without a bilingual compliance director.

"We still have situations where $58 million go to Milwaukee and they are in constant non-compliance," Benavides-Corbit said.

Justice Department Shifts Position in Two Major Cases

The U.S. Department of Justice has changed the government's position in two major court cases of national significance that affect bilingual education and Mexican Americans in Texas. In one case, the Justice Department now supports weakening a court order for bilingual education for all Spanish-speaking children. In the second, the government now maintains there are no federal issues involved in the challenge to a Texas law that denies state funds for the education of the children of undocumented workers.

In *U.S.* v. *State of Texas*, decided in January 1981, U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice found that Texas had failed to provide equal educational opportunity for its Spanish-speaking children. He ordered the implementation of K-12 bilingual instruction as a remedy. In November 1981 the Justice Department urged the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which is now considering the case, to support Judge Justice's conclusion but not his remedy. At the district court level the federal government had argued that the proposed Lau regulations for bilingual education (since withdrawn) offered an appropriate standard for remedying the problem. The federal officials now argue that the state of Texas should be allowed to choose its own remedy, allowing, for example, English as a second language programs rather than bilingual instruction only.

Court-Ordered Remedy

On January 9, 1981, after more than a decade of litigation initiated by the federal government, Judge Justice ruled that Texas had discriminated against Hispanic children by placing them in separate schools of inferior quality and programming.

The judge found this to be in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment rights of the Mexican American children to equal protection of the law. He ordered Texas to develop a six-year plan for the phasing-in of bilingual instruction for all Mexican American children of limited English proficiency. The program was required to provide bilingual instruction for grades K-12 in all subject areas except those where language proficiency is not essential to participation (e.g., music and art), include provisions to survey all students for language proficiency upon entering the Texas school system, provide comprehensive testing at the end of each school year to determine if children were ready to transfer into all-English classrooms, and have the Texas Education Agency monitor compliance by local school districts.

At the time of the decision, only a K-3 bilingual program was mandated in Texas, with an optional program in grades four and five. Beyond grade five, there was no state funding for bilingual instruction. Judge Justice said explicitly that ESL could not be used in place of

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WHAT ME WORRY?

Vacationing Ronald Reagan says he is not worried about a depression in this country. He said this in response to questions concerning unemployment rates when:

* The jobless rate for Hispanics jumped to 12.6%
* The national jobless rate reached 8.8%
* Unemployment rates for black teenagers soared to 42.3%

Bilingual Education Staff Training in Mexico

The Mexican Ministry of Education will offer its fourth summer Bilingual Education Staff Training (BEST) Program this year. It is designed for school districts and institutions involved in Spanish-English bilingual education.

The program focuses on four major areas: foundations of bilingual education, the Mexican experience in bilingual education for linguistic minorities, methods of teaching Spanish language skills, and Mexican history and culture and its relationship to Mexican Americans in the United States.

Participants must be fluent in Spanish and have teaching or administrative experience in a bilingual program. For further information about BEST, including program dates, contact Lic. Graciela Orozco Moreno, Dirección General de Relaciones Internacionales, Subdirección de Intercambios Culturales, Secretaría de Educación Pública, Brasil No. 31-OFNA. 103, Delegación Cuauhtémoc Centro, 06026 Mexico, D.F. Telephone: (905) 512-11-98/(905) 512-25-01.

NABE 1982

"Bilingual Education: Now or Never" will be the theme of the 1982 conference of the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE). The conference will be held in Detroit at the Renaissance Center April 4-9, 1982.

According to conference chairman Rodolfo Martínez, the theme was chosen to focus attention on the need for the bilingual education community to develop strategies for promoting bilingual education as the Title VII reauthorization process begins.

The call for papers for the conference stressed three topic areas: theory in bilingual education, bilingual education technology, and bilingual education and public policy. Papers will be presented continuously during the conference.

For further information, contact Karen Todorov, NABE Conference Coordinator, College of Education, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan 48202. (313) 577-0938 or (313) 494-1962.

ANUNCIOS

A Symposium on Guatemala will be held March 11-13 at the Memorial Union. There will be speakers, films and other cultural events held throughout the three-day event. For more information contact Kristy Helland at 258-8224.

M.E.Ch.A. will hold its usual biweekly meeting Thursday, March 11, at 5:30 p.m. See "Today at the Union for room number.

M.E.Ch.A. has appointed new representatives to the MultiCultural Council and the Chicano Advisory Committee. The new MCC reps are Mario Caballero and Ismael Rodriguez. The new CAC reps are Mario Caballero and Irma Guerra. Kathy LaPoint was chosen as alternate to the CAC. All appointments were approved by a vote of the general membership during M.E.Ch.A. meetings. CONGRATULATIONS!

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El Portavoz is published at the University of Wisconsin-Madison by M.E.Ch.A. and the Chicano Graduate Students Association. The opinions expressed in El Portavoz do not necessarily reflect M.E.Ch.A.'s position. We appreciate and encourage any and all suggestions and contributions.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SHIFTS

cont. from p. 3

bilingual education, maintaining that "bilingual instruction is uniquely suited to meet the needs of the state's Spanish-speaking students." The judge gave the parties in the case until March 9 1981 to present proposals for implementation of his order.

In April 1981 Judge Justice responded to the suggestions. He dismissed the Texas government's proposal as "a vehicle for reasserting their position . . . that the existing state program was adequate." Instead, he ordered, in fairly specific terms, the phasing-in of a bilingual education program for every limited-English-proficient student in the state of Texas.

The entire case will be heard by the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in early 1982 and it is at this stage that the U.S. Department of Justice has asked that options other than the bilingual education remedy be permitted.

Children of Undocumented Workers

On December 1, 1981 the Supreme Court heard arguments in *Plyer* v. *Doe* and *In Re: Alien Children Education Litigation.* This case is a consolidation of several challenges to a 1975 Texas law that prohibited the state from reimbursing local school districts for the cost of educating pupils who were not "legally admitted" to the United States. The law affected some 11,000 Mexican American children. As a result of the law, many schools barred the children altogether while others charged high tuition fees. Texas Governor William Clements, in defending the law, said one of the arguments for cutting off state funding for these children was the added cost of providing bilingual education programs for them.

In February 1980 the Justice Department entered the case on behalf of the parents and children challenging the law. The government argued that the law reflected a "long history of exploitation of Mexican immigrants."

Ruling on July 21, 1980, U.S. District Judge Woodrow Seals agreed. He struck down the law as unconstitutional discrimination and ordered the state to begin enrolling the children previously barred from the schools. That decision was upheld by the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Texas had argued that lawful entry into the United States was required "if any rights other than due process rights are to apply." Judge Frank Johnson, speaking for the Fifth Circuit Court, said the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection rights extended to these children as well. Although their presence was a result of a national problem of unenforced immigration laws, this did not allow for the suspension of the "operation of the Constitution to aid a state to solve its political and social problems."

On September 4, 1981, U.S. Solicitor General Rex E. Lee filed a brief with the Supreme Court withdrawing the federal government's challenge to the Texas law. Lee said there was no federal interest in the case, that it affected "the state of Texas and the school districts, not the United States."

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, in a recent report ("With All Deliberate Speed: 1954-19??," issued November 16, 1981) cited this case, along with several others, as reflecting "a change of policy which cannot help but be of concern to those who believe that . . . segregated educational facilities are inherently unequal."

EDITORIALS

Budget cuts and intervention in Central America may seem distinct and unconnected issues. Yet, for Latinos these are intricately interwoven in the context of survival in the United States. What follows is MEChA and El Portavoz's position on Reagan policies at home and abroad. At the outset, let us share some pertinent statistics:

* Between 1973 and 1978, 41.3% of all entering UW freshman had received (BA) degrees. Only 15% of minority students left the university with a degree during that time.

* During this same period 47% of all entering freshman left school without completing their BA degrees. For minority students this total stands at 73.4%.

Obviously, there are porportionally less of us on campus now than there were in the past, but there are fewer entering in the forseeable fuure.

Moreover, the census bureau has documented that less students of all groups will be enrolling in colleges and universities. From fall 1977 to fall 1978, enrollments in this nation's campuses dropped by 3.5%. This decline is bad enough, but it's even worse when one speaks of minorities. For us, this figure is more than 8% and rising. To take a case in point, at UW- Whitewater Chicano students have left the campus to the tune of 60% from 1978 to 1981.

Our youth, chronically unemployed and underemployed pecisely because of this ed--ucational vacumn that passes for a Reagan "safety net," roam our cities in search of work. Frustration leads to desperation, anger, crime and often prison.

Or, they enter the military; a deceptive haven formulated in the Reagan scheme to fill the ranks of the forces he will undoubtedly attempt to unleash upon other Latinos in the hemisphere.

Herein lies the danger to Latinos survival in militaristic America. If the U.S. decides upon a course of direct military intervention in Central America, Chicanos, Puerto Riquenos and the poor and disadvantaged will be drafted and sent to fight in El Salvador, compelled to kill our brothers and sisters--Salvadorenos.

The process is already in place. Hispanic adisors in the armed and intelligence forces are already there. A significant percentage of the so-called volunteer army are minority people, as well poor people of all races and colors.

Left to economic circumstance, more will have no choice but to volunteer.

When military intervention occurs, they will be among the first to go, and among the first corpses to return. Moreover, as social services from bilingual education to food stamps are slashed to fatten an already obese military budget - a budget that will increase in the event of war - Hispanics as a group, and minorities as a whole, will suffer more intensely than they do now.

Latinos on this campus and across this state know that unless our educational system can recruit and retain our people, the military machine will march into the vaccum and efficiently recruit, though perhaps not retain, our brothers and sisters, to go fight our other brothers and sisters.

Eight years ago the university was told by the state legislature and its own Chicano Advisory Committee to create a Chicano Studies Department. It has instead abrogated its responsibility to our community and responded with underfunded programs. Our retention rates, the worst of all minorities on this university, attest to the goodwill of that implementation.

Now we hear of cuts and austerity social and educational budgets; free commodity cheese; unemployment lines; possible invasions.

While the administration squanders the resources and talents of the nation in a futile effort in Central America to stop the unstoppable, it tells Chicanos and other students that funds no longer exist for education, much less a department of Chicano Studies.

Our lives and educational development are held in contempt and valued at less than the cost of a Huey helicopter. Thus, not only in the name of all that is human, but in the name of our own history and our own lives, we do not ask, but demand, that the intervention end, and that Reaganomics and its attendant mentality be defeated at home and abroad.





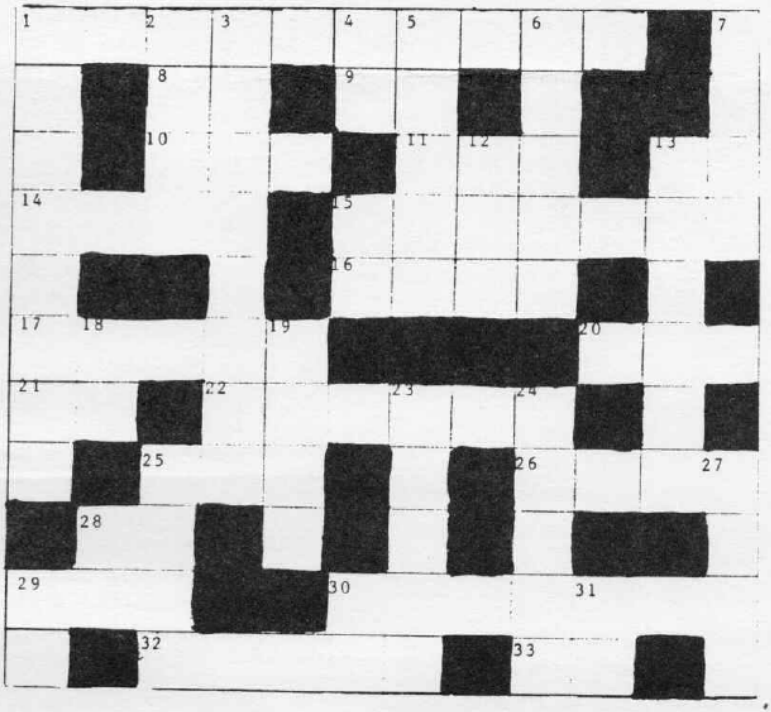
Ondas...



CHICANOS DEMAND CHICANO STUDIES DEPT. (1975)

EL PORTAVOZ BILINGUAL CROSSWORD PUZZLE: ANSWERS IN NEXT ISSUE

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ACROSS

1. What Chicanos at UW-Madison demand
8. American League (abbr.)
9. That is (abbr.)
10. Light (Span.)
11. Convict (slang)
13. To go (Span.)
14. Consumer
15. Mexican-American
16. Member of a Central African Republic tribe
17. Louise (Span.)
20. My (Span. pl.)
21. Lower Dutch (abbr.)
22. _____ of Guadalupe Hidalgo
25. Mexican-American Democrats (abbr.)
26. Tambien (Eng.)
28. Iowa (abbr.)
29. Outlawed pesticide
30. Showed military respect
32. _____ Gilmore, Basketball player
33. Es (Eng.)

DOWN

1. Son tocado como ultima advertencia por el ejercity Mexicano el el Alamo
2. Amigo (slang)
3. Poeta Chicano
4. Para mí y para ___.
5. Chicano Student Organization
6. Jamas
7. _____ Pedo! (S. Texas slang)
12. escuchar
13. Miembros de cualquier tribu Americana
15. Chicano Studies (abbr.)
18. Tu (formal Abbr.)
19. Se quema
23. Cuidado (S. Texas slang)
24. Mexicano tribu del Noroeste
25. Marihuana (slang)
27. Que ___ bato? (S. Texas slang)
28. Ello (psico.)
29. Distrito Federal (abbr.)
30. ___ o no?
31. Poeta Americano___Eliot

A POEM FOR JOSE CAMPOS TORRES

I had said I wasn't gonna' write no more poems
like this.
I had confessed to myself all along, tracer of
life/poetry trends,
that awareness/conciousness poems that screamed
of pain
and the origins of pain and death had blanketed
my tablets and therefore
my friends/brothers/sisters/outlaws/in-laws
and besides, they already knew.
But brother Torres,
common, ancient bloodline brother Torres,
is dead.
I had said I wasn't gonna write no more poems
like this.
I had said I wasn't gonna write no more words
down
about people kickin' us when we're down

about racist dogs that attack us and
drive us down, drag us down and beat us down.
But the dogs are in the street!
The dogs are alive and the terror in our hearts
has scarcely diminished.
It has scarcely brought us the comfort we
suspected:
the recognition of our terror,
and the screaming release of that recognition
has not removed the certainty of that
knowledge.
How could it?
The dogs, rabid, foaming with the energy of their
brutish ignorance,
stride the city streets like robot gunslingers, and
spread death
as night lamps flash crude reflections from gun
butts and police shields.

I had said I wasn't gonna' write no more poems
like this.
But the battle field has oozed away from the
stilted debates of
semantics, beyond the questionable flexibility of
primal screaming.
The reality of our city/jungle streets and their
gestapos has
become an attack on home/life/family/
philosophy/total.
It is beyond a question of the advantages of
didactic niggerisms.

The MOTHERFUCKIN' DOGS are in the street!
In Houston maybe someone said Mexicans were
the new niggers.
In L.A. maybe someone decided Chicanos were
the new niggers.
In Frisco maybe someone said Asians were the
new niggers.
Maybe in Philadelphia and North Carolina they
decided they
didn't need no new niggers.

I had said I wasn't gonna' write no more poems
like this.
But the dogs are in the street.
It's a turn around world where things all too
quickly turn around.



It was turned around so that right looked wrong.
It was turned around so that up looked down.
It was turned around so that those who marched
in the streets
with Bibles and signs of peace became enemies
of the state
and risks to National Security;
So that those who questioned the operations of
those in authority
on the principles of justice, liberty, and equality
became the vanguard of a communist attack.
It became so you couldn't call a spade a
motherfuckin' spade.
Brother Torres is dead.
The Wilmington Ten are still incarcerated.
Ed Davis, Ronald Regan and James Hunt and
Frank Rizzo are still alive.
And the dogs are in the MOTHERFUCKIN' street.
I had said I wasn't gonna' write no more poems
like this.
I made a mistake.

Resolution...

(from p. 1)

"A program can be cut anytime," he said. "But a department is a permanent structure which is always there to protect its interests, la Raza's interests. I don't think we can settle for less."

Conference participants were treated to an inexpensive and delicious lunch of enchiladas and tacos de barbacoa de cabeza prepared by students from M.E.Ch.A.

Further meetings have been planned between M.E.Ch.A., Chicano Studies coordinator Jose de Pe[illegible], and Chicano staff and faculty and other groups in the state to push for a Chicano Studies Department on the Madison campus.

Papers presented during the conference are available at M.E.Ch.A. offices everyday from 9:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Members are welcome to copy them at their own expense.

Farmworker Rights...

Legal Action of Wisconsin, which provides legal services to migrants in the state, has found that cucumber pickers in Waushara County and other parts of the state have been given contracts when attaining employment reading in part that migrants are private contractors.

"This is to inform anyone," the contracts read, "that we work free from control of the grower; that we are sharecroppers in an independently established trade, business and profession of harvesting crops..."

This clause of the contracts was invalidated by the Appeals Tribunal of the Wisconsin Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations which ruled that migrant workers were employees and not independent contractors under state law.

Therefore, the farmers were required to pay for unemployment compensation.

However, growers are depending the circuit court will be influenced by the precedent set in Sachs vs. United States.

In that case, the district court ruled that for social security purposes, migrant farmworkers harvesting cucumbers were sharefarmers and not employees. The case, however, originated in Ohio and Wisconsin courts are not necessarily bound by it.

Should Wisconsin follow the Ohio ruling, it would mean a serious setback for migrants and other farmworkers in the state.

It's a cruel legal hoax to claim farmworkers exercise any meaningful degree of control in the operation of the workplace. Neither do they decide what crops will be planted or what market to enter. Acceptance of this logic by the courts would mean tragedy for farmworkers in Wisconsin.

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