

Vol. III, No. 1 M.E.Ch.A. UW-Madison October 11, 1982

FARMWORKER

STRUGGLE GOES ON

On Labor Day, September 6, 1982, Baldemar Velasquez, president of FLOC, announced the start of his fast to symbolize the sacrifices and commitment that farmworkers have made in their strike and boycott of Campbell and Libby's. Since that date, he has only taken water.

Mr. Velasquez released the following statement concerning his fast: "I have learned that leaders have to make an extreme sacrifice when they are organizing poor working men and women. The poor must be able to see this sacrifice, to have trust and be able to listen to the message. Simply, if a poor worker is to give what little he or she has for a cause, a leader must also do the same to be with them. In this way the poor will recognize at once that you share and experience their burden, dreams and aspirations. I dedicate this fast to the poor, those who have made sacrifices, for strikebreakers in the area and the farmers who should be on our side opposing the giant agri-corporates, Campbell Soup and Libby's. People throughout the great land must recognize that ours--the struggle of farmworkers--is a simple but noble effort to better our lives, in the same tradition of other working men and women in this nation's history."

FLOC, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee is the farmworker union founded in 1967 by Baldemar Belasquez.

Migrant labor in the U.S.

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What is M.E.Ch.A.?

M.E.Ch.A. is a direct result of the Chicano movement of the 1960s. Chicanos of the Southwest created this organization at the university level to promote Chicanismo. At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, M.E.Ch.A. is a Chicano/Mexicano student organization devoted to fostering unity and to organizing Hispanics through cultural, educational, and political activities.

M.E.Ch.A. is you, me, and all others who feel a commitment to preserving our culture and to furthering the gains of our people through all necessary means. We understand that these efforts must be carried on at all levels and that the University is but one of the many areas where this unity can be fostered and the struggle continued.

As individuals, we may feel it is futile to counter the many obstacles posed by economic, institutional and societal constraints. Together, we can confront these forces and

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CAMPUS ELECTIONS



As some of you may already know, there is going to be a Wisconsin Student Association (WSA) election on October 12th and 13th. M.E.Ch.A. urges everyone to go out and vote in support of those progressive organizations and ideas which will best benefit the student community. M.E.Ch.A. supports Students for Positive Change (SPC) for the WSA Senate, the Press Brigade for the Cardinal Board, and a "yes" vote on the United Council referendum.

SPC believes in the rights of all individuals to shape the environment in which they live whether it be the Madison campus or El Salvador. SPC supports the implementation of a Chicano Studies Department to promote an authentic freedom of expression within the University and society at large. SPC opposes the increasing militarism on and off campus.

M.E.Ch.A. is running three candidates on the SPC ticket. They are: Danny Malacara, David Saldaña, and Ismael Rodriguez. SPC is just what it stands for, students for a positive change, a positive change for all individuals regardless of sex, race, or creed.

M.E.Ch.A. Is also supporting the election of the Press Brigade to the Daily Cardinal Board. The Press Brigade candidates are all experienced and competent Cardinal editors, while those who oppose them, those of the "Suprise Party" have little or no experience on the Cardinal staff and only wish to disrupt the harmony of the Cardinal Board. The Press Brigade candidates are: Tim Kelley, Mike Reinhardt, and Anne Koszuth.

M.E.Ch.A. also supports the United Council (UC) referendum. UC is an organization of student who lobby the State Legislature and the UW-Board of Regents. UC opposes unnecessary tuition increases, financial aid cuts and other unnecessary burearcracy (See article in this issue). The continued funding of this organization of 50¢ per student per semester is necessary to continue the fight for our right to go to school.

UNITED COUNCIL

by Bertrand J. Simpson Jr.

What is United Council? United Council is the oldest student research and advocacy group in Wisconsin. It is a front line student liaison with the state legislature and the UW-Board of Regents and it is an effective association which facilitates the transmission of information from campus to campus within the UW-System.

Since June of 1980, United Council has taken on an expanded responsibility. Being cognizant of the economic and political climate prevailing both in the UW-System and in the state and federal legislatures, the United Council added to its full-time staff a Director of Minority Affairs. The United Council of UW Student Covernments is a lobby and research organization representing 146,000 students of the UW System. Member schools must pass a referendum that supports United Council and allows United Council access to a 50¢ per student per semester fee that is refundable upon request.

The primary focus of the Minority Affairs Director is to work on issues directly affecting the lives of UW-students who belong to racial or cultural groups that have been systematically and traditionally discriminated against in this country. As director of the Minority Affairs my

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THE UNITED COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN STUDENT GOVERNMENTS

CREDITS; Staff: Charles Murn, Mark Castaneda, M. Lamin Jeng, Mike Jurkovich
Contributors: Alison Rice, Danny Malacara, Mark Castaneda

Where are the minorities?

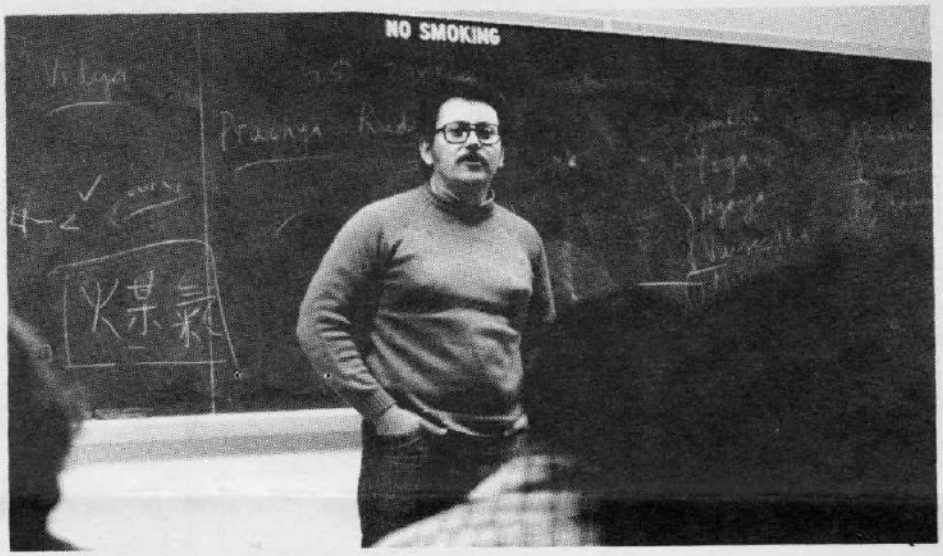
Trying to improve the recruitment and retention of Chicanos here has turned out to be quite a fiasco due to current UW-Madison administrative policy. More money and more concern for the distinct needs of Chicanos are needed from the University.

When Patricia Villarreal, the sole sampus recruiter of Hispanics, was asked if available services were adequate for the recruitment and retention of Chicanos, she replied, "They are not sufficient enough. The University has taken a 'too little, too late' strategy. To this date nothing considerable has been done to increase these rates. They've fallen consistently below the goals for years."

As the Latino Specialist for the Office of New Student Services, Villarreal has a budget of a mere $3000 per year, and even this has been cut $1600 over the last two years. Out of this budget must come the costs of supplies, copying, printing, travel, and telephone. The amount of work involved in such a job includes going to high schools, community-based organizations, organizing student campus trips, and mediating problems between students and their respective Colleges and Schools.

Apparently, complaints from the staff of New Student Services do little to heal the wound. "Part of my function as a recruiter is to be a pisser and moaner about finances. It's practically written into my job description," noted Villarreal.

The recruitment opportunities are there, but the money is not. The offices dealing with recruitment and retention are severly understaffed and underfunded. Yet, the University continues to play semantic games by asserting their strong commitment.



Regarding solutions to the problem, Villarreal observed that, "It's the students that can do something. More cooperation between the students and administration would certainly help." She then clarified this by saying that it is not the responsibility of students to find more resources. Rather, students can play an important role in pressuring the University.

Chicanos are faced with many difficulties when arriving in Madison. Often, Chicanos come from areas where they are the majority. And many first-year students enter with inadequate skills. A Major problem blocking the entrance and retention of Chicanos is the low amount of financial assistance offered by the University. Increases in financial aid packages are a must if the University is going to be committed to the needs of Chicanos and other ethnic minorities.

"Lots of people are dropping out all the time. The University doesn't have enough money to keep them here, especially the out-of-state students," lamented Villarreal.

Social and cultural differences joined with insufficient funding can make college life very difficult. "The school puts it off as though it's the student's problem," explained Villarreal. "There is also lots of subtle racism from faculty members and it's hard for students to deal with."

The lumping of all ethnic-minority students into four categories coupled with lumping of all students of Hispanic descent into one category is part of the problem. This makes it difficult to keep track of Chicanos. According

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Employers make life hard for Wisconsin migrants

By Mario Caballero



My personal experience as an outreach worker for Legal Action of Wisconsin Migrant Division is that migrant farmworkers in Wisconsin have been abused, in the legal sense, so many times by the growers and social service agencies that each is potentially capable of filing three to four administrative complaints or lawsuits. Thus, all the protective labor laws for migrants exist only in theory. For instance, virtually all growers do not pay the federal minimum wage and there are enforcement problems in the whole range of welfare rules, security, unemployment compensation, and housing codes.

Most of Wisconsin's seven thousand migrants live and work in Waushara County. They are Chicano Mexicanos who migrate from pockets of high unemployment in southern Texas to hoe and pick pickles in Wisconsin. They live in crowded, single-room labor camps and work extremely long hours, earning just enough to survive and to pay for the cost of returning to Texas.

The method of payment is the piece-rate system without any hourly guarantee, except as theoretically provided by federal law. The piece-rate system provides the perfect opportunity for growers to play the capitalist game of exploiting workers. The grower knows the farmworkers will not complain; the farmworkers are afraid of losing their jobs or of not getting rehired next season. Exploiting this fear, the grower maximizes profit by paying a subsistence wage. For example, in one of our cases this summer, a family averaged $1.75 an hour. In another case, a family hoed for several days without getting paid at all.

The gist of the problem is enforcement. The federal investigators in Waushara County check only employer records of hours and tend to give the benefit of the doubt to the grower whenever there is a factual dispute between the grower and the worker. For the most part, the hours of work recorded by the grower are fraudulent. Pay sheets are signed by the employee, but workers usually sign them when the forms are still blank or knowing that they are fraudulent but without protest because of their weak bargaining position. It is clear that the federal wage and hour investigators in Waushara County are only puppets of the growers.

Unless good faith enforcement of protective labor laws begins for migrants, the workers will only have unionization as a solution. If unionized, the workers could themselves police enforcement of the labor contracts and would not have to depend on grower-controlled government agencies. Growers have too much control of the political, economic and legal institutions in the counties where migrants work. And unionization will be an extremely long fight. No such movement exists for Wisconsin migrants. Y por mientras seguimos jodidos...

BOYCOTT!

The State of California ruled on May 13, 1982, that the producer of Red Coach lettuce is guilty of bad faith negotiation with the United Farm Workers. By selling Red Coach brand lettuce, Eagle Discount Supermarkets are supporting this lawbreaking lettuce grower.



In this area, Eagle is the major supermarket which still sells Red Coach lettuce, even though many other brands are available. If you support the Farm Workers' fight for justice, please ask your local Eagle manager to stop selling Red Coach lettuce until Bruce Church, Inc., respects the law!

UNITED FARM WORKERS, AFL-CIO
c/o MULO, 306 North Brooks,
Madison, WI 53716 (608)256,4170

FLOC cont. from p. 1 is an integral part of the multi-billion dollar food industry. This labor, however, is performed under inhumane working conditions and at such low wages that it forces whole families to work to survive. FLOC is struggling to improve the working conditions of farmworkers which include: low wages, child labor, crowded and sub-standard housing, and hazardous working conditions that doom the farmworkers to a life expectancy twenty years shorter than the national average!

In 1978, two thousand farmworkers went on strike in the tomato fields contracted to Campbell and Libby's in northwest Ohio. Currently, FLOC is seeking three-way negotiations between the large agri-companies, the growers and the farmworkers. FLOC has called for a national consumer boycott to put economic pressure on Campbell and Libby's. Show your support for farmworker justice by honoring the boycott, by education yourself on farmworker issues and by donating funds to the striking farmworkers. Send money to FLOC, 714½ South St. Clair, Toledo, Ohio 43609. Also, a local FLOC support committee recently formed in Madison and needs your help. Please call 258-8509 or 255-1918 for more information.



THE LIBBY BOYCOTT

DON'T BUY THE PRODUCTS LISTED BELOW & ON THE OTHER SIDE....

LIBBY, McNEILL, LIBBY PRODUCTS
- libby's
- libby's
- libby's

SOUPS
- SOUPTIME
- maggi
- crosse and blackwell

FROZEN FOODS
- STOUFFER'S

COFFEE and TEA
- TASTER'S CHOICE
- NESCAFE
- NESTEA
- DECAF
- SUNRISE
- pero

HOTELS and RESTAURANTS
- stouffer
- rusty scupper

CHEESES
- swiss knight
- wispride
- gerber
- old fort
- provalone lacatelli
- cherry hill
- roger's

SUPPORT THE BOYCOTT OF Libby's parent company NESTLE



THE CAMPBELL BOYCOTT

DON'T BUY THE PRODUCTS LISTED BELOW & ON THE OTHER SIDE....

- Campbell Soup
- m'...m'...good
- V-8 Juice
- Prego Spaghetti Sauce
- Vlasic Pickles
- Bounty Products
- Franco-American
- Pepperidge Farm
- Swanson Frozen Dinners
- Campbell's Fresh Farm
- Recipe Pet Food
- Godiva Chocolate
- Hanover Trail
- Pietro's Gold Coast Pizza
- DomSea
- Efficien-c Food Service
- Lexington Gardens Retail Centers
- Herider Farms Gold Nugget

Farm Labor Organizing Committee

"Hasta La Victoria" (419) 243-3456
714½ s. saint clair street, toledo, ohio 43609

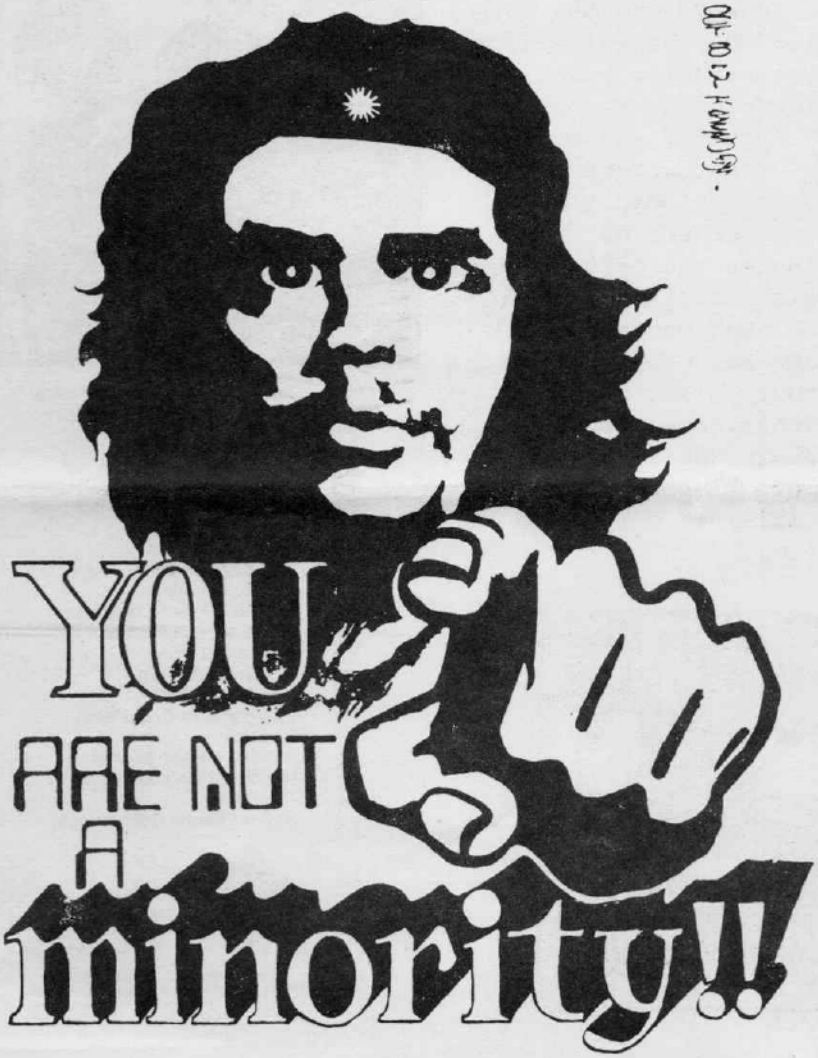
POESÍA

THE BRACER

Oye jefe, vengo de Mexico
Oye jefe, mi familia ahi esta pobre
Oye jefe, quiero ayudarles
Oye jefe, ¿me ayuda?
Oye jefe, ¿me da empleo?
Oye jefe, ¿por que me paga tan poco?
Oye jefe, ya viene la migra
Oye jefe, ¿por que los deja llevarme?
¿Sabes que, carnal? ¿Por que me chingas?

POR TRONCOZO

(From Anthology-The U of I Experience)



ATTENTION!!!

DEAR FARM WORKERS

Hunts, Beatrice and General Foods etc., wishes to inform you that discussion of conditioal reforms and union contracts are not in keeping with labor policies. And as such, "Farm Worker's Rights" will not be listed on thier agenda as a topic for discussion.

You see, your present working conditions owed itself to the marvellous give and take machine of capitalism.

We give our labor/they take the profit. No benefits,dividends or year off with pay.

They also wish to thank you for enabling them to get food from the farm to their tables in 2 easy steps 1) exploitation 2) oppression.

For without the contributios of minorities, America would not be what it is today. Free enterprise, Free market Wall Street, The Moral Majority, Reaganomics AWACS, etc.

Not to mention what we would have been without it's interference - less economically stable less prejudiced against,less tired, less downtrodden,and the list is endless.

So, please workers,resign yourseives to the simple fact that all the pieces of the pie are gone.

In other words America,interested in the welfare of minorities has cordially invited us to view this year's model of chaos and poverty.

Sincerely yours in the struggle,

FELIKIKA

P.S. Bring your own revolution.

(From Anthology-The U of I Experience)

POESIA

TRIBUTO A DON BENITO JUAREZ
EN EL 5 DE MAYO

La corona se había ido
pero
todos sus parasitos quedaban
y mandaban
y enseñaban
con armas y fuego y poder mistico
Yo trabajé
Yo sudé
Yo sangré
Yo rezé
Y esperaba silencioso que
la vida retonara
Y esperé en silencio un nuevo
comienzo de la vida
Yo pelié y morí
por
Don Benito Juarez
guardian de la constitución.
Yo era el
en caminos polverientos
en tierras asperas
cuando protejía sus archivos
como Moises sus sacramentos.
Y este gigante
Pequeño Zapoteca
dió
ni un puño lleno
de la tierra de su pais a
reyes o monarcas o presidentes
de poderes extranjeros

Y yo soy Joaquin
cabalgué con Pancho Villa
caliente y crudo,
un torbellino en plena fuerza
nutrido e inspirado
por la pasión y el fuego
de todo su humilde pueblo
Yo soy Emiliano Zapata.
"Estas tierras,
este mundo
es
NUESTRO."

De "Yo Soy Joaquin" por
Corky Gonzales

TROJAN BURRO

Who we are is no longer the question
Latino, Xicano, Mexicano, hispano
It's what we're going to do

We are Joaquin, unbound
yet, paradoxily, still trapped
in labels and ideology
Caged in the labels of our
own making, our contradiction

We are stars of a different stripe
and our starry-eyed and striped past
is behind us, lying like a discarded rag
Y chancla que tiro no levanto

Joaquin has a mahagony desk now
and says hello, how are you to 30
hispanics, his quota filled and
nothing else.

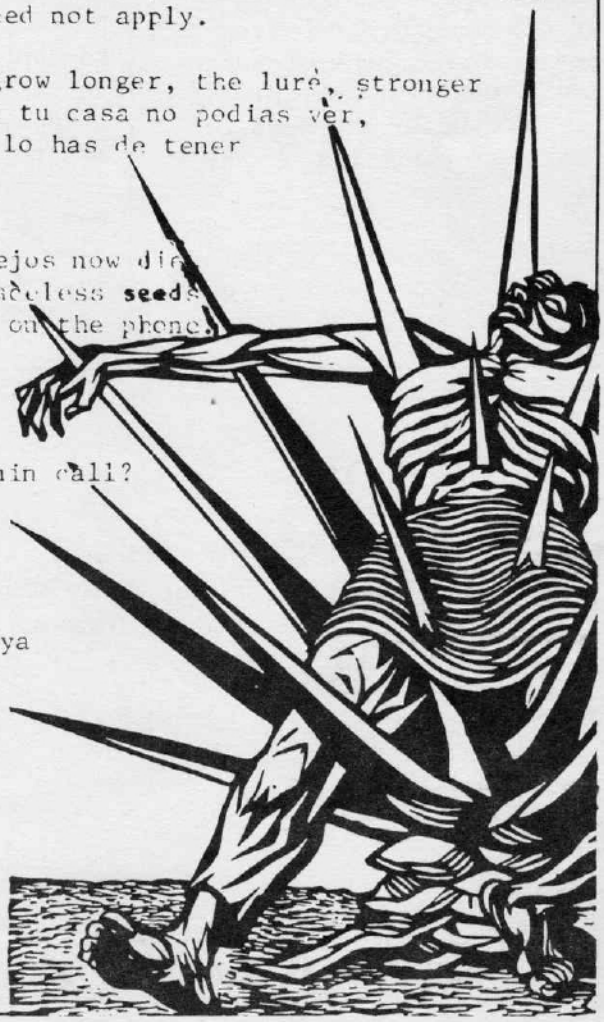
Needed: Brown hispanics with muddy souls
to conquer a new Troy -- Our beloved America.
Chicanos need not apply.

The lines grow longer, the lure stronger
Y lo que en tu casa no podias ver,
En tu casa lo has de tener

Our respected viejos now die
and know their tadeless seeds
as cold whispers on the phone.

Why doesn't Joaquin call?

By Juan Montoya



HARASSMENT..(from page 1)

Or the story told Cardinal readers by a student who witnessed the brutal methods employed by P&S personnel on an older black man and a sleeping youth.

The writer said the younger man was "roughly shoved and then jabbed by the flashlight of the male officer, all the while yelling at the half-awake youth for his identification."

Or the time reported by a Cardinal newspaper staffer who said she witnessed P&S officers harass and maltreat a foreign student. According to the story, the student from India was in custody and was punched by an officer and told not to expect the same rights as those guaranteed American citizens because he was a foreigner.

M.E.Ch.A. president Rafael Alvarez voiced his concern over the numerous reported cases of harassment of Latino tudents and said M.E.Ch.A. will join in any efforts to fight discrimination at the Union.

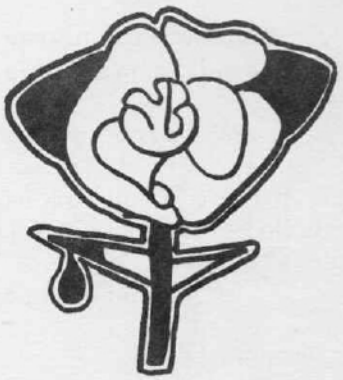
"We will not let racism control our lives and we will make sure it does not go on being ignored by the University."

Cinco de mayo from p.1

Habiendo recuperado la capital de la república, el Gobierno liberal del Presidente Benito Juarez, viendo las malas condiciones económicas del pais, se vió obligado a suspender pago de la deuda pública en 1861. Las circumstancias en que se encontraba Benito Juarez brindó un pretexto formal a algunas potencias Europeas que tenian ambiciones de expansión territorial en el continente americano. Por esta razón, Inglaterra, España, y Francia formaron un convenio para presionar militarmente al pais, bajo el pretexto de recrobrar asi creditos a los que suponían tener derecho. España y Francia tenían proyectos de ocupar el pais, pero al fín, fué Napoleon III de Francia el que inició una intervención militar, en connivencia con el partido conservador, el cual impuso a Maximiliano, Archiduque de Austria, como supuesto emperador de Mexico.

El cinco de Mayo de 1862, al atacar la ciudad de Puebla, México, las tropas invasoras Francesas, Austríacas, y Belgas sufrieron una gran derrota. En fín, el pueblo Mexicano no se daría por vencido hasta ver que Francia fracasara totalmente.

El precario régimen intervencionista sostenido por las bayonetas Francesas, se derrumbó en 1867 con el fusilamiento de Maximiliano de Habsburgo. Actualmente, los pueblos de Centro América y de Latino América en total siguen la lucha contra las atrocidades e injusticias cometidas contra los pueblos por el expansionismo imperialista que sigue en marcha. Los nombres han cambiado, pero la explotación en todos sus niveles es aparente dia tras dia. . .



MECHA
LA UNION HACE LA FUERZA

UW - Madison
710 University Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

EL PORTAVOZ