La Onda

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Editor's Onda

Alright another semester has gone by and we've accomplished many things yet we have much more to work towards. La Semana Chicana was a success and hopefully with added help and support from the Chicana/o community (and others) we can make next year's event more deaquea.

The struggle to liberate our minds is a never ending process and as we work to create decolonized spaces let us enrich our espiritus y strengthen our commitment and dedication to La Causa!!!!

May you all have a restful yet exciting break and don't eat too many tamales porque despues sufren.

Please take the break to evaluate this past semester and rejuvenate for the next.....Political Action is a top priority for the Spring semester and we need all the strength and orgullo we can get.

Bueno mi gente there's my spiel...ay los vemos....at least for a month or so.....

I wish you all a great break and a successful and healthy new year!!!!!!

Press Release: FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DID/COULD NOT ATTEND THE SILENT PROTEST.

"We have been silenced"

The members of ***Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlàn*** (MEChA) from UW-Madison demand that Chicana and Chicano student voices be heard. We are writing to express our frustration with both the constant censorship of Chicana/o student voices and the lack of accountability toward the Chicana/o campus population by UW administration.

The fact that the University of Wisconsin at Madison prides itself in creating a safe and healthy environment for all its students is questionable. Due to the fact that it has not only promoted, but continues to harbor an academic staff member who has shown to be a potential harm for Chicana and Chicano students, faculty, and staff within the University setting.

Teatro Ehecatl, the theatre group for ***Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlàn***, held a silent demonstration in front of the Red Gym Armory on Thursday, December 9 1999. The demonstration was in protest of the University's latent tactics to silence and ignore the Chicana and Chicano voice. The event was successful as MEChistas unite to continually push these issues forward.

Needs requested and ignored:

- 20 year demand for a Chicano Studies Department
- Increase the number of Chicano Studies faculty and academic staff
- Retention of and Outreach to Chicano students
- **Provide a safe and supportive environment for Chicanos and Latinos

Tactics utilized to silence by UW-Madison administration:

- Appointed an academic staff member that divides Chicanas/os and intimidates Chicana students, faculty, and staff
- Utilizing improper procedures to hire questionable university staff

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WHERE Were All The CHICANAS And CHICANOS During LA CONFERENCIA CHICANA?

Hey Raza where were you? We ask ourselves, with all the advertising we did, why some Chicana/os did not attend? This year MEChA has been trying to limpiar nuestra casa primero antes de meternos en las casas de otros, loosely translated for this purpose, take responsibility for our actions instead of blaming others. So we examined ourselves as to whether we had pissed people off enough to the point that they would boycott a MEChA Conference. But that couldn't be the reason because some of you seemed to find your way to the events that had food, music, or entertainment. You know, we saw many Chicanos that speak negatively of MEChA at the events with Jesse Borrego, so it couldn't be that. Other reasons could be the recent accusations by uninformed chismosos that MEChA kicked Carlos Reyes out of the Chicana/o Studies Program, and that consequently Chicana/os would not be able to obtain a Chicana/o Studies Department. But hopefully that gossip was clarified by disclosure of the authors of the letters and their content. Also the realization that if Carlos Reyes had any pull or desire in getting a department, that goal would have been accomplished years ago.

The line-up of distinguished speakers, Ralph Avitia, Dr. Yolanda Broyles-Gonzàlez, Dr. Teresa Còrdova, Malaquias Montoya, Elizabeth "Betita" Martinez, and Prospero Saìz, rarely speak at a conference all at once. The Chicanas and Chicanos who spoke at La Conferencia Chicana were not Chicana/os to which we have access everyday. They are accomplished scholars who have a pulse on what's going on with our Raza, but have not forgotten what it is to be Raza nor students. Our interaction with them was so much more valuable than finding the perfect outfit to wear to the pachanga that night, or any other minor excuse you might have.

Students were not the only ones absent from this outstanding event. Professors from the Chicana/o Studies Program, with the exception of Dr. Prospero Saìz, Laura Gutierrez, and Dr. Dionne Espinoza, who facilitated the Pachuca and Pachuco Contest. Also many professors, academic staff and graduate students who identify as Chicana/o were not present. The visiting scholars, specifically Betita Martinez author of 500 Years of Chicano History in Pictures, asked where the rest of the Chicana/os were. A heated discussion erupted when this question was posed at last years conference. No one wants to be called out on these issues, but animosity keeps building, and the backbiting continues. Maybe we should publish a list of the Chicana/os not in attendance every time we have an event, so everyone is aware which of our self-proclaimed Chicana/os are consistently not in support of the Chicana and Chicano students.

This was an outstanding opportunity for all Chicanas and Chicanos on this campus to learn about these issues affecting our communities and interact with these scholars on a personal level. Educating ourselves is the only thing that will rid us of poverty of the mind. We seem to anxiously pigeonhole ourselves into the stereotypes placed upon us by the dominant society. This was an opportunity that doesn't come around everyday, and will not come around even once a year without the support of Chicana/o students, professors, and academic staff.

When a Chicana or Chicano is speaking, I will be in attendance, even if my sworn enemies are sponsoring these events. So for those of you who let your petty politics interfere with broadening your knowledge, pues se chingaron usted solos.

Dèborah Vàsquez

La Conferencia Chicana: Journey to Aztlán

Elizabeth "Betita" Martinez, an Ethnic & Women's Studies Professor from California enlightened us with her presentation at **La Conferencia Chicana: Journey to Aztlàn**, which gave credence to her personal knowledge and experience.

Dr. Martinez advised that as Chicana/os we must continue to strengthen our cultural identity and develop our political consciousness in order to maintain our focus toward a Chicana/o Studies Department at UW-Madison. In addition, she stressed the necessity of solidarity among the Chicana/o students, professors, and staff so we may carry out this task. Betita's inspirational words fostered courage and motivated many people.

For myself, it was an honor to have a woman who has had so much influence within the Chicana/o Movement to address our concerns and participate in finding solutions.

Juanita Soto

Yolanda Broyles-Gonzàlez

On Thursday October 28, 1999, Dr. Yolanda Broyles-Gonzàlez, distinguished professor from UC Santa Barbara, arrived in Madison to find an excited Chicana/o community. Chicana/o students anxiously awaited her arrival into the Madcity; a very consumed city filled with passion, to hear the words of Dr. Broyles-Gonzàlez. A woman of extravagance and class she filled the air with words of wisdom and knowledge. Dr. Broyles-Gonzàlez weeklong visit included discussion on spirituality, sexuality, and feminist/empowerment discourse. Her thoughts on life and items of interest to the students, faculty, and community were taken with great consideration and respect.

Dr. Broyles-Gonzàlez was more than happy to sit down and talk to students and listen to what we had to say. She was on hand for a Chicana panel, where she addressed contemporary issues facing our Chicana Women such as academic alienation and sexism, and racism. She was also on hand to answer questions and was happy to share her own experiences. In conjunction with the panel, she led a Chicana spirituality circle, where she along with MEChistas and other Chicanas, opened their hearts and minds in dealing with sacred issues.

Dr. Broyles-Gonzàlez also enlightened an enthusiastic audience at **La Conferencia Chicana: Journey to Aztlán**. She was applauded for her thoughts and presentation on ***"Challenges of the Pre-Sexto Sol"*** which provides the historical legacy and future dilemmas of our world.

She is a woman that has embraced her culture and who continues to amaze us all with her commitment and courage. She has truly earned a place within the MEChA familia and UW community.

Darrell C. Balderrama

Voces de Las Chicanas: Discussion on Womens Issues

A powerful and inspiring discussion was led by our esteemed Chicana panelist on Thursday night (October 28). Viola Casares and Petra A. Mata shared with the audience the devastating experiences that led to the formation of Fuerza Unida, a community organization formed in 1990 out of the struggle resulting from the Levi Strauss & Co. layoffs. As one of the founders of Fuerza Unida, Viola's vision was to create a center where women can learn more about human rights, citizenship, working conditions, and other issues important to women in everyday life, work, and family. Petra A. Mata, a founding member as well, also envisioned equality for all women workers in job situations that are unfair, unjust, and unsuitable for women.

The discussion was further enriched by the expertise of Dr. Teresa Còrdova and Dr. Yolanda Broyles-Gonzàlez. Dr. Còrdova commented on the existing colonialism among academia and on the struggle between our cultura and the academic culture we are subjected to on a daily basis. Subsequently, Dr. Broyles-Gonzàlez added to the discussion by furthering the important issue of women empowerment. She spoke about Chicana survival and resistance which is deeply rooted in our rich spiritual history and strong commitment to justicia.

Moreover, she addressed the four blood mysteries of women and stressed the necessity to return to our spirituality in order to nurture our spirit and empower our minds.

Due to the caliber and experiences of our Chicana panelist, students were able to interact with mujeres making a difference and were provided with the rare opportunity to take home a piece of Chicana/o history in the making.

Erika Lopez

Community Service needed or offered at

Centro Pastoral Guadalupe
1862 Beld Street
Madison, WI 53725
(608) 255-8471

Services: Food Pantry, Educational Services (ESL, computer skills, etc)

La Cultura Cura

This was inspired by the presentation Marìa Elena Gaitàn gave earlier this semester.

We are the chancla people, the children of the **Quinto Sol**.
The people who became strangers in our own land,
Labeled as "aliens" and immigrants.
They label us as "Hispanic" ignoring our indigenous roots.
They place us under one label that excludes our different heritage and cultures.
They keep us as outsiders, only allowing us to come into their white realm when we assimilate and shut down our past.
My response to this is a cry of LIBERATION, I will not subside and let them walk over my culture and claim it as their own and CHANGE IT!!
WHAT 'S THIS TACO BELL CHAPULA SHIT ANYWAYS!!?
They are the aliens, who came from a far and stole the land of my ancestors and claimed it as their own, by the assumed righteousness of monarchs.
They raped us of our culture and altered our religion.
They colonized our minds, so that we are blind to the shit they do.
I feel my SKIN CRAWL AND BLOOD BOIL when I think of the things they did and still do.
I could get mad and raise havoc.
But instead, I choose to use their weapons against them.
I will educate my mind and revolt against the norm the system has set for my gente and me.
I will make it clear that with this Xicanita no van a poder!

-Gladiola Reyes-

The following are my words in response to an anonymously written letter that was hanging up on one of the walls of our Chicano Studies Lounge in the third floor of Ingraham.

Please don't take my honor away before even asking my name. For that is all I can give my people. Please do not take the opportunity to know where I come from, where I have been, and where I want to go away before asking my name. Because I want to know where you come from, where you have been, and where you want to go so that I may have the opportunity to hold your hand. Please, do no deny me this, for then how will we ever have the opportunity to unite.

Please do not give up hope on *raza* whose names you do not know. For to assume this hatred towards someone who you don't even know is the worst hatred that there can ever be, especially when they share your blood, your skin, your struggle.

Please make sure that the "treacherous smile" that you see is on a face of a person who you know, just in case that person is really smiling that same smile that we all shared when we were growing up. For once this smile is taken away, it can never be replaced.

I ask the person who wrote the words standing next to me to continue standing next to me in our struggle, and I also ask for the opportunity to know you, and for you to know me.

Before you say that I'm "not worthy to lick your boot" and that "I'm not Chicano," please ask for my name first. Because all I want to do is help take the dirt off of my people's boots to make walking easier for them. Let's not pull each other down from that "imaginary cup" that we are all trying to climb out of. Know that the oppressor is just looking down at us and laughing, laughing.

Please, please ask for my name, because there is no time for you to hate me without doing this first.

Cornelio Aguilera
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MAESTRO

quvole, vato
yo soy el niño
the one who you said was a *travieso*
the one you claimed caused all the *pleito*
the one who long ago you did not care for
even though you were my *maestro*

fijate,
a lo que ha pasado
it's been a long time *pero no ando calmao*
see remember the day i got into a fight
con otro *niño* who's color was white
he told his story, i said *"siempre me busca"*
you said to me *"el espanol ne se habla"*
so i got in trouble for speaking spanish
and my interest in school suddenly vanished
pero to make things worst,
you called my papi and said i was to blame
and so he disciplined me with physical pain
see mexican parents respect authority
my word against yours...*y'asi que sufrì*

pues el tiempo paso and things got no better
it seemed every week you would send home a letter
telling my parents i was bad in class
little did you know I felt like an ass
como un mudito, i sat all alone
listening to a language i did not speak at home

and just because i found the curriculum boring
you insisted that knowledge i was not yearning
and just because i spoke with a mexican accent
you insisted that in wood shop my time'd be best spent
and just cause i wore a raiders cap to be hip
you insisted i was on a gangster trip
and, finally, because my skin was brown

se reian los gringos and they put me down
and you *maestro*, you could not see
why i got mad *cuando* se *burlaban de mi*

but what hurt me more was the comment you made
you said i was lazy cause no attention i paid
yet the truth was that i was afraid
tenia verguensa and so quiet i stayed

those early years really MESSED up my mind
i was confused and no one i could find
who understood me at your racist school
the place where they treated me as though i was a fool

and so open your eyes, *maestro*, what do you see?
i guess i'm, exactly what you expected i'd be

an addict,
a convict,
a loud talking spic,
a lazy Chicano who didn't give a shit,
an animal,
criminal,
psychopath *cholo*
a mal-nourished kid who would never grow
a mexican boy who could never read
and who even today with an accent he speaks
another homeboy who never got far
a drunken thief who breaks into your car
a farm working mexican with eight kids and a wife
a convicted rapist serving 20 to life!

pues sabes que, teach, you were correct
cause all the above you did expect
see i rose to the level of your expectation
fijate teacher....i'm your creation

Ralph Avitia

The following are words expressed by our distinguised scholars, educators, and activist..... Hopefully you can take from them what is intended.

"S/he who hides behind the myth of neutrality not knowing that the 'hottest place in hell is reserved for those who remain neutral in times of crisis'"

-Dr. Teresa Còrdova

"The war zone is where we live when we challenge injustice." 'Once we take up residency in the 'war zone' we recognize that efforts will be made to discredit us, to discredit our legitimacy.' We understand, nonetheless, that our efforts are important. While we take risk for justice, others hide."

-Dr. Yolanda Broyles-Gonzàlez

"We should speak about what we are, who we are, and what we stand for."

-Dr. Deena Gonzàles

If you have any questions please contact

MEChA @

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Orale Beto Badger wishes everyone a great feliz navidad y prospero año nuevo.....Enjoy the holidays with your familias y amigas/os.



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