El Sexto Sol de

M.E.Ch.A.

Qvo Raza,

El Sexto Sol de M.E.Ch.A. would like to thank all Mechistas and Raza that attended the 1996 National M.E.Ch.A. Conference at the University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg. There were over 600 participants. We appreciate the effort made by all chapters to come all the way down to Tejaztlan. We highly value your cooperation for the success of the 1996 National M.E.Ch.A. Conference. There were minor delays during the Conference but thanks to the *espiritu* and *pacencia* of MEChistas there was nothing we could not handle. We give you *las mas sinceras gracias* for believing in us and for having faith that we could produce a good conference for MEChA. **Mexica Tiahui!**

Next year's conference will be hosted by the **MEChistas at Michigan State University**. Congratulations to the MEChistas from MSU and good luck in organizing a successful 1997 National MEChA Conference! The liaison process for the conference will begin. Remember, the liaison meetings give MEChA chapters the opportunity to help make the upcoming national conference a successful one by contributing ideas and suggestions. **The first national liaison** will be held at the University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg. The liaison will take place **November 30** at the **Liberal Arts building room 125 at 2:00 pm**.

We had hoped to send this mailout sooner but we found it almost impossible since we could not achieve financial stability after the conference. Soon after the conference one of our guest speakers, Apachu Maiz, faxed a disturbing letter to the Dean of Students, our advisor, and the Office of Student Affairs asking the university to take action against our MEChA chapter. He encouraged the University of Texas-Pan American not to recognize us as a student organization. All this because his check had not yet arrived (his check was in the mail). What Apachu Maiz perhaps could not understand was that there were a number of procedures and channels we had to go through to recieve the money alloted to him. Many speakers and scholars who attended the conference have agreed to forego any type of compensation in the spirit of the *movimiento*. How would it reflect on MECha if every speaker who didn't receive modest compensation wrote a damaging letter to our University? Our disagreement has nothing to do with what he preaches but with his attack on our MEChA chapter. Institutions find ways to eliminate organizations for *La Causa* like MEChA from campus, actions like Apachu Maiz' do not help! How does it help the movement to publicly embarrass our chapter in front of a hostile university administration? He has not made any attempts to express regret to UTPA-MEChA or to send a letter of retrieval to our University. If this is not *contra movimiento* we do not know what it is! Perhaps a more sympathetic understanding of the problems facing our student group would have been more appropriate. MEChA must take action! If anyone wants a copy of the memo we will be glad to send it to you.

The Universtiy of Texas Pan American
El Sexto Sol de M.E.Ch.A.
*Included in the package is the National Constitution and Resolutions.

1996 MEChA National Conference
Resolutions

Southern California Region

Whereas, MEChA as a national organization supports the struggles as our sisters and brothers of the EZLN.
Whereas, Their resistance is a reflection of ours as we continue the struggle for basic human rights.
Therefore, be it resolve that MEChA should take part as a recognized organization at the next World Wide Continental Conference in Chiapas. The conference will deal with justice for humanity and take stand against neo-liberalism, and allow MEChA to be involved in the future conference to come. By being recognized, MEChA can contribute and further the cause at an international level.
We propose that a national Xicano mobilization occur this year, 1996, that will include preliminary organizing activities that will lead to two (2) national mobilizations, prior to the October's Washington March. Activities include:

1) The Republican Convention in San Diego, CA.
2) The Democrat Convention in Chicago, IL..

Every state must organize and form a mobilization of committees comprised of a diversity of Xicano organizations.

Xicana Caucus

On Sunday, April 14, 1996 at the 1996 MEChA National Conference at the University of Texas-Pan American, the Xicana Caucus proposes the following:

Whereas, every Xicana has a right to self-identity, self-determination, and self-empowerment, as stated in the MEChA guiding documents, and;
Whereas, historically and presently Xicanas and their issues have not been effectively recognized or addressed in general or specifically in MEChA as a national organization, and;
Whereas, Xicanas have been the backbone of the Movimiento and have always played a vital role in the education and survival of our gente throughout Ixachilan, and;
Whereas, Xicanas have been under-represented and misrepresented historically and presently within the Movimiento,
Therefore, be it resolved that MEChA chapters nationally will create a committee for Xicanas to express, educate, empowerment, organize, and take direct action in Xicana gender and sexuality issues.

Southeast Tejaztlan Region

Whereas, Raza, especially migrant workers from Mexico , Central and South America, have been attacked, targeted and used as scapegoats, and;
Whereas, Raza immigrants find themselves powerless in a system that does not recognizes them as human, but rather as aliens and Greasers and other dehumanizing labels, and;
Whereas, Mobilization has occurred to meet in Washington, DC on October 12, 199 for the purpose to show our distaste with ill treatment of our Raza,
Therefore, let it be resolved that MEChA chapters should help if possible with the organization and the participation of this major event by their (MEChA) own means.

Check out the Southeast Tejaztlan's Homepage

http://www.infochase.com/org/welcome

It has the most complete MEChA Webpage Links

If your chapter has a Webpage and it is not posted, please send your URL to me as soon as possible. My E-mail address is Aguirre@Panam3.Panam.edu.
Please link this site to your Webpage.
-Thank you!

Coming soon: a MEChA Chat Line exclusively for MEChistas

M.E.Ch.A.
National Constitution

The following structure will make every MEChista accountable to its chapter, every chapter accountable to it's central (where applicable), every central accountable to its region, every region accountable to its state (where applicable), and every state accountable to the national.

Preamble

Chicano and Chicana students of Aztlan must take upon themselves the responsibilities to promote Chicanismo within the community, politicizing our Raza with an emphasis on indigenous consciousness. To continue the struggle for the self-determination of the Chicano people for the purpose of liberating Aztlan.

Article I: Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the national Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (M.E.Ch.A.)

Section 2. The official symbol of the this organization shall be the eagle with its wings spread, bearing a macahuittle in one claw and a dynamite stick in the other with the lighted fuse in its beak. The acronym M.E.Ch.A. shall be above the symbol with the phrase "*La Union Hace La Fuerza*" below.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be :

A) To strive for educational, cultural, economical, political, and social empowerment within the Chicano community in order to liberate nuestra gente.
B) To undertake the responsibility of retaining our identity and furthering our cultural awareness.
C) To undertake the responsibility of uplifting and mobilizing Chicanos and Chicanas through higher education.
D) To implement plans of action concerning Chicanos and Chicanas

Article III: Regional

Section 1. Regions

A) The Regional Committee involves both logistic planning and information distribution within its region receiving direction from the voting campuses.
B) The National recognizes the regions defined by states.

Section 2. A regional communication center shall be established where all M.E.Ch.A. regional information (i.e. minutes, phone lists, etc.) will be kept and distributed upon request.

Section 3. The region shall convene regularly with a quorum of 50% +1 % of all voting campuses.

Section 4. Voting Privileges: Any campus wanting to become part of the Regional Process must gain its affiliation and voting rights through their recognized Regional.

Section 5. In order to be a M.E.Ch.A. chapter recognized by the Regional, it shall adopt and abide by the following responsibilities:

A) Orient all members by discussing and reading historical documents of our Movimiento including: *El Plan de Santa Barbara, El Plan Espiritual de Aztlan, and the M.E.Ch.A. Position Papers of Philosophy, Constitutions, Outside Organizations, and Goals & Objectives.*
B) Make important aspects of the Chicano Movement relevant to MEChistas.
C) Send at least one (1) representative to the Regional meetings to be recognized as a voting chapter.

Section 6. Responsibilities of the M.E.Ch.A. Regionals include:

A) To implement plans of action for their particular region.
B) To meet at a regular basis.
C) To review, recruit, and educate campuses wishing to form a M.E.Ch.A. chapter.

Article IV: National Guidelines

Section 1. A M.E.Ch.A. National Conference shall be held once a year and shall rotate from state to state.

Section 2. The purpose of this conference shall be to bring all M.E.Ch.A. chapters together in an effort to bring a M.E.Ch.A. National Conference that maintains and reaffirms the principles and philosophies of M.E.Ch.A.

Section 3. At the M.E.Ch.A. National Conference steps will be taken to establish ties among the M.E.Ch.A. chapters in the spirit of Aztlan. The purpose of the National is to create vibrant and responsive network of Chicano and Chicana activists who will respond an a unit against oppression and racism and will work in harmony when initiating and carrying out campaigns and liberation for our people.

Section 4. National Conference Rules

A) Only M.E.Ch.A. chapters recognized by their respective regions can vote.

B) Individuals and/or groups with a history of party-building and cadre raiding inside of M.E.Ch.A. will not be able to participate in the discussions of resolutions (see M.E.Ch.A.'s Philosophy Papers: *Relationship to Outside Organizations.*)

C) Non-voting individuals attending the conference shall not be allowed to participate in debate or discussion of questions before the assembly.

D) All entertainment shall be culturally oriented.

E) A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote is needed at the national level to decline any regional boundaries.

Section 5. National meetings shall be conducted by *Robert's Rule of Order* until an alternate method can be found.

Section 6. Liaison Process

A) Previous to each National M.E.Ch.A. Conference there shall be at a minimum of three (3) liaison meetings held with the intent of having equal input from all M.E.Ch.A. chapters into the conference.

B)Each of the liaisons shall held in different states.

C)Final decisions regarding the conference shall be made at the last liaison.

Section 7. National Communication Center

A) The hosting campus is responsible for distributing the resolutions to all the communication centers one month (30 days) prior to the conference.

B) The hosting campus must forward all information regarding National Conference planning to the next year's hosting campus within two month after the National Conference.

Article V: Amendments

Amendments to the constitution shall be as follows:

~~A) Amendments to this constitution shall first be submitted in writing at a national liaison and shall be mailed out to the communication centers by the hosting campus.~~

B) A national structure workshop at the conference is required for the proposed amendments so that M.E.Ch.A. chapters have an opportunity to discuss proposed changes.

C) The general body shall vote on the proposed amendment at the resolution session.

D) A two-third (2/3) vote of officially recognized M.E.Ch.A. chapters present at the conference shall pass the amendment.

Adopted on April 9, 1995 at the 1995 M.E.Ch.A. National Conference.
Hosted by M.E.Ch.A. at the University of California - Berkeley.

Amendments:

1)Article V: Section A

A) Amendments and/or changes to the constitution shall be first submitted in writing to the hosting campus two (2) months prior to the M.E.Ch.A. National Conference and shall be mailed out to the communication centers by the hosting campus.

Amended on April 14,1996 at the 1996 M.E.Ch.A. National Conference. NOW UT-Rio
Hosted by El Sexto Sol de M.E.Ch.A. at the University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg Grande Valley