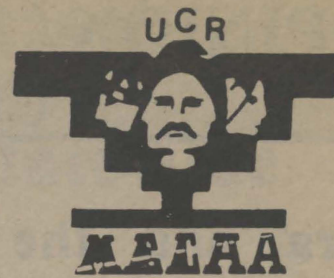


NUESTRA COSA



Vol. 12 No. 3

University of California, Riverside

1984



Excellence

Pride

Dignity

Tomás Rivera
1935-1984

We Deeply Mourn

OPINION/ COMMENTARY

Rivera and the Chicano Community

Tomas Rivera's work as Chancellor of the University of California at Riverside is unparalleled in the history of Chicanos. Rivera penetrated the top ranks of Anglo educational institutions to an extent never before done by another Chicano. As such, he was walking down a road never before travelled by Chicanos. Rivera walked cautiously yet with confidence, for he knew the importance of his efforts both to the Chicano and the Anglo segments of this society. His loss will be felt by Chicanos for years to come.

This loss will, perhaps, not be felt directly, but his absence in the top ranks of Anglo educational institutions means that Chicanos will not have a genuine voice in the decision-making that goes on at those levels. And without a voice we are bound to be negatively affected by the decisions that are made, for the Anglo has never been concerned with our well-being, whether educational or otherwise.

The importance of Rivera's work went unrecognized by the very people whom it affected most positively, Chicanos. Rivera's relationship to the Chicano community-at-large must not go unnoticed, for there is much to be learned from it, especially about ourselves.

When Rivera began as Chancellor of UCR in July of 1979, the significance of the event was recognized as that of a Chicano taking charge for the first time of a major institution of higher learning. At that time the local Chicano community half-heartedly embraced Rivera, proud that he was Chicano but suspicious because he was an outsider and "successful." Thus, the local Chicano community withheld its support of Rivera, waiting to see what he was made of. No one can quarrel with this community posture, for surely we have too often encountered the "opportunist" who serves as a broker to the Anglo.

Nevertheless, the expectations of many were that Rivera, because he was Chicano, would bring about major changes in the University that would be beneficial to the Chicano community. What exactly these changes would be could not be specified, but the attitude was that if he did not bring about major changes he was not concerned with the Chicano community. Such a position did not take into account the manner by which a large institution functions and the many constraints under which Rivera worked. The view was that he had to bring about major changes in order to receive the support of the community. Neither was much attention given to the fact that many Anglos were not happy that Rivera was Chancellor and sought to neutralize his effectiveness.



So, Rivera found himself in a very critical situation, with the various segments of society responding differently to him. Thus, he found himself in a position in which no other Chicano had ever been before.

Rivera attempted to move the University toward a position where it would be more responsive to all the segments of the surrounding community rather than to just a few. He met stiff opposition, however, and was forced to proceed more slowly. In the meantime some sections of the Chicano community began to perceive him as unconcerned with Chicano problems, not realizing that he had met serious opposition at other levels. Consequently, these sections of the barrio refused to support Rivera.

Indeed, a handful of Chicano opportunists sought to mobilize the Chicano community against Rivera, never understanding how counter-productive this was to the Chicano movement. Being opportunists, they were not concerned with this aspect of their actions. In general, the local Chicano community failed to embrace Rivera, leaving him to travel a dangerous road with only a handful of dedicated supporters. The Chicano community had failed to recognize the authenticity, genuineness, and honesty of Rivera. It could not even recognize the opportunists in its midst.

Yet Rivera continued to travel that winding road with dangers lurking at every turn. He was not deterred from his vision of a better society. But now he was more vulnerable than ever, for not only had the Chicano community failed to support and protect him, it failed to align itself with him, thereby becoming for him one of those very dangers hidden around the turns.

The local Chicano community must look back over Rivera's tenure as Chancellor and recognize that it had the opportunity to make history by working with Rivera to bring about change. Instead it left him to travel a dangerous road on his own, demanding of him yet failing to give of itself. The community must learn to distinguish its genuine leaders from its opportunists. It must learn to recognize its opportunity to make history and seize the moment. It must protect its authentic leaders from the vultures that are out to get them. It must give strength to its leaders and make realistic demands of them. In the end it is the community that brings about social change, not an individual in a high ranking position. Tomas Rivera gave of himself to his people up to the time of his death; his people have yet to learn to give as much of themselves for their own benefit.

A Glance Back

I never met the Chancellor, I got to know Tomas Rivera - the person.

In remembering someone, one often seems compelled to say a lot of things in order to justify the memory. The memory of someone, however, that is most likely to be a lasting impression is contained in those instances that capture the true spirit of a person. These memories are few, but persistent.

There was that day in winter when Tomas and I talked in his office. We talked of life, and mostly about death. The recent death of my father was a meeting ground for the two of us - there had been a death in his family that had been difficult to deal with. That afternoon I learned - death was not as important in itself, as much as what we did with it.

The day before Easter Carmen and I were busily shopping for clothes for the boys when we bumped into Tomas and Concha at a local shopping mall. We talked of Tejas, and how far it was. And he remembered Easter in Cristal as a boy - the starched white shirts and stiff petticoats, and of course, the everpresent white shoes. That afternoon we learned about el tripero. We all laughed about tripas. He also spoke about raising children, and the man beamed. And my sons smiled.

Several days before his death, hable con Tomas. We were just at the end of a project he was very much interested in. As he had done several times before, He asked me if he had told me el chiste del mesquite. This time he did not smile, el espiritu estaba muy cansado.

One of my graduate students asked me recently why I ever left the University of Wisconsin to come to Riverside. It is a very simple, but human reason. I came to know Tomas. It was an opportunity to get close to an institution by having a friend willing to teach you. It was also a very brief opportunity. I still recall, we went to Woodstock because it was a very brief opportunity, and a long time before another would come along. It is not fatalistic to state that it will be a long time before anyone measures up to the events that were the life of Tomas Rivera.

The spirit of Tomas Rivera at UCR was revealed in a student comment made this Wednesday: "Coming to school today is like playing hookey, and finding out that you are the only one that did so."

I had the opportunity to know Tomas Rivera. He is part of my memory. He was a man who knew where he had been.

by Adalberto Aguirre Jr.

Nuestra Cosa

Nuestra Cosa is the MECHA newspaper of the University of California at Riverside, and is cosponsored by ASUCR.

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We welcome all contributions: articles, poems, graphics, letters and criticisms. We reserve the right to edit all submitted materials.



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¿QUIEN ES QUIEN ?

1. Who was the Chicano known as "El Padre del Senado del Estado de Colorado y El Senador Perpetuo," for his long record of public service and political integrity?

2. Who was the Chicano who controlled *La Voz del Pueblo*, one of the leading Spanish language newspapers in the 1980's?



Update:

Chicano Studies

by Eliud Martínez Chairman of Chicano Studies

As the Chairman of Chicano Studies at UC Riverside I am pleased to report that one final phase remains for the review of Chicano Studies to be completed. Uniformly each of the reviewing bodies has judged our program to have academic integrity and to be extremely pertinent to our institution of higher learning. Each of the reviewing bodies has rejected the tentative recommendation of the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences to disestablish the program. Our Chicano Studies Program is judged to be one of the top five in the nation, and the collective judgement of the reviewing bodies is that it be continued and strengthened.

At the last phase of the review process, however, the members of the Committee on Educational Policy, of the UC Riverside Academic Senate, have recommended as an alternative to separate Black and Chicano Studies programs the creation of an Ethnic Studies Program, which would consolidate the two programs. The Advisory Committee of the Academic Senate has endorsed the Educational Policy Committee's recommendation, and after considerable deliberation at the May 10th meeting of the UC Riverside Division of the Academic Senate, the faculty voted to submit the recommendation to a mail ballot. In its Report to the Riverside Division the Advisory Committee has included a statement that explains the implications for the vote for and against the recommendation to create an Ethnic Studies Program. The implications are as follows:

1. APPROVAL

A vote in favor of the proposal endorses two actions:

- The formation of a committee to establish a plan for an Ethnic Studies Program which must be approved by the Academic Senate within one year; that is, at the latest by the annual meeting of the Senate in the spring of 1985.
- If no plan for an Ethnic Studies Program has been developed and approved by the Academic Senate within the one-year time period mentioned above, then the second part of the proposal of the Advisory Committee will

automatically go into effect; namely, the implementation of the disestablishment of the Program in Black Studies and the modification of the Program in Chicano Studies, as recommended by the Educational Policy Committee's report that was received and placed on file by the Riverside Division on May 10, 1984.

2. AGAINST

A vote against the proposal endorses the continuance of the Program in Black Studies and the Program in Chicano Studies as they are presently constituted.

As Chairman of Chicano Studies I have expressed clearly the Chicano faculty opposition to the recommendation to establish an Ethnic Studies Program:

It is reasonable to conclude from the sentiments expressed at the Academic Senate meeting of Thursday, May 10, that there is no support from the faculty of the programs that would be affected. Consequently, Chicano faculty and I feel that it would be unfair and unwise to force an Ethnic Studies recommendation upon the Black and Chicano Studies faculty. We believe that the concept of an Ethnic Studies Program would be fine under ideal circumstances, but the current circumstances are not ideal. After having given serious consideration to the matter and having discussed arguments for and against an Ethnic Studies Program versus separate Black and Chicano Studies Programs, we have concluded that it would be in the best interests of UC Riverside to maintain separate Black and Chicano Studies Programs.

In conclusion, we are very pleased with the consistently positive reviews of the Chicano Studies Program, and we appreciate the constructive criticism that has been offered to strengthen our Program. We would be pleased, moreover, to explore with the faculty of the Black Studies Program reciprocal requirements for their majors and ours, to develop the needed comparative perspective.

The ballots are due in the Academic Senate office on May 29, 1984, and they will be counted on June 1, 1984. We trust that the results of the vote will reflect the wisdom of our colleagues at UC Riverside and the best interests of our University.

UCR Chicanos Celebrate

by Patti Rubio

The Chicano Studies Open House has been a successful event every year at UCR, and in keeping with that tradition, this year also proved to be an overwhelming success! Mother nature couldn't have given us a more beautiful day as the setting for the activities which were attended by approximately 300 people.

Chicano Studies Open House is a special event for Chicano

students because it serves as an opportunity for their families and friends to be in an atmosphere filled with our culture.

The afternoon was broadcast live on KNSE Radio 15, and they were accompanied by a "carabana" of music, bands and entertainment. More entertainment was provided by El Mariachi Tequila, and Mexicayotl a group of aztec dancers.

The commons mall area was

by Jose Martinez

On the 10th and 11th of March, 1984, the UCR MEChA was represented at the MEChA Statewide Conference held in Fresno California, and sponsored by Cal State Fresno and Fresno City College. The conference was very well organized and everyone who attended was pleased with its outcome.

The conference began with Solidarity speakers who presented concerns about various issues. Mr. Thomas Hill emphasized the need for the MEChA students to revitalize themselves and focus upon issues such as immigration and Central America. He stated that, "the gavacho is trying to make us a dead people," and "that it is now time for the students to once again play a vital role in Chicano issues like in the late 60's and early 70's."

very beautiful poem which inspired the entire audience. She also gave an update on D.Q. University, the only American Indian and Chicano University, which is being threatened for closure by the U.S. government.

As Ms. Tovar ended her speech a multitude of cameras and lights worked their way towards center stage. The guest speaker Cesar Chavez, the United Farmworkers President, had arrived. He gave a very inspirational speech dealing with how Chicanos must be wise in using their voting powers. He stated that, "We must not endorse Chicanos just because they are Chicanos, and we must be sure they stand for the right things and not give them a free ride." He continued saying that "Chicanos must not sell out their vote, and that there is a need for lobbying in Sacramento, so as to be sure we are

specifically our Latin American brothers," he continued to say that "the Latino community as citizens of the world must unite and join a struggle to defeat United States Imperialism."

Following the speakers the conference broke up into the various workshops scheduled. The topics were: The United Farmworkers, MEChA and the Movement, Chicanos in the Economy/Electoral Process, La Chicana, Coors Boycott, MEChA organizing in high schools, Immigration, Barrio Warfare, MEChA organizing in colleges, and the Draft. The most important workshop, and the emphasis of the entire conference, was the issue of Central America. A film on El Salvador was shown, which illustrated how historically the government has treated the people; and how people who have



Armando Navarro gave a resounding speech on a new movement of social change and economic improvement. He stated that "The basis of all power is in corporate America," and "we need economic power before we can make any significant changes regarding Chicano issues." In closing he remarked, "seize this opportunity, the future is now."

Inez Tovar, an American Indian, then enlightened us with a

not being given a raw deal." Mr. Chavez then closed his speech by saying, "Be concerned with our brothers and sisters." By this he meant don't just think of yourself, but of present and future generations that will be affected by what happens today.

The keynote speaker, Carlos Munoz, emphasized Chicano involvement in Central America. He stated that "La Raza is not just Mexicanos, but every Latino;

opposed the government have been imprisoned and later murdered for no valid reasons.

In speaking with others who attended, the general opinion was that the conference was very informative and educational. All in all it was a good gathering and we are glad that UCR MEChA was able to attend. We would like to take this opportunity to thank once again all those who made this trip possible for us.



filled with tables representing various campus organizations such as MEChA, Chicano studies, EAP, Women's Resource Center, Chicanos in Law Program, and a few others.

Papi's Mexicano Food Restaurant catered the event and quickly became one of the main attractions. They provided some very delicious Mexican food, and the Chicano Alumni provided the beverages.

Overall, the Chicano Studies Open House added to our yearly tradition of pride in our Chicano students, faculty and staff, whose presence in this university contributes to the success of the Chicano Studies Program. The Open House also served as the

kicker for the Cinco de Mayo events.

Cinco de Mayo 1984 turned out to be another one of our very special events of the year. The week began with a slide presentation on "Viva el Cinco de Mayo" by Jeffrey Reed from Santa Barbara, and continued on through Wednesday's nooner with the folklorico group "Ballet del Sol". The folklorico attracted a large group of students who were exposed to one aspect of Mexican culture.

Thursday night at the UCR Barn was the highlight of our festivities. The evening was very well attended by students, faculty, and staff, as well as members of the community. The program started

off with two "actos" by the Chicano Theatre class, under the direction of profesora Torres Rivera. Teatro Quinto Sol followed with the performance of the play "Los Vendidos". After the performances MEChA raffled off dinners for two, at local restaurants. The winners of the raffle were: Jose Martinez, Alma Gomez, Ulysses Rubio, Maria Gomez, and Art Perez.

The night came to an end with the music of "El Mariachi Lucero de Lupe Soria". This year's Cinco de Mayo will become a part of UCR's history of Cinco de Mayos, but will always be remembered for the spirit of Mexico we shared together.

Play Review:

Tres Actos

In celebration of Cinco de Mayo, UCR undergrads aided by a few high school students, displayed their acting talents in three separate theatrical performances.

The first one of two directed by Doctora Torres Rivera, dealt with the methods and aims of opportunistic individuals who take advantage of run-down property to convert it to their own profit. This drama is a vehicle which exposes the vices as well as the greed and bigotry of Mr. Stealer, who attempts to buy a dilapidated but fully occupied building complex. He wants to convert it to a Mexican restaurant for which he will pay little and in which he will invest even less. He figures that Mexicans enjoy that kind of ambient anyway. Only acts IV, V and VI are performed but they are sufficient to give the spectator a good idea of the plot line. The play was originally written by members of the Teatro Libertad, of Tucson, Arizona. It is called "Los Pelados".

The second performance was an interpretation of a drama written by Mexican short story writer, novelist, film scriptwriter, and dramatist, Emilio Carbadillo. His play is entitled "El Censo", or "The Census". It is a satire against the deceptions of lower status working folk in their relationship to the government, especially the census takers. However, it also gives a sympathetic and, at times, humorous view of the living and working conditions of the less privileged members of Mexican society. Again, only a portion of this drama is acted but, like the previous, it is effective in its enactment. The players, not necessarily in order of appearance,

were: Martha Valle, Martha Rodríguez, Corina Soto, Elba Caballero, Yolanda Valle, Julio Monroy, Jeff Poggi, and Chris O'Grady. Most of these students participated in both plays in a worthwhile effort.

The third play acted before a large and appreciative audience the evening of May 3, 1984, at the Barn was an Acto by Luis Valdés entitled "Los Vendidos." This famous satire was performed by the Teatro Quinto Sol. It ridicules those Chicanos who would embrace wholeheartedly the Anglo culture while rejecting their Latino heritage. The satire is as potent today as it was when first put on by the Teatro Campesino some twenty years ago. The force of the drama was reinforced by some notable strong, individual performances, although the overall acting was energetic and accomplished, something to be expected from a group which is showing its dedication and coherence since being re-established two years ago. The actors, in order of appearance, were: Jorge Hernández, Damaris de la Torre, Carol Ortega, María Mares, Esperanza Guzmán, Alfredo Hernández, Lina Ortiz, Cesario Perez, Verónica Ortega, Mary Balderrama, Josefina Canchola, and Ernesto Medrano.

The audience enjoyed the fictional worlds depicted in the dramas which had Spanish and English dialogue. Although not directly concerned with the actual events of the Cinco de Mayo occurrence, the dramas do relate because of their social, cultural, and political implications. It was fitting that they should be performed on the commemoration of this historic date.



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"Los Vendidos" Performed by Teatro Quinto Sol

Third Annual "Medicine Ways Conference"

Saturday, May 26, 1984



1 pm - Midnight

Speakers 1-6 pm

Pow Wow &
Peon Tournament
7:00 pm

Free - Open to the Public

Bell Tower Mall
University of California,
Riverside

The Native American Students at the University of California, Riverside would like to invite the public to attend our Medicine Ways Conference to be held on Saturday, May 26th.

The theme of our Medicine Ways Conference, "Return to the Land," is an attempt to convey a truly meaningful understanding of the American Indian and his ways and beliefs. Indeed, we hope to bring awareness, unity, and traditional spirituality to all people.

Jose Limón on Speech Play

On May 10, Dr. Jose Limón from the University of Austin came to give a lecture on *Chicanos and Speech Play; Power, Ideology and Discourse*. His main focus was on an analysis written by Samuel Ramos, "El Papel del Hombre y Cultura en Mexico."

Ramos viewed what he called speech play used by the lower class Mexicano not as play but instead as way in which he fitted into his "machismo" image. Ramos also considered speech play by the lower class Mexicano as being very cruel and a type of "chingaderas", that they rudely used to communicate with each other. Ramos also considered the lower class Mexicano as a "pelado", a thug, uneducated, violent, disrespectful, law breaker, and as a form of human rubbish of Mexican society; and because of his antagonistic attitude towards society, the smallest friction caused him to blow up. This is the reason why Ramos concluded his analysis by stating that the Mexican lower class speech play is indicative of their aggressiveness and dangerous behavior. What Ramos did not anticipate was the

impact that his analysis would have on the upper class Mexicanos. Since the lower class Mexicanos were illiterate they had no awareness of what Ramos was writing about them. The upper class Mexicanos considered the lower class citizens as being violence prone, and individuals who retaliated against the societal establishments and the upper class. After reading Ramos' analysis, it helped them reinforce their stereotypes and prejudices that they had of the lower class Mexicano. They sought more control over their social behavior before they became a threat.

Dr. Limón also mentioned how this same issue existed years later in the United States among the upper class Anglo and the Pachuco. In his book "The Labyrinth of Solitude", Octavio Paz characterized a Pachuco of the 1940s in the same way that Ramos had characterized the lower class Mexicano. During this period the Pachuco rebelled against societal oppression by rioting. Therefore the upper class Anglo perceived him as being a "gangster" and violence oriented because of his

language, dress code, and his behavior. Paz's book reinforced the stereotypes and prejudice of the upper class citizen and thus also the need to control and restrict the Pachuco and his negative behavior toward society.

Dr. Limón disagreed with the analysis done by Ramos of the lower class Mexicano and Paz's analysis of the Pachuco. He also disagreed with the negative perception by both the upper classes in Mexico and the United States. Dr. Limón stated that for society, speech play is only symbols of oppression, political, social, and economic concerns, but for the lower class Mexicano and the Pachuco instead of being a way of insulting and alienating each other, speech play was a way of solidifying their friendship bonds. To the lower class Mexicano, word playing is in fact not a method through which individuals gain power over members of their own social strata, but rather is in fact a type of play which results not in harm or violence but in a stronger sense of "amistad". Limón concluded his lecture by stating that speech play by both the lower class Mexicanos and Pachuchos are not indications that they are violent people, but rather games that are used by individuals to gain respect from their peers in a non violent or harmful way.

The Candidacy of Jesse Jackson

by Al Treviño

There has recently been much commentary both written and spoken on the Reverend Jesse Jackson's campaign for President of the United States. Jackson has attracted much attention and received a great amount of respect from the political analysts as a result of major victories in Louisiana and the District of Columbia, and very strong showings in several other states. He has accomplished this on a budget of less than two million dollars, while his opponents have jointly spent over 20 million dollars in their campaigns.

As the California Primary approaches, it is important for Latinos to support a candidate who will address and deal with issues that directly affect them. This is especially so considering that Latinos comprise the largest minority group in California. While the other Democratic contenders, Gary Hart and Walter Mondale, have been discussing such non-substantive issues as "Where's the beef?" and consequently making "political dogmeat" of each other, Jackson has been addressing the issues and concerns that affect Latinos. In particular, he has focused upon jobs, education, civil rights and world peace. Jackson's campaign agenda could be seen as crucial to Latinos since it is our communities which are suffering from poverty, inadequate housing, poor educational opportunities and unemployment in the United States.

In international politics, while Hart and Mondale vacillate on

the issues of Central America and the Middle East crisis, Jackson has consistently advocated a non-interventionist position and a peace policy. Jackson recognizes that over a third of our Armed Forces are composed of minorities, principally Latinos and Blacks. Furthermore, many of these people are forced to join the military due to a lack of education and employment opportunities. Jackson states that the present military "gunboat" policy of the Reagan Administration has already led to the deaths of many U.S. soldiers in Beirut, nearly half of the casualties being Blacks and Latinos. Jackson correctly opposed Nixon's South East Asian policies in the past, and today he opposes Reagan's military adventurism in the Middle East and Central America.

At a forum held at Arizona State University, Jackson reiterated quite clearly that instead of sending bombs, tanks, guns and military advisors to Central America, we should be sending seed, fertilizer, tractors and agricultural advisors. He went on to say that Nicaragua is on the right side of history and their sovereignty should be respected. Jackson's positions on these international issues are the most progressive of the candidates.

There still exists the possibility that Reagan could be re-elected which could have disastrous results. It is quite conceivable that a Reagan victory could result in the fifth U.S. invasion of Central America since World War II.

Latinos would have orders to kill their own Latino brothers. This same situation could occur in South Africa if resistance to the Apartheid government continues. Blacks would have orders to kill their own Black brothers.

Few candidates in recent political history have dealt with the social and economic concerns of the poor and minority populations as Jackson has. Therefore, it is significant that he has advocated a



reduction in military expenditures, and an increase in resources for social services, such as job training, improved health and child care programs, and education. Jackson's campaign has brought together people of all ages and colors in an effort to bring about unity and social reform in the United States.

Some of Jackson's proposals for economic recovery include raising of corporate taxes so that big

business will pay its fair share; a full employment bill; and rebuilding of the American infrastructure of roads, bridges, waterways, railroads, factories and schools. Jackson has also emphasized Black and Latino youth who are a large part of the unemployment rate.

Besides the economic and employment issues, electoral reform has been a major concern to Jackson. He points out that gerrymandering, dual primaries, and complex registration procedures have effectively prevented many Latino and Black candidates from winning elections. In California, gerrymandering has hindered Latinos from obtaining proper political representation at both the local and national level. Presently, Latinos account for nearly 20% of the California population, but have only three congressmen out of forty-five in the California delegation to Washington. Locally, minorities compose 25% of the population in the city of Riverside, yet there are no minorities in the city council or elected officials in the county government.

Perhaps the most important and significant aspect of Jackson's campaign has been his effect on voter registration. Millions of new voters formerly disenfranchised can now use their ballot power to defeat the pro-rich mentality seen in the Reagan Administration. This ballot strength can send more Jackson delegates to San Francisco, site of the '84 Democratic National Convention.

These delegates can be instrumental in developing a progressive party platform, and in initiating discussion of issues central to the lives of the poor. As the California June 5th primary nears, the Jackson delegate count continues to grow. Presently, nearly 300 delegates are committed to his candidacy and another 200 are expected to join his ranks by the July Democratic National Convention.

To encourage minority participation and civic reform, Jackson encourages the formation of a Rainbow Coalition. These broad-based social action coalitions as well as civil rights groups and community organizations will be essential to address and improve the political, social, and economic condition of all oppressed peoples. The Riverside coalition, which is co-chaired by Norman Copeland, a minister, and Gilbert Gutierrez, an attorney, is currently working towards increasing the participation of communities with large members of poor and minority members in electoral politics through voter education and registration drives.

Finally, do not let the cynical, uninformed and opportunist dissuade you from voting for Reverend Jackson on June 5th. He is the only candidate that consistently advocates progressive change in the U.S. for all its citizens. Consequently, it is important to support Jackson for President with a hope for change in the U.S. foreign and domestic policy.

Mexican Americans in the Educational System

by Adalberto Aguirre, Jr.

Mexican Americans are the fastest growing ethnolinguistic group in the United States, registering a twenty-five percent increase in number between 1973 and 1980. Of the more than thirteen million U.S. residents of Hispanic origin identified in the 1980 census, the largest group is Mexicans with nearly eight million persons. Despite the increase in size, the Mexican American population has yet to experience significant changes in its occupational and educational condition in American society. For instance, in 1980 48% of all Mexican American workers were employed as either operatives or service workers, compared with 14% of the White population. In addition, for 1980, a large proportion (36%) of the Mexican American population had completed only eight years or less of formal schooling, compared with 12% of the White population. It may be obvious that the large number of undereducated Mexican American persons results in most of these persons occupying

marginal occupations in the U.S. labor force.

Our purpose in this essay is to take a birds-eye view of the Mexican American educational experience. As such, this essay will not do justice to the topic, as much as its purpose is to highlight serious problems in the educational attainment of the Mexican American community. As a general observation, let me point out the following: (a) in 1980, the high school completion rate for Mexican Americans was 30% below the completion rate for White persons, and (b) in 1980, the college completion rate for Mexican Americans was 70% below the completion rate for White persons. The relatively few Mexican Americans who complete high school, and who continue on into college have less than a 30% chance of completing college. One could argue that ethnic-specific college support services should increase the chance that Mexican American students will succeed in college. However, one must realize that these are 1980 figures, and

such college support services have been around since the 1960's. In short, a whole generation of Mexican Americans should have been affected by the presence of these services in order to increase their presence on the college campuses across America. While these programs may have increased the entry of Mexican American students into the colleges, they may not have increased their exit numbers.

A commonsense interpretation of the preceding issues is the following. Let's start with a group of 100 Mexican American students entering kindergarten. By the time these students reach the ninth grade, there will only be 60 from the original group in school. Given the high school non-completion rate of 55% for Mexican Americans, only 33 of those 60 will graduate from school. From these 33, 40% will enroll at a two-year community college, 25% will enroll at a four-year college, and the rest will enter the job market. Of those that go on to college, only 2% will complete the requirements for a

four-year degree. In short, when one talks about college educated Mexican Americans, we are referring to a very small number of persons.

While the numbers illustrate the pattern, let's not forget that these numbers are the way they are because educational institutions suffer from a wide range of social and human problems. We do know that Mexican American children are at a disadvantage in a school environment that is largely geared toward an English-speaking, middle-class, White student. We also know that schools have not responded very well to desegregation efforts that would enhance the pluralistic nature of the school environment and translate an educational disadvantage into an advantage. What we do not know is how we can improve the educational experience of the Mexican American student. We may know what has an effect on Mexican American children, but we are still unable to use this knowledge to change their educational situations.

The educational condition of the Mexican American community is not a healthy one. If everything remains relatively stable, then it will be a long time before the Mexican American community counts among its number a visible

generation of college educated persons. One immediate consequence of having a small pool of college educated persons is that there will be an even smaller pool of persons that will pursue graduate and professional study. As a result, for example, the number of Mexican American faculty in postsecondary institutions will continue to be small.

Finally, it is very difficult to discuss the educational system in American society simply because its primary responsibility is not to educate, but to support the social distribution of rewards by class background. For Mexican Americans, it is difficult to ask an institution to educate you when it is simply designed to guarantee that your quality of life will correspond with your social class. That Mexican Americans are victims in the present educational environment is a given—that is, the institutional nature of modern society makes us all victims. What differentiates Mexican American students from White students is that the latter have adapted to the role of victim in order to reduce their casualties in education. While Mexican American students may identify themselves as victims, they have not learned how not to become a casualty in a mass-oriented system of education.

Chicano Studies Open House



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Speakers, dancers, music, and above all, a beautiful day to enjoy friends and becoming aware of the educational opportunities for Chicanos at UCR. That was the Chicano Studies Open House on Sunday, April 29, 1984. Top right-the late Chancellor Tomás Rivera addressing the audience. Right-the **Mexicayotl group** awaits its cue to entertain. Bottom right-a quartet of dancers performs. Bottom-part of the crowd which enjoyed the festivities. Top-Elba Caballero with a clownish smile fills balloons.



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Prosa

Driving Home

by Patty Valentine

Imagine setting your oven at 450 degrees-let it warm-up-now open the oven door--whew! Feel the heat rushing out and hitting directly onto your face? Well, that's what I'm feeling as I am driving home to see my folks. It is so hot--I swear I am entering one large oven. I'm sure glad I'm wearing this summer dress, the kind with spaghetti straps. Darn the slip, though, if it weren't for the thin material of this dress, I'd have no need for this. It's sticking to my thighs like a wet cloth. I would of worn shorts, but my parents like to see me in dresses...

No wonder they call these 'bucket seats'-- I feel like I'm in a bucket, sunken in the seat. Wish I had a cushion: feels like I'm lowriding. Hey look at me man, I's lowridin' to Indio...

My father, he sure is old now. What, about 83 years old I guess. Gosh, I know people whose grandparents are younger than that. It's occurred to me why mom married a man twenty years older than herself--must of been true love. Don't blame her, Dad was looking good in his days. Wonder if I still have the picture of him all slicked up. He's wearing khakis, worn slightly baggy then, long thin chain hanging from his waist band down to almost his knees and up to his pocket--and those shoes, spit-shined of course. The white shirt buttoned to the top--long sleeves with cuff links and all. Oh, and that hair--slicked back into a duck tail with so much grease it's a wonder the girls hanging on him didn't slide off. Yeah, he was looking real good...

Darn this hot weather. And where's the air conditioner when you need one! This cheap car. Actually it's not too bad, this is a good car. It's all I have anyway. At least it's never left me stranded in this hot desert. What would I do if it just gave out on me, right here in the middle of nowhere? Scary thought. Heck-- a tire blowout I can handle--I've changed tires before. But what if it's something mechanical? Oh no, let me see...what did I learn in that auto class way back in high school? That's a laugh, six years ago, can't remember a thing. I remember learning the parts of the brakes and how to steam clean an engine, but what good would it do me? Silly me. Don't worry gal, the car sounds good. It's even humming a song,

hear it? What's that 'thump' sound? Oops, stepping over the dividers! No problem, I'll just pretend I'm changing lanes then the person behind me won't think I'm drunk or something...

I don't understand why my parents didn't move to Glend when I started college there. 'No,' dad said it was too cold up in the mountains. He'd freeze to death is what he said. Mom--she was willing, her little girl going away to college, but dad's still boss...

Mom; for being 63 years old, she sure has a lot of spirit left in her. Can't see the gray-cuz of the Clair--she could pass for 50. She's still pretty strong, considering she's raised eight kids. Still does all the chores and cooking, even has time to crochet for the grandkids! Some woman! I love to see her reactions when she's watching the soaps. She gets so carried away yelling at the bad guys and rooting for the good...

This sure is a boring ride. Even my radio has gone to sleep. I guess the antenna isn't strong enough to catch the frequencies. Don't blame them for not wanting to come out into the desert anyway.

Are those bike trails on the hills? Can't be ant trails. Who in their right mind would ride a motorcycle in this heat? I guess those trails were made during the cooler weather. If there is cooler weather out here...

Flat land as far as I can see on one side, hills on the other. Tumble weeds blowing freely across the highway just get in my way baby and I'll run you over! How do those little brown bushes grow in this arid house of the devil, anyway?

And what are you staring at? Those truck drivers sit up there so high that they can just look down, right into your cleavage. They always have to slow down just long enough to sneer, whistle, and blow their horn, then, they drive off remembering they've got a delivery that's got to be on time. Men!

What did mom use to say? 'You wouldn't know they were staring if you weren't looking their way also'--so true mother.

Hey, is that civilization up ahead? Sure is, I see real colors--greens, blues, reds. Finally. The ride wasn't too bad, though. It's not so hot anymore, is that a breeze I feel? Great! How ya doin' home town? Good to see ya....

The Pride of a Mexican

by Consuelo Preciado

In our attempts to adjust to the mainstream of American life, we as Mexicans must recognize the importance of searching for the roots of our own culture. We must realize that our race is unique and that it has a history of its own.

The roots of our race are buried deep, but only the blind fail to see that they are there - strong, giving us what is necessary to confront a cruel society which does not accept the value of being Mexican.

However, even in small groups of young Mexican students, there exists a desire to deny their own heritage and they are anxious to become accepted individuals of a white society. What has caused them to become ashamed and to want to identify themselves as people they're not? Perhaps, their own schools, teachers, themselves?

Our educational system, from the elementary through high school levels, lack in teaching us and almost totally ignore our Mexican Culture. Therefore, we as students, in our ignorance and unawareness, succumb to the false belief that the Mexican race is supposed to be inferior.

I am a Mexican high school student and I am proud. I have been fortunate enough to begin to search for my roots at an 'early age.' I have stumbled through the pages of precious writings that reveal some truths about my people. I have read about our constant struggle, hardships as well as the beliefs and customs which are so much a tapestry of the Mexican race. Through these pages I have acquired knowledge, but most important, I have discovered in me an intense love and pride - an awareness of who I am. Of course, these books were not furnished by the Los Angeles Unified School District - they were not written by white men analysing our people - rather, they were written by us, about us, and for us.

The reality of knowing that my people are still suffering through injustice, low educational systems, low paying jobs, poor housing, hunger - saddens me. But, it also inspires me to go on in efforts to help my people achieve social justice. Through my education, I feel strong because I'm making it useful to me. Education is like power - either you use it well or you don't use it at all. Through this power I plan to accomplish my goal - my eventual success. I as a Mexican, will owe it to you.



A Matter of Ethics:

The Reagan Administration Assessed

by Joel Perez

The 1984 Presidential elections will soon take place. So what? say some, it does not matter which politics or party is in power; all politicians are alike. And so they elect not to vote, thus leaving it to others to choose who will make those decisions which will affect every sector of all of our lives.

But is it true, really, that one leader's philosophy and ideology is pretty much the same as another's and that we, therefore, should not bother to try and change the power hierarchy of this nation?

This question is particularly pertinent and important to members of minority groups in this country since they usually bear the burden of adverse decisions made by the president and members of the executive branch.

If we focus on the Reagan Administration and its particular brand of ethics perhaps we can help answer the question posed above on at least a moral level. Since any ethical stance will be reflected in concrete and specific actions, it is clear that identifying and recognizing such a posture is important in an election year. The last three and one half years have witnessed a host of examples regarding the incumbent administration's ethics.

James Watts as Secretary of the Interior sold off at below market value vast mineral reserves to companies which had received secret data on the properties and government's plans for them. In addition, he committed various blunders against groups and individuals, all of which he and his boss, Reagan, excused frivolously. He finally decided to resign after he had alienated and insulted the three largest groups of minorities in this country: Blacks, Latinos, and Jews. Just the same, he received a nice warm letter of departure from Reagan, and the issue of wrongdoing was dead and moot from their standpoint.

At the Environmental Protection Agency, a scandal slowly developed over the political manipulation of the agency's clean-up funds and about a dozen of its officials quit. Rita Lavelle, a high ranking member, was convicted of lying to Congress and of passing along investigation reports to the very companies under investigation. Reagan did change the leadership of the Agency, but only after much moral damage had been done. The assessment of the physical damages to the environment and to people is still being compiled.

United States Information Chief Charles Z. Wick reluctantly admitted that he had secretly taped over eighty conversations with diverse individuals. At first he had denied it, but later apologized to those persons. Still in character, Reagan defended Wicks as an honorable man. The USIA also kept a secret "blacklist" file of U.S. citizens considered too liberal to be invited to speak overseas by the agency. This list included such

personalities as Coretta Scott King. When this came to light Wicks promised to do something about it. A lawyer employee quickly burned hundreds of documents which told how the list was prepared. So much for ethics.

James Baker, the White House Chief of Staff, and CIA director William Casey became embroiled in a controversy regarding stolen 1980 campaign debate briefing papers. Not surprisingly, nobody knew much nor considered it to be a very serious matter; just some high jinks which are inevitable in an election year. Just recently, a federal judge thought otherwise and ordered Attorney General William French Smith to find an independent prosecutor to investigate what is not such a bizarre case for the Reagan administration to be involved in. Smith himself had a few problems regarding his own ideas of morality. He had to return \$50,000 in questionable severance pay. His tax shelter troubles did not prompt the issue of questionable ethics from Reagan either. Perhaps the fact that he himself had taken advantage of a few tax breaks while he was governor of California settled the matter for him.

Former FAA Chief J. Lynn Helms has had to go to court to explain how he and a business partner could have been given over \$38 million of mostly unsecured loans. At the moment he does not appear to be too cooperative since he took the Fifth Amendment protection 89 times.

Ex-OSHA head Thorne Aachter is under investigation for possible violations of the law when he proposed that fines be dropped against a company which he later joined. Paul Thayer, a high ranking official in the Pentagon, resigned when he was accused of insider trading that rewarded some of his associates with \$2 million.

"Not Surprisingly, nobody knew much"

At this point it should be clear that the moral values of the Reagan Administration are not in any sense exemplary. They leave something to be desired. Nevertheless, they do reveal a pattern of a way of thinking and acting; a point of view which allows these people in high positions to use double standards for themselves and their friends, and for those less fortunate.

Remember Edwin Meese? Yes, he is that perceptive man who stated one Christmas that there was no hunger in this nation. He is also the same person who was nominated to replace the embattled Attorney General French Smith, but who has come upon some embarrassing moments himself. It seems there are many

questions regarding some financial dealings as well as some jobs he gave his friends as a consequence. There are other minor hitches as well. Some rules were slightly bent to allow him to become a full Colonel in the Army active reserve.

The more the Senate Judiciary Committee probes into the activities of this stalwart friend of the President, the more it discovers the depths of the moral morass this man has been wading in. Curiously, Reagan has not defended this friend as yet, but maybe he already has a nice letter of farewell written, just in case. He may find it difficult to have Meese depart for more friendly and profitable pastures, nonetheless, for he has been loyal beyond the call of duty. When the Reagan Administration was criticized by Senator Kennedy for its dismal record in appointing minority federal judges, he replied that it was not a disgraceful record to have only two minority federal judges out of 124. He, of course, has been one of Reagan's advisors in this matter.

With this type of mentality and moral behavior, it is not out of character to find the Reagan Administration attacking and attempting to roll back many of the gains minorities and other groups have accomplished in the last twenty years. For instance, the Justice Department has gone to court to challenge its own bias decree which was supposed to help Blacks and women win promotions in the Birmingham Alabama police department. In a similar action, this department also asked a federal court to overturn a court-approved agreement that would allow one Black police officer to be promoted for every White one until there is a 50% makeup of both groups in New Orleans.

In a more far-reaching action, Reagan had fired three liberal members of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. However, the House is trying to wrest control out of Reagan's hands and to take the Commission under its protection. The House is also attempting to save legal advice for the poor, a service that Reagan has tried to kill since he took office. One of the methods he used was to appoint his own hand-picked lawyers to run the program. These lawyers were found to be costing the underfunded program considerably more than the previous counselors had. The Reagan Administration defended this fact by saying that the good lawyers cost money. Indeed.

Money, when it is used by the proper person, has never been of great concern to the Reagan gang. William French Smith, for instance, made a world-wide trip in 1982 to promote drug control which cost \$683,000, not including the costs for 37 other Justice Department and FBI agents. It has been noted frequently that Reagan has spent one out of every

ten days in office at his California ranch. The costs involved are justified, he says, since a president always takes his work with him. Occasionally he also takes along a \$58,000 a year Commerce Department employee to clean out his ranch stables. For a man who finds all the answers to life's problems in the Bible, this president seems not to have been inspired to feel pity for the poor and defenseless. But then the country club company he keeps does not promote such altruistic motives. It is a case of monkey not see, monkey not do.

These assessments are not harsh nor unfair, given the evidence and the circumstances. Columnist James Reston has called Reagan an "authentic phoney." His colleague, Anthony Lewis, has written that Reagan is a "man who is void at the center." This lack of moral center has produced such further grotesque ironies as the Reagan Administration going to court to fight against a bill that

"A man who is void at the center"

would deny any federal funds to institutions that discriminate in any of their programs. This administration talks through both sides of its mouth. It says it is against discrimination, yet musters its political and economic muscle to ensure the opposite.

At times, its antics take on a comic aspect. For example, one of its high ranking officials inferred that the administration would not mind the United Nations Headquarters being removed from U.S. territory. Another complained that the U.S. was contemplating pulling out of UNESCO since too many countries were voting against U.S. policies. These officials are apparently saying, since the rules have changed, we should take our marbles and go home. That should be great revenge since we have most of them anyway.

But these are not games in which

children engage. In that respect any such ideas and thinking can have serious results and repercussions. Take the U.S. mining of Nicaraguan waters as an example. When this small Latin American country complained to the World Court that the CIA had mined its harbors, the U.S. quickly replied that it would not be held by the Court's opinion for a period of two years. In other words, its a case of let's make up our own rules as we go along, as long as they are favorable to us. That is symptomatic of the ethical stance of the entire Reagan Administration these past three years.

Many commentators have warned that the administration is waiting until after the 1984 elections to pursue a more vigorous and overt military policy in Central America if it is successful in the elections. Given its predilection for equating proper morals with what it defines as such, the warning becomes a possible reality which should sober us all. We should only have to reflect on the Lebanon fiasco to realize that the 259 U.S. soldiers who needlessly died there could easily be multiplied a hundredfold if Reagan decides that the "red menace" is threatening our national security—has anyone ever defined that? It would be too much to expect him to understand that our own blind and selfish insistence on supporting brutal right wing dictators is a fundamental root of the problem.

Therefore, to avoid more needless bloodshed and deaths both at home and abroad, and to alleviate the division of this nation between the haves and the have nots, the Reagan Administration should be dealt with directly: through the ballot box. A concerted vote against Reagan and his ilk will be a clear statement that their ethics have been found wanting. Perhaps then this country will take care of its poor and needy instead of its already well-off, and will not be afraid of sending doctors, teachers, and engineers to other countries instead of guns and other means of destruction.

The choice is simple, really. Its a matter of ethics.

Chicano Senior Dinner

Saturday June 16, 1984

A & I Cafeteria

Schedule:

6:00-7:00 No-Host Cocktail
7:00-8:00 Dinner
8:00-9:00 Program
9:00-1:00 Dance

Prices: \$6.00 advance
\$7.00 door

For More information call Chicano Studies: 787-3863

Reaganomics:

An Analysis

by Allen Miller

UNEMPLOYMENT AND REAGAN'S "SUCCESSFUL RECOVERY"

Four years ago the Reagan Administration came into office on a promise of revitalizing the American economy and "restoring" prosperity for all. Today, Reagan and his associates are claiming success. What has been the "success" of Reaganomics? To understand this, let's first look at how Reaganomics was supposed to work.

Supply-side economics was supposed to be the miracle cure-all. The problem with the economy, according to its proponents, was that corporations and individuals were over taxed and over regulated. Having to pay too much in taxes and expensive regulation were discouraging businesses from producing and investing. Individuals were discouraged from working harder and longer because excessive taxes were robbing them of the fruits of their labor. At the same time, those who refused to work were being subsidized by the government for their idleness through welfare programs and other forms of assistance, acting as a drag on the economy as a whole. Overall, excessive government spending and taxation were supposedly suffocating the private economy, discouraging productive enterprise and subsidizing nonproduction, causing virtually all of the economic problems of our day.

With this analysis of the problem, the administration proceeded to "relieve" corporations from their burden of over-taxation and regulation, while at the same time carrying out unprecedented cuts in social welfare programs for the poor.

DOWN THE ROLLER-COASTER INTO A DEPRESSION

In the months that followed the implementation of Reagan's economic program the economy slipped into the deepest depression since the Great Crash of the 1930s. Official unemployment rose to over 10% of the work force. More than 22% of all workers were out of work during part of 1982, with the proportions rising for Latino workers (27.1%) and Blacks (33.4%). Among White male teenagers unemployment has stood at over 20%, while among Black teenagers the figure is closer to 60%.

Many of those who are counted by the government as fully employed are really not. Nearly one-fifth of the total work force now works part-time. By 1982 involuntary part-time work had increased 166% over the last dozen years. Nearly one-third of all working women are employed part-time with over one-half being the main support of their families

as single heads of households. By August 1983, official government statistics showed that out of a total work force of 120 million, 11 million were unemployed, 8 million worked involuntarily as part-timers or had simply given up looking for work and were considered no longer officially unemployed. For these 20 million unemployed (about 20% of the work force) the duration of unemployment averaged 20 weeks by the end of 1983.

According to the supply-side "theory," tax cuts were supposed to be an incentive to business to invest and produce, stimulating employment and economic growth. For the first year after Reagan's tax plan went into effect, businesses failed to respond. Despite the virtual elimination of the corporate income tax, investments stayed flat for the first year of Reagan's Administration; after that, it actually fell. All of the forecasts of corporations "producing their way out of the recession" failed to materialize. Instead, the economy sank deeper and deeper into the morass of depression. If Reagan's program of tax cuts, deregulation and cuts in social welfare spending didn't work, then what produced the current spurt of growth in some industries hailed so loudly by Reagan and his supporters as "recovery?"

EMPLOYERS OFFENSIVE AT THE HEIGHT OF THE DEPRESSION

With unemployment levels in the first two years of the Reagan Administration at the record post-war levels described above, employers launched a ruthless offensive against workers and the non-working poor. The objective, successfully achieved to some extent, was to restore profitability by lowering the value of labor power, or in other words, increasing profits by driving down wages in the midst of mass unemployment.

In their campaign, the heads of monopoly corporations such as GM, United States Steel, etc. and their allies in the financial world and in Washington used virtually every weapon at their command: mass layoffs and threats of layoffs; frontal attacks on union pay scales and benefits; inflation, strike breaking, intensified racism and a massive P.R. campaign about the need to meet foreign competition; union busting, speed-up, opposition to affirmative action for women and minorities, as well as the drastic slashing of benefits to the working poor and unemployed and the use of these resources to carry out a program of militarization unparalleled in human history.

Mainly as a result of this all-out attack, championed at the end by the Reagan White House, business interests succeeded in reducing their labor costs. The total effect is

hard to measure, but, for instance, the purchasing power of the average weekly wages paid to workers declined each year for four consecutive years (1979-1982), for a total drop of 12%, with more than half the pay cut exacted in the Reagan years. In this same period, counting both cash and non-cash benefits, the percentage of people living in poverty rose by 47%. It wasn't the "voodoo economics" of tax and social spending cuts that brought on the so-called "recovery," but rather the brute force of attacking the standard of living of workers and the poor.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

Despite all the gloating in Washington these days, Reagan's "recovery" never materialized for many, except perhaps for the auto magnates whose profits soared to record levels this year due to auto workers' give-backs during the height of the Reagan depression. While employment has risen and the official unemployment rate has fallen, Reagan's revelations of perpetual prosperity are sheer fantasy. Official unemployment still stands today at close to 8% of the work force. Industrial production is up less than 5% from the start of the Reagan era, despite a 25% jump in the output of military equipment and 15% in consumer durables. Those gains are largely offset by declines such as an 8% drop in business equipment and a 13% drop in the production of primary metals, including steel. Even the housing construction industry, the single brightest spot on Reagan's economic record, is teetering on the edge of disaster as interest rates are now climbing upwards and rising rates on variable interest loans loom in the background like a time-bomb waiting to go off. Taking this, along with all of the other problems facing the system today (such as the international debt crisis, withdrawal of foreign capital from U.S. credit markets and the will of the American people to struggle against further attacks by big business) the future doesn't look bright for Reagan and his cohorts.

The rhetoric coming from Washington today just like all the nonsense about supply-side economics that preceded it, covers over one essential fact: the crisis is a lot more serious than both government policy makers and Wall Street financiers care to admit. Depressing wages through massive unemployment may give the system a "quick fix" for temporary economic growth, but the fundamental problems still remain.



No Poor in America ?

by Diana Bustamante

A common misconception that the Reagan Administration has vehemently tried to espouse is that there is no poverty in the U.S. This is not true.

Social Security benefits were increased substantially in the early 1970's due in part to the pressures of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's. This took the form of federal Supplementary Security Income programs for the low-income, elderly and disabled.

According to a recent Census Bureau report, the number of impoverished Americans has increased by more than 30% in the last three years. This means that one out of every seven persons in the U.S. is now living in poverty. This is an increase of more than 8 million persons.

Blacks and women, among others. While implementing large budget cuts in social services, the Reagan administration is never too hesitant about bailing out finance capital, providing large tax cuts for the affluent, sending monies to overthrow revolutionary governments, pay for military advisors, support of terrorist governments such as El Salvador, etc.

Perhaps this administration believes that the problems of unemployment and hunger will be or should be, taken as a responsibility of private organizations or individuals. We have seen these programs at work. For example, the distribution program called LIFE (Love Is Feeding Everyone). This "hunger"



The prevailing view of the Reagan Administration is that problems dealing with poverty must wait. We are told by Reagan that resources for reducing poverty are not available, at the same time that the production of the MX missiles at the cost of 1.8 billion dollars will start next year.

A report published last month by the General Accounting Office found that over one half million families with children have been eliminated from AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) programs by the Reagan budget cuts. There have been substantial cuts in other programs as well. These programs include food stamps and unemployment benefits as well as increased funding for families living in public or subsidized housing.

The Reagan Administration budget greatly increases the problems of low-income minorities. The huge expenditures will come partly from cuts in social programs. The 295 billion sought for the Pentagon in 1985 underscores the Administration's discriminatory practices against minorities such as Chicanos.

project does not scrutinize the fact that this absolves the government from fulfilling its responsibility of caring for its poor.

While the humanitarian intentions of these private organizations are well taken, the ultimate responsibility to provide for its destitute population for food, shelter, education and medical care lies with the government. This country prides itself in being a leading defender of human rights, but here in the U.S. these rights are being undermined.

These problems cannot be seen in isolation from the international policy of this country. We must see the connection between how the Pentagon spending increased 18 billion dollars last year while 19 billion was cut from budgets for social services.

We must force this government to fulfill its responsibility to its populace. Food, shelter, medical care, and education are rights that we all should have; they are not privileges. We should abolish the notion that they are privileges.

Only together can we fight this battle against the Reagan Administration. *Pa'lante.*

U.S. Foreign Policy:

Effects at Home and Abroad

CISPES of Riverside

Despite the problems besetting minorities within the boundaries of the United States, minority leaders are spending long hours on foreign policy. Congressman Ronald Dellums is suing the President with violating the Neutrality Act toward Nicaragua. Congressman George Crockett, Mayor Harold Washington and nine other black plaintiffs are participating in the suit against President Reagan for violating the War Powers Resolution with his actions against El Salvador. The Chicano Moratorium will commemorate its 24th year with one of its key themes 'to stop the Vietnamization of Central America.' Russel Means, American Indian Movement leader, visited Nicaragua to obtain accurate information on the treatment of the Indian population.

For example, the United States and its corporations have invested about \$40 billion and loaned about \$350 billion to Latin America. From their viewpoint it was for a good reason. In El Salvador, U.S. electronics and textile firms have set up shop in "Free Trade Zones" where strikes are outlawed and multinationals get special tax breaks. They pay the workers \$4 a day compared to the \$40-50 that U.S. workers would receive. Large landowners pay landless or land-poor farmworkers \$2-3 for a day of picking crops for the export market. As more land was monopolized for export crops, the percentage of landless increased in El Salvador from 11% in 1960 to 41% in 1975. If the people were not unemployed and hungry, they would not work for these wages.

As numerous academic studies have now confirmed poverty is not caused by scarcity, over-

Chicanos had served in Asia with 8,000 being killed in action or died of wounds. The National Chicano Moratorium with 25,000 marchers was held in East Los Angeles on August 29, 1970 to protest the Vietnam War. More than 60% of Black and Hispanic youth and employed, they are most vulnerable to the "poverty draft" and to the military. Lack of affirmative action in employment and education in social welfare cuts help the military. When marines invade Central America, as in Vietnam, minorities can expect disproportionate front line action and the deaths that accompany it.

Military affects the minorities' search for jobs in two other respects. The military protects plants moved overseas and helps stagnant job creation at home. Two Cornell economists concluded that in 1970 the effect of the actual 10 billion in American

proposed a \$30 billion cut in foreign intervention expenditures such as air craft carriers and the Rapid Deployment Force. While nuclear funding gets much publicity it is estimated that 80% of all U.S. military spending is for conventional military purposes.

One study estimated for every billion spent on defense, Afro-Americans lose 1,300 jobs. Defense industries are so capital intensive a billion dollars creates 45,800 jobs. In comparison, billion dollars would create 58,000 jobs in mass transit construction or 98,000 in public service employment. As importantly, civilian sectors provide products and services which can raise the standard of living. Martin Luther King about one year before his death, delivered a speech on Vietnam. He stated:

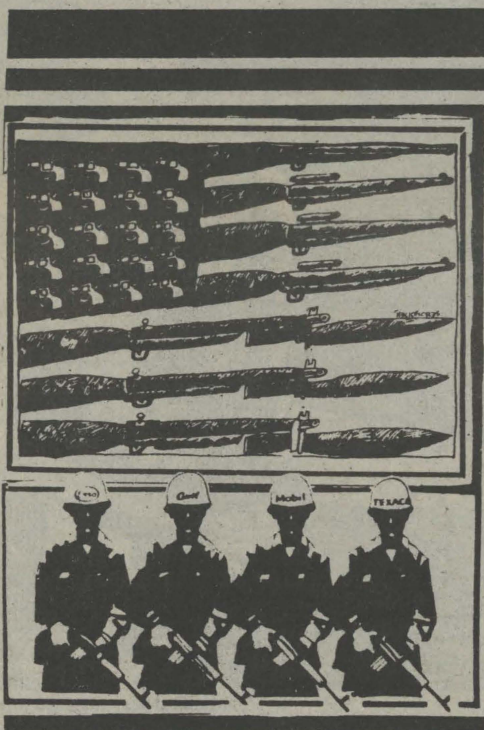
"Then came the build-up in Vietnam and I watched the

thought he was Japanese. They were fined \$3,000 and 3 years probation by a judge who said that he could "sympathize" with their plight. Increasingly Mexican and Central American immigrants are accused of taking "Americans" jobs.

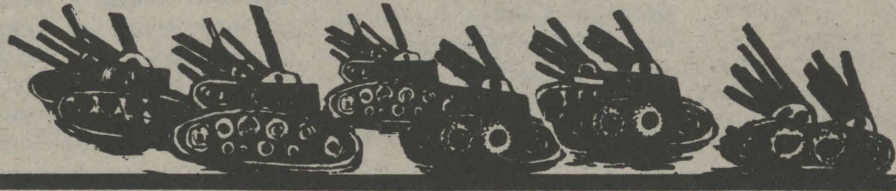
Some economists and politicians contend we can make an end run around all of these problems by investing in the "new" high technology industries.

The poverty programs never solved the basic reasons for poverty but they did transfer a significant amount of income. In 1976, 27% of the population had incomes below the official poverty line. After government payments it was reduced to 8.1%. This trend is being reversed by Reagan's war policies and budget.

However, labor department economists calculate that by 1995



RIISING MILITARISM HAS REAGAN GOT YOU WORRIED ABOUT MID- EAST? EL SALVDOR? NUCLEAR WAR?



What has become increasingly evident to these leaders, as well as an increasing proportion of the American public, is the moral bankruptcy of U.S. foreign policy as well as its direct consequences on the quality of life in the United States. The consistent support given dictators and repressive regimes by President Reagan and previous Administrations has been relatively well documented by human rights commissions and media exposees. However, insufficient attention has been given on the question for whom U.S. foreign policy is conducted. It is not for stupidity and ignorance's sake as many liberal critics would contend. Repressive regimes keep Third World workers and peasants from attaining just living conditions. This lowered standard of living means raised profit levels for the wealthy elites in these countries and multinational corporations with which they collaborate

cultural or technological ignorance, or the Soviets but by hunger. Even a pro-Reagan magazine as U.S. News and World Report has conceded that after 4 years of revolution in Nicaragua there is no malnutrition. The main reason is that people were given access to the land. Consequently production of domestic foodstuffs rose 15-25%.

But multinationals operate on a world scale in search of high profits not justice. It is conservatively estimated that returns on investment in the Caribbean are 30% compared to 17% average in the United States. U.S. plants move overseas not because they are losing money but to make higher profits under repressive regimes.

The consequences of this type of foreign policy for the average American are disastrous. Racism amplifies these impacts on the minority communities. In 1970 during the Vietnam War 27,000

foreign investments was an average domestic job loss for 160,000 jobs. Also, wages were significantly lower than if an equivalent amount had been invested domestically. Many of the plants moving abroad are in basic industries such as steel where minorities have achieved some, even if insufficient, affirmative action gains. Traditional industrial zones such as Southgate the Los Angeles area face high unemployment rates. Meanwhile Kaiser Steel in Fontana has closed most of its plant and plans to import steel from Brazil to refine. A country which has done much to refine the art of repression.

The money devoted to the military budget does not stimulate the economy like other investments. The Congressional Black Caucus and Congressman Dellum's alternative defense budget proposal was the only one to propose a cut in real terms in defense expenditure. One part

program (poverty program) broken and eviscerated as if it were some ideal political plaything of a society gone mad on war, and I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continue to draw men and skills and money like some demonic suction tube. So I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it as such."

The relevance of King's words still stand today. With nearly half of American scientists involved in defense research and U.S. corporations investing abroad rather than domestically, many foreign firms can successfully compete in the U.S. market. Unfortunately foreign workers are too often blamed for the decisions of U.S. firms. Racism has increased as a result. A Vietnamese-American was killed by auto workers because they

high technology occupations will total only 471,000 jobs. Meanwhile there will be 779,000 new building custodians for a total of 3.6 million.

The solution to creating a new U.S. foreign policy is complex. One important element is understanding the relationships between foreign policy and its domestic consequences. There are already many actions in this direction. The National Chicano Moratorium commemoration on September 1st will be linking the issues. The August, 1983 march on Washington with over 300,000 participants started to build a rainbow coalition with the demand of "jobs, peace, and freedom." Rainbow coalitions are now being formed across the country. This is fortunate. United States foreign policy is a giant that will take perseverance and united action to topple.

Fuerte sentimiento anti-Reagan en primarias

Reprinted from *Voz del Pueblo*
Vol. 6 no. 27
April 14, 1984.

A pesar de que sus nombres no figuraban en las listas electorales, el presidente Ronald y el alcalde Edward Koch fueron los grandes perdedores en las elecciones primarias del Partido Demócrata celebradas en el estado de Nueva York el pasado 2 de Abril.

La cifra record de 1 millón 200 mil electores que participaron en estos comicios sobrepaso en 200 mil votantes al total de personas que fueron a las urnas en las primarias demócratas de 1980. Este aumento se atribuye a la gran cantidad de nuevos votantes que se inscribieron como resultado de la campana del Reverendo Jesse Jackson y al deseo de los electores demócratas de escoger un candidato capaz de centrar sus campana en las cuestiones de importancia para el pueblo y de movilizar las fuerzas necesarias para derrotar a Reagan.

El impacto formidable de la candidatura de Jesse Jackson se puede medir por los resultados. Jackson obtuvo el 26 por ciento del total de los votos, muy cerca de Gary Hart, quien logro el 27 por ciento. Mondale, por su parte, obtuvo el 45 por ciento.

Especialmente significativo fue el fuerte respaldo logrado por Jackson entre los electores de la ciudad de Nueva York, que constituyen mas de la mitad del total de los votos de todo el estado.

El candidato negro obtuvo el 33 por ciento de los sufragios emitidos en la ciudad, y saco el mayor número de votos en cinco distritos congresionales. El 87 por ciento de los votantes negros de la ciudad de Nueva York votaron a su favor.

Cifra record de votantes negros

La participacion electoral en los distritos predominantemente negros y de otras nacionalidades oprimidas fue entre las mas altas de todo el estado. El numero de votantes negros que se acercaron a las urnas en todo el estado fue mayor que el porcentaje de residentes negros que hay en la ciudad de Nueva York, manifestandose asi una tendencia

que se ha venido dando en otros estados. De esta forma, el voto de los electores negros constituyo cerca de una cuarta parte de la votación total a nivel estatal, superando muchas veces el tradicional 5 por ciento de pasadas elecciones.

Jackson también se alzo con el 6 por ciento de los votos emitidos por los electores blancos en todo el estado y saco mas votos que Mondale y Hart entre los electores menores de 30 años de edad. En las primarias celebradas hasta ahora

que ya debe estar preocupando al alcalde Koch, quien aspira a ser reeligido a su cargo el proximo año. Las fuerzas que se movilizaron y votaron por Jackson son las mismas que están al frente de la lucha por sacar a Koch de la alcaldía. En sus dos periodos como alcalde, Koch ha promovido las divisiones raciales, los cortes en importantes servicios sociales y la reduccion en los salarios y los beneficios laborales de los trabajadores del sector publico.

Enfatizando la importancia del

la misma".

La votacion en favor de Walter Mondale fue mas o menos pareja en todo el estado, habiendo obtenido el 45 por ciento del total de los votos tanto en la ciudad de Nueva York como en el resto del estado.

El voto obrero El apoyo del movimiento obrero organizado jugo un papel importante en la victoria lograda por Mondale en las primarias neoyorquinas. El voto de los obreros y de sus respectivas familias constituyo el

Hart incluso logro mas votos de obreros que Mondale, pero la fuerte campana desplegada por los sindicatos para exhortar a los electores a votar por Mondale y la mayor atencion que este le ha dado a los problemas economicos cruciales que afectan al pais ha ido cambiando la situacion un poco a su favor.

La mayor parte del respaldo logrado por Mondale en Nueva York surgio de electores que consideran que las posiciones del expresidente son fuertes en cuanto a problemas como el desempleo, el control de armamentos y la restauración de los programas sociales que han sido cortados por Reagan.

En las primarias realizadas en otros estados, Hart utilizó a su favor el problema del control de armamentos y logro que el electorado lo considerara con mejores posiciones en pro de la paz que Mondale. Pero en Nueva York Mondale tomó la ofensiva, acentuando su posición en cuanto a la importancia de lograr un congelamiento nuclear y favorecia una política de "build down", consistente en reemplazarlos viejos sistemas de armamentos por menos pero mas modernos y mortíferos sistemas.

A pesar de haberse gastado \$1 millón de dolares en propaganda, Hart no logro resultados excepcionales en ningún sector del electorado. No obstante, junto con Jesse Jackson, Hart contribuyo a darle vida al debate electoral al obligar a Mondale a referirse al grave problema de la intervencion de Estados Unidos en Centroamerica. El equipo de campana de Mondale cayo en cuenta de la acogida positiva que esta teniendo entre el electorado la oposición de Jackson y Hart a la politica intervencionista en Centroamerica. Yes asi como Mondale finalmente declaro que de ser elegido presidente sacaria las tropas noreamericanas de esa region, dejando la puerta abierta sin embargo, para alguna presencia militar de norteamerica en esa area.



en otros estados, Hart ha tenido mejor suerte que los demas candidatos en grupo de votantes que están entre los 18 y los 30 años.

Ademas de ayudar a atraer nuevas fuerzas a la arena politica, la candidatura de Jesse Jackson ha constituido un factor importante para centrar el debate electoral en asuntos de importancia como lo son el desempleo, la pobreza, el desarme y la politica exterior de Estados Unidos.

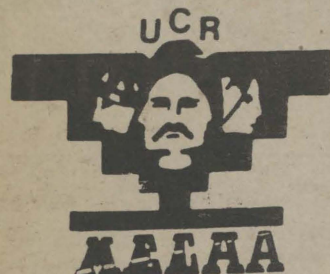
Pero la importancia y repercusion de su campana va mas alla de las elecciones de noviembre de 1984. El fuerte porcentaje de votos que logro en la ciudad de Nueva York, por ejemplo, es algo

porcentaje de votos obtenido por Jesse Jackson en las primarias y la repercucion que esos votantes pueden tener en futuras contiendas, uno de los activistas del movimiento anti-Koch senalo que cuando Harold Washington gano las elecciones para la alcaldia de Chicago, convirtiendose en el primer alcalde negro en la historia de esa ciudad, lo hizo obteniendo el 34 por ciento de los votos en su favor.

No exageraba Jackson la noche de las primarias, cuando manifesto ante una multitud que se congrego en el Hotel Milford Plaza, que despues de estos comicios "la politica en Nueva York nunca sera

40 por ciento del total de los sufragios emitidos, porcentaje que supera al de todas las elecciones primarias celebradas hasta ahora. El 45 por ciento de los votos emitidos por obreros fue favorable a Mondale, mientras que Jackson obtuvo el 30 por ciento de esos votos.

En primarias celebradas antes de las de Nueva York, Hart trato de utilizar en contra de Mondale el apollo que este ha recibido del movimiento obrero organizado, acusandolo de favorecer los intereses especiales de ciertos sectores, en este caso del movimiento obrero, y no los de toda la nacion. En algunos estados



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¿QUIÉN ES QUIÉN?

continued from page 2

1. Casimiro Barela, born in Embudo, New Mexico, first came into public life in 1869 when he was elected Justice of the Peace for a small Colorado town. He continued to be elected to various offices including the Colorado House of Representatives. He was responsible for the publication of laws in Spanish, as well as the protection of Civil Rights for Spanish speaking peoples. He served as a strong Democratic leader in Southern Colorado, and his lengthy successful political career made him an object of great pride for Colorado Chicanos.

2. Félix Martínez Jr. was born in the small town of Peñasco, near Taos, New Mexico. In 1890 Félix purchased a controlling interest in *La Voz del Pueblo*, a leading Spanish-language weekly. He later moved the paper from Santa Fe to Las Vegas where he made it the voice of the Democratic party in New Mexico. From 1890 to 1892 he was active in El Partido del Pueblo Unido, then served as court clerk of the fourth Judicial District between 1893 and 1897. He served his final appointment as the United States Commissioner General to South America, where he was sent on numerous goodwill missions by President William Howard Taft.

Why Continue the Coors Boycott?

Coors ideology past and present

KKK holds cross-burnings on the property of the Coors brewery in Golden Colorado.

Donated bullet proofing for one Denver police helicopter and leased another one for the department. They were used primarily to patrol Denver's Chicano barrios and Black neighborhoods.

Coors trucks hauled scabs during the United Farm Workers's strike.

Chief opponent of Chicanos, Blacks, and anti-Vietnam War activists while member of the Board of Regents of the University of Colorado



Supported

Anne Gorsuch (now Buford) for Colorado State Legislature where she helped defeat hazardous waste regulations.

John Birch Society

Heritage Foundation

Church League of America

Moral Majority

Campus Crusade for Christ

Commission for the Survival of a Free Congress

Analysis Research Corporation

Mountain States Legal Foundation pro-nuclear group

Vietnam War

No birth control information for women

Phyllis Schlafly - leader of Crusade against ERA

Simpson-Mazzoli Bill

Breaking of Air Traffic Controller's Union

Gutting of OSHA

Senators:

Jeremiah Denton

Jesse Helms

Orrin Hatch



Opposed:

Bilingual Education

Chicano and Black Studies Programs that brought non-whites, poor, women, elderly, and the working class together.

Equal Rights Amendment

Unions



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