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Tell me with whom you walk, and I will tell you who you are.

Mexican proverb

M.E.Ch.A Prepared for Semana de la Xicana...

By Gerardo Munoz

Having spent much of the last five months planning, discussing and even arguing at times, planners of Semana de la Xicana, scheduled for April 13th thru 16th, are finally prepared to put on an exciting event.

The event, which is a celebration of Xicana identity, has become a tradition of C.U. Boulder's M.E.Ch.A program. This year is eagerly anticipated, as it will include more events, panels, and community involvement than in recent years.

The celebration will open with a reception entitled "The Dawning of the Xicana Millennium", which will be a gathering of Xicanas active as students, staff and faculty on campus. The theme, "Xicanisma for the New Millenium", addresses the changing role of Xicanas as women of color in a new era.

The four-day event will include three panels. The first will be a conversation with women active in the



formative years of the Xicano movement, entitled "Veteranas: Past Reaching into the Present".

The second panel will be a conversation with Xicana lesbians, a growing segment of the Xicano/a community. On this same day, a workshop will be held to deal with the role of men among Xicana Feminists.

The final panel, entitled "Xicanisma for the New Millennium" will be a conversation with Xicanas of the new generation.

Headlining the event will be Patrisia Gonzáles, a syndicated Xicana columnist, who will be giving the keynote address, and El Centro Sú Teatro, a Denver based theater group who will perform the play "*Real Women Have Curves*."

Among those involved in the planning are Xóchitl Chávez, Gerardo Muñoz and Robb Hernández with help from Profesor Elisa Facio.

U.M.A.S y M.E.Ch.A election results are in...

By Nick Avila and Gerardo Munoz

On March 31st, before an attendance of merely 13 individuals, your new 1999-2000 concilio was selected to lead the U.M.A.S y M.E.Ch.A organization into the next millennium. Of the various nominations submitted for the governing board, seven individuals were elected into the next term.

The positions each have specific duties, however they all hold equal power. The idea behind this system of decision making is to reject Euro-American ideas of hierarchy, and promote a collective entity. Each organization has three, who collaborate on decisions with a joint secretary. U.M.A.S (con't on the next page)

(Elections: *con't from first page*)

and M.E.Ch.A each have a Chair, Treasurer and community Relations Representative.

The next term of elected concilio representatives are as follows:

M.E.Ch.A Chair : Valerie Lobato
 U.M.A.S Chair: Teresa Casados
 M.E.Ch.A Treasurer: Monica Mendez
 U.M.A.S Treasurer: Nicañor Avila
 M.E.Ch.A Public Relations: Ara Cruz
 U.M.A.S Public Relations: Russ Avina

This group of individuals will begin preparation for the transition immediately, and will look to take the organization (that includes brown individuals of all shades and nationalities) to new heights. Among some of the areas to be addressed come the new term, will be our strength in communication with other chapters around our region (which includes Utah, Wyoming and Nevada) and campaigns will also be launched to strengthen our own foundation here on campus.

We look forward to many great strides to be made, and an exciting new birth for the U.M.A.S y M.E.Ch.A organization... Congratulations to the new 1999-2000 concilio.



In Pheonix at M.E.Ch.A nationals

Torres, Others Address English Departmental Issue

By Gerardo Muñoz

On March 11th, Alicia Torres, Roberto Muñoz and Gerardo Muñoz attended an English department faculty meeting to address the department's commitment to multicultural literature. Concerns have been mounting over the recruitment and retention of faculty of color in that department, which now has only two professors of color.

Once Terry Rowden (a profesor of African-American literature) and Ann Goldman, (who recently resigned) depart, there has been suspicion that the English department, the second biggest major in the College of Arts and Sciences, has not made an effort to replace those professors. Fearing that this was another example of this university's hostility to multicultural education, Torres felt she "had to come here (to the meeting) to make my concerns known."

The controversy erupted three weeks ago when it was disclosed that the department

was finalizing the hiring of a white male professor, who was also the spouse of a current faculty member in English. Many feared that this professor who had no expertise in multicultural literature would be hired at the expense of a multi-culturalist.

English Departmental Chair John Stevenson assured Torres and others that the department was committed to Ethnic Literatures, and that the hiring of this professor "would in no way be prioritized over filling the two vacancies we now have."

The hiring of the professor who has a Ph.D in Film and Literature, explained Stevenson, was an emergency hire. The department, he continued, is not allowed to begin a nation-wide search for professors until June, at which point he assured the students that Ethnic Literature was a priority.

The students met afterward to decide the next step. U.M.A.S y M.E.Ch.A has endorsed the action and agreed to support the cause. Many of our members currently take literature courses through the department of Ethnic Studies.

Tic-Tac

By David Salinas

Tic-tac; Tic-tac; Que esperas?
 Cuando estas sentado con esa sensacion de
 tomar el mundo en tus manos y hacer con el
 lo que quieras. Cuando Lentamente vel el
 rasto cresar solo pensando en cada segundo
 que rasa. La ansiendad de que no llega lo
 que esperas. Una vida entera de esperar sin
 resultado.

Tic-tac; Tic-tac; Como una bomba
 con relo que en un momento preciso ba la
 explotar. La explosion sera tan grande que el
 mundo entero mas la galasia se dara cuenta
 de lo susedido. Sera la segunda creacion del
 universo. Todo empezara para empezar de
 nuevo.

Tic-tac; Tic-tac; que experas? Donde
 esta lo que ba a terminar con el periodo de
 espera. El gran premio, la Remcompensa de
 haber esperado tanto. Vendra. Hoy, Mañana;
 Pasado Mañana... Que Esperas?

Compañera

By Gerardo A. Muñoz

Young Goddess,
 In your voice rings the song
 Of Revolución,
 But it sleeps in deaf ears.
 Your eyes burn with the fire of
 Revolucion.
 But like Madero,
 You find that your supporters
 called in sick today.
 There you sit, condemned,
 Exiled in a dungeon of solitude,
 Of ignorance.

But the white man does not hold the key,
 though he owns your prison.
 He is only the warden, not the guard,
That imprisons you.
 He will not hurl the key
 A spinning iron star,
 Into the bottomless moat.

A Playa's Praya

By James Gallegos

Holy Father of Mine,
 what have I done?
 My heart was with many women,
 not only one.
 I now understand that when I give out my
 heart, I also promise life,
 by knowing the meaning of love,
 even though she's not yet my wife.
 Please forgive me Lord for all the hearts I
 have broke,
 for all the women I have made cry,
 and for all the times that I have lied.
 You gave your life so we could have ours,
 But I still live by the power of this playa's
 life-style.
 I thank you father for showing me the light,
 But Heavenly Father of mine, I still have
 one question...

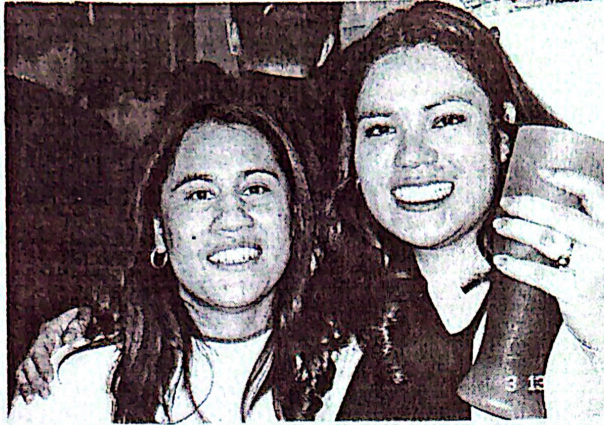
When is my angel coming down from
 heaven?

The key is held by your own copper-skinned hermano,
 who mocks you,
 pretending to hear you,
 pretending to see you,
 holding that freedom before your defiant eyes.
 You weep, you sob, you scream.
 You fight and we hide behind pompous smiles,
 and patronizing words.
 The Revolución cannot be without you, my sisters.
 You hold the pen of Sor Juana,
 the wisdom of Dolores Huerta,
 the defiant spirit of Tereza Batista.
 You do not only give life; you fight,
 without needing my protection,
 you give life only on your terms.

The souls of women who die in childbirth,
 who help the tires sun set.
 When will we cease to sacrifice you for our own
 kind of Revolución?
 You cannot be twice sacrificed,
 But like the Phoenix, will you rise from your ashes,
 and take your place...

with me?

On the Spot



Araceli pictured on left

Small Town Gal

By Sabrina Abitia

You have probably seen Araceli Rascon on campus. She is a CU student that is active, serving on boards and organizations on campus. She has been a member of UMAS y MEChA and currently holds a position on the consilio. She has contributed to the group in many ways, such as organizing and putting on events like "Chicano History Week," and "Cinco de Mayo."

Araceli is a small town gal from Mancos, a town in Southwestern Colorado. She is majoring in Political Science and Sociology. Her hard work and dedication will payoff, as she will be graduating in May. Other than her education she enjoys karate and church.

Araceli feels that UMAS y MEChA has been a support network and a place to hang out. She has also enjoyed meeting people that had the same views and thinking as she does. For fellow and future UMAS y MEChA members her advice is to work hard in school because it will catch up with you.

Araceli Rascon is a friendly, outgoing, and caring individual, who we will miss greatly. We wish her the best.

UMAS y MEChA would like to congratulate Araceli on her graduation and thank her for all of the hard work and dedication.



Getting Down to Business

By Sabrina Abitia

Most people have had the opportunity to meet Carlos Mireles. Carlos, who is an Ozomatli (Aztec astrology), is friendly and sociable. He is an Accounting major and will be graduating in May.

Carlos is originally from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Whenever he is not hitting the books or working, he enjoys being with his family and working out. Carlos also likes listening to music and engaging in interesting conversations.

He is currently a member of UMAS y MEChA and has held a consilio position in the past. Through the years, he has dedicated his time and energy to UMAS y MEChA, such as one whom has contributed to the development and success of the retreat, "La Unidad," this spring. UMAS y MEChA has provided Carlos with a family away from home, strength, empowerment, and comfort.

A bit of advice from Carlos is to value yourself and realize the importance and significance of our Raza, not only on campus but everywhere. Carlos' vision for the future is to employ and empower the community through community centers, business and education.

UMAS y MEChA would like to congratulate Carlos on his graduation and thank him for all of the hard work and dedication

Be on the look out for the next edition of...

On the Spot

By James Gallegos, Sabrina Abitia
and Azucena Reyes

The first annual La Unidad retreat was held on February 20th and 21st in Willard Hall. The retreat was an event in which U.M.A.S y M.E.Ch.A members attended to collaborate their efforts in a plan to organize and come closer together. The retreat came about by the formation of different committees that were created to help develop the structure of the organization and the retreat. Each committee focused on a certain task and was equally responsible for bringing the retreat together...

Maya Vigil: It was very communal, it helped in strengthening the group goals. The dancing was the highlight. A larger turnout would have been beneficial



On Saturday, February 20th, the retreat started with a nine o'clock breakfast and a relaxed atmosphere. Shortly after, Cleo Estrada and Dale Trevino, counselors at the Cultural Unity Student Center, welcomed the group and helped facilitate the exercises. The exercises were designed for the group to talk to each other on a one-on-one basis, which allowed the UMAS y MEChA members to get to know each other better.

Monica Mendez: I would have liked to seen more people, overall I liked it.



La Unidad was a very intense and rewarding retreat with many positive outcomes. The atmosphere started out as a relaxed and informal gathering of the U.M.A.S y M.E.Ch.A members. We got to know each other better by discussing deep issues and opening ourselves up in a way that is not normally done...

James Gallegos: It brought the people closer, those that attended. The male/female caucus was the best part of the retreat because us guys had fun talking with you girls.

This experience allowed people to let down their guards and share their true feelings with members they might not of had the opportunity to start a friendship with before. Throughout the morning, this feeling of closeness grew stronger and more enjoyable.

Gerardo Muñoz: We have a lot of healing to do. I loved being in a room full of people with *corazon*.

The retreat ran for two days, all day, with the second day run by only students. Both days were powerful to those in attendance, not solely because of the issues that be, but because of the emotions we felt for them.

Azucena Reyes: I enjoyed the retreat, but I would have liked to see more of our people there. However, I felt a lot of love from the members that were there, and being new, I felt that everybody treated me great.

Nick Avila: Our emotions are the driving force, the power by which we overcome life's trials. They bring life to our being. Looking around the room and watching the tears run down the cheek of another human being who shares my struggle, my blood, my needs, brought me to my knees inside. It was then that I realized that I was truly among a powerful people, and part of something very special.

Viva La Raza!!!

At the risk of making anyone feel uncomfortable, I find myself compelled to address the *Latina* magazine excerpt that referenced "Raza Trips" and the Spanish language. I would like to argue that loss of our language has been the cause of Xicana/o alienation from the rest of Latin America, where Jamaicans hold a stronger claim to Latina/o identity that we do. We further isolate ourselves by making judgements of Spanish in our community.

Granted, as Xicanas/os, we should understand that Spanish was also a weapon of conquest, forced upon our Mexica ancestors. This is a common argument among those who would devalue Spanish in our community. I wonder how many of them speak Otomi, Mixtec, Zapotec, Nahuatl, Tzotzil, Quiche, Quechua or any other native language. Seems to me, they just don't want to learn.

I am not one to judge a non-Spanish speaker. I am far from fluent, but I AM attempting to regain my control over the language. I understand how important the language is if I am to help a large segment of my community. I am angered when non-Spanish speakers claim that the language excludes them. I have also seen Spanish speakers, in this organization, no less, who judge and ridicule the non-speakers. This is also shameful and divisive.

Do not use your lack of exposure to justify you unwillingness to learn the language. Languages allow us to think in many different ways. On this campus, white people speak more languages than we do. Is that okay with us? Again, I am not fluent in Spanish, but if I am to truly be a Xicano, I must commit myself to helping my Raza. Since language is a barrier that many of our hermanos and hermanas face, shouldn't I try to be a bridge? We must celebrate our unique connection to language and not simply dismiss it as a "Raza Trip."

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¡Con la pluma, Ganamos!

Upcoming Events:

Apr. 7th - General Meeting

Apr. 8th - Poetry Reading at Club 156 at 7:30p.m, for the group heading to Cuba. See Maya Vigil for details.

April 13th thru 16th - Semana de la Xicana

Apr. 18th - Oyate Pow-Wow

April 23rd - Book and Lovers Day
 See Gerardo Muñoz for details.

April 28th thru May 1st - NACCS conference

May 3rd thru 5th - Cinco de Mayo

May 9th - Mother's Day

...Also be on the look out for a fundraiser gig at "Kakes" Studio!!!

