¡Qué Tal! April 1, 1974

Mexican American Graduate Studies, San Jose State University

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Left, right, left right, hup-two-three-four, Hola Gente! You caught me practicing for la marcha to Sacra. Simon carnalitos, vamos a taloniar la distancia from San Jo to Sacramento to make people aware of the educational problems which the Chicanos are facing. Not only is the college system failing in the necessary programs, but what about the carnalitos in elementary schools?

You don't see a gabachito in the M.R. section por que no puede hablar espanol, do you? Bueno, why should our little chicanitos be placed as such just because he doesn't understand english very well? Where are our bilingual programs? Why are there no formal policies regarding bilingual education? These are just a few preguntas que nececitan respuestas.

La marcha is going to be from April 5th thru April 9th, and all those concerned about the quality of education received by Chicanos are invited to participate in the march to Sacra. Si ay preguntas, call Jose Carrasco or Tino Esparza at 277-2242 or call Gabe Reyes at 277-2151.

Also, any donations will be gladly accepted, just drop them off with Juan Lujan in the E.O.P. Office #3.

Bueno carnalitos, I have to go get some comfortable roscas for the march.

Dios me los cuida

Amor

Por mi

Raza

Abuelo
There will be a Chicano Educational Pilgrimage April fifth through April ninth from San Jose to Sacramento. The theme of the march will be Chicano education exclusively. While we are aware of the many valid issues that need to be addressed, the Chicano Educational Pilgrimage stresses only the very urgent need for educational reform for Chicano students at all levels within education.

Some of the major concerns that have led to the march include the following issues: (1) After years of Federal and State funding to local schools and universities totalling many millions of dollars each year, the educational problems of the Chicano have remained basically unchanged. (2) Local school districts are receiving state bi-lingual education grants yet refuse to adopt formal policies regarding bi-lingual education. (3) Local schools continue to appear unwilling to hire sufficient numbers of Chicano bi-lingual teachers to meet the needs of Chicano students. (4) Local school superintendents point fingers at politicians and blame concentrated low income and sub-standard housing for the low achievement of Chicano students in the schools, yet our children continue to fall behind in their academic progress each year. (5) These same school superintendents, as recently revealed by local news articles, have relegated the Chicano student to a position where the defense of a program is given priority over the educational needs of the Chicano community. (6) Where the educational experience necessary for future job opportunity is shifting from high school to college, only 19% of the Chicanos in Santa Clara County have any college and less than two percent are college graduates. This compares to 37% of the Anglo population in the same area have some college, and 22% are college graduates. (7) State support for the Educational Opportunity Program (E.O.P.) has not been a total commitment. While the number of students admitted into the universities via this program has been allowed to swell, the administrative budget for the program has remained the same since 1968. Thus, the same relatively small staff has been expected to handle a
The growing number of students. There appears to be an inconsistency within the university system. The formula for hiring full-time faculty members is based upon student enrollment per semester. The E.O.P., however, is restricted each year to maintaining a staff that is based on the number of State grants allocated to E.O.P. students for that year only. Students admitted in previous years who continue to be dependent upon the program's services have not been taken into account at all. (8) New guidelines governing the disbursement of financial aid in the universities jeopardize the financial support to be provided for the needy Chicano student. These as well as other related issues, have prompted this pilgrimage to Sacramento.

Traditionally, the response of many of the legislators in Sacramento to the question of the educational destiny of the Chicano has been the same inactive non-support that exists today. The Chicano Educational Pilgrimage, while not intended to stifle the endeavors of local educational institutions in any attempts to meet the needs of Chicanos, is intended to raise the question of why? Why still the discrepancies in the quality of education for the Chicano as compared to his Anglo peers? Why, in the county of Santa Clara with a total student enrollment of 281,441 are 35.4% of the students classified as educable mentally retarded Chicano? Why are 27.8% of the children classified as trainable mentally retarded, Chicano? Why are 14% of the educationally handicapped from this same county Chicano? And why, where out of a total of 12,798 teachers with only 3.5% being Chicano, is there persistent discrimination in the hiring of Chicano educators?

The march is open to everyone who is concerned with the quality of the education received by Chicanos in our schools today as well as the children who will soon begin their education. Anyone wishing further information regarding the march may contact the following members of the pilgrimage steering committee:

- Jose Carrasco - 277-2242
- Tino Esparza - 277-2242
- Gabriel Reyes - 277-2151

1 "Racial and Ethnic Data, Santa Clara County Schools", Fall '71, Office of Education.
Interview with Jose Carrasco & Gabe Reyes

The second Chicano Educational Pilgrimage will begin on the fifth of April. About 200 Chicano students and teachers are expected to give up the majority of their Easter vacation in order to trek from San Jose to Sacramento.

The reason for the pilgrimage is summed up by Jose Carrasco, coordinator of the event, who said, "Education across the board is the theme of the march."

He cites two major goals the marchers hope to gain. The first is to draw attention to the problems of Chicano education. As he puts it, "Just getting to Sacramento will let people know something is wrong."

Taxpayers, he said, have been deceived into believing that their tax money is being effectively spent. The reality is that the money is being poorly used. It is just not getting the job done," he charged.

To back his contention he presented statistics compiled in 1971 by the Santa Clara County Office of Education which showed that although Chicanos are about 17% of all students in the county they are only 3.5% of all educators.

In addition, Chicanos totaled 35.4% of the so-called educable mentally retarded and 22.8% of the so-called educationally handicapped. Yet they comprised only 2.8% of those students termed mentally gifted.

The second goal of the pilgrimage is to see that tangible improvements in the existing situation are made.
Gabe Reyes, who coordinated the first Chicano Pilgrimage in 1971 and is assisting in the planning of this latest pilgrimage, stated the goal this way, "It's not that something just be said, but that specific action to be taken."

Among the proposed actions are a call for state legislative hearings into the plight of Chicanos in education, a call for legislation providing for outside evaluation of school districts performance, and implementation of active programs to increase the number of Chicanos in all areas of education.

In that light Carrasco proposed a three part program for San Jose State: Part one calls for the commitment of "added resources to the Educational Opportunity Programs." He emphasized that resources in this sense should be manifested through "adequate numbers of support staff members so that the program will be given an opportunity to realistically deal with its swelling enrollment." Part two of Mr. Carrasco's plan asks that it be made mandatory that all students on campus complete six to nine units in Chicano studies prior to their graduation. Or, if not all students, at least those majoring in subjects such as Education, Law Enforcement, Sociology, Psychology, and related fields. The rational for this according to Mr. Carrasco is that "the majority of these students who graduate from this institution will be utilizing the Santa Clara Valley as a market place for their skills. They must be made aware of the concerns and background of the Chicano since he is the largest minority group in the state and with whom these graduates will have the most contact". The final phase of Mr. Carrasco's plan calls for finding productive solutions
for expanding the number of Chicano professors on campus. "Perhaps we will have to look at the development of less exclusionary criteria for hiring that has been traditionally imposed."

Carrasco declared that the march will serve notice to the educational institutes, to politicians, and to the public at large that Chicanos are not satisfied with what is being done. And that there is a problem.

He emphasized that the marchers are not looking for total agreement by everyone with the proposed solution, but are looking for "their willingness to ask what is wrong."

Pilgrimage organizers state that follow-up on the march will be done, particularly through the compiling of data about the problems of Chicanos in education. But the educators and politicians are unresponsive, vowed Gabe Reyes, "then we will be back out there again. You can't just drop the ball."

Richard Martinez & John Torres
March 21, 1974

To All Concerned:

**THIS IS AN URGENT REQUEST FOR DONATIONS!!**

There will be a Chicano Educational Pilgrimage April 5th through April 9th from San Jose to Sacramento. The theme of the march will be Chicano Education exclusively. While we are aware of the many valid issues that need to be addressed, this pilgrimage stresses only the very urgent need for educational reform for Chicano students at all levels within the educational system.

Some of the major concerns that have led to the march include the following issues:

A. After years of Federal and State funding to local schools and Universities totaling many millions of dollars annually, the educational problems of the Chicano have remained basically unchanged.

B. Local school districts are receiving state bi-lingual education grants yet refuse to adopt formal policies regarding bi-lingual education. These same school districts are also unwilling to hire sufficient bi-lingual Chicano educators to meet the needs of Chicano students.

C. Local school superintendents point fingers at politicians and blame concentrated low income and sub-standard housing for the low achievement of Chicano students in the schools, yet our children continue to fall behind in their academic progress each year.

D. Where the educational experience necessary for future job opportunity is shifting from a high school diploma to a college degree, only 19%, for example, of the Chicanos in Santa Clara County have any college education and less than two percent are college graduates. This compares to 37% of the Anglo population in the same area who have some college education, and 22% are college graduates.

Therefore, in order to make this pilgrimage a success and create a strong impact, we are turning to you for SUPPORT! Donations in any amount are extremely vital and urgently needed for the realization of this march. Donations should be made payable to the Chicano Educational Pilgrimage and should be forwarded to the following persons:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jesse Guerrero (ph) 277-2116</th>
<th>John Lujan (ph) 277-2344</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office of Financial Aids</td>
<td>Educational Opportunity Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration Bldg. Rm. #234</td>
<td>San Jose State University</td>
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<td>San Jose State University</td>
<td>San Jose, California 95112</td>
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P.S. There will be a booth set up at San Jose State Univ. College Union during the weeks of March 25th - April 4th for collecting Donations.

**Muchisimas Gracias**

Jesse Guerrero
John Lujan
March 21, 1971

Dear Sir,

I was very interested to learn about your proposed march to Sacramento next month. My son, who is a student at S.F. State, tells me he has not heard anything about it. We first heard about it watching "Alma de Barco." Please send me as soon as possible any information you may have available as to the dates, routes, etc of this march.

Also if you have any literature that I may distribute in the Marting-Concord, Pittsburg Area about this march please forward it.

Sincerely,

Ramon Marting
2110 Fremont St.
Concord, Calif.
I. Sleeping bag.

Bags will be transported by truck that will be provided. Please mark your bag with name, social security number, or some sort of identification.

II. Clothing.

- Shirt - long-sleeved
- Pants - loose fitting and light-colored
- Socks - Four pair
- Hat
- Towel and wash cloth
- Underwear - Four pair preferable
- Warm jacket
- Pancho

III. Small back-pack.

- Canteen (plastic)
- Canteen cup
- Chewing gum
- Foot powder
- Toilet paper
- Toothbrush

IV. Boots.

- Should fit tightly, light with soft souls (rubber) (Army jungle boots - $14.95)

VI. $10.00 should be taken for personal uses.

NOTE: Try to carry as little as possible.
Also transportation back to San Jo will not be provided. Marchers must make their own arrangements.

Manuel Bojorquez