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National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies

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NACCS Annual Conference:
No More Wars, Sovereignties, Sexualities, and Human Rights

The National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies is meeting in Los Angeles on April 2-6, 2003. The theme for this year annual conference is No More Wars: Sovereignties, Sexualities, and Human Rights.

Well-known and highly regarded artist Alma Lopez is designing the artwork for the conference. Her art creation will reflect the theme of the conference. Posters and tee shirts will be available for purchase.

Conference attendees who arrive early on the first day, April 2 (a Wednesday), can participate in a guided tour of historic MacArthur Park. A landmark in Los Angeles where Mexicanos and Chicanos would go on family outings, it is now an important space for many of the city’s more recent Central American immigrants. It is an important cultural space that mirrors the changes in Los Angeles and portend the nation’s transformation in the 21st century. Organized by Ester Hernández (Chicano Studies, CSLA), several local activists with first-hand knowledge of the area will provide a rich interpretation of the area. Those who want to go on this tour should contact Ester at eherna17@calstatela.edu or call 323/343-2190.

The traditional opening reception will be on Wednesday, April 2 in the Biltmore Hotel’s historic lobby. The site of numerous Hollywood movie shoots, it offers an intimate, attractive, and comfortable space where conference attendees can mingle with old friends, make new acquaintances, and be entertained by Domingo Siete, local Chicano musicians.

The Education March is slated for Thursday, April 3 from 3-5PM. Originating at the Biltmore Hotel, site of the conference, it will make its way along 5th Street to Grand Avenue and on to Broadway, reaching Olvera Street’s La Placita del Pueblo (El Pueblo), where speakers will expand on the importance of this space over time. Marchers will also have the opportunity to more fully explore this historic site. Buses will provide transportation back to the Biltmore, but adventurous souls can try LA’s urban train system. They can board at Union Station, across the street from Olvera Street, going the one stop to Pershing Square, immediately by the Biltmore.

The Noche de Cultura will be on Thursday, April 3 from 8-11PM at California State University, Los Angeles, home to the first Chicano Studies program in the nation. The program will include the following bands and teatros: En Lak’Ech, Cihuatl Tonalitli, Teatro Izcalli, Chicano Secret Service, Max Madrigal, Slowrider, and Aztlán Unearthed. Transportation to and from

CONFERENCE continued on page 2

Chicanas/os in Los Angeles: A History of LA

Los Angeles is a place central to the experience of the Chicano/a people. From Spanish Franciscans placing indios in the concentration camps of missions in the 1770s to the deportations of Mexicanos and Mexicanas has been a consistent theme throughout the history of Los Angeles. However, resistance and struggle for social change also has been characteristic of the Mexican and Mexican American in Southern California. Examples are many: David Alfaro Siqueiros who painted Tropical America at Olvera Street protesting American capitalism in the 1930s, students who demanded better education in East LA schools in the 1960s, Fr. Luis Oliva who declared Our Lady of the Angeles Church a sanctuary for undocumented Central Americans and Mexicans in the 1980s, and Mothers of East LA who opposed placing a prison in their community. The past is also prologue for the present and future as la raza achieves political empowerment, secures a meaningful work place, and creates a dynamic cultural life. Come to Los Angeles for the NACCS conference this Spring and experience first-hand the city that has been so important to the experiences of Chicanas and Chicanos, a history that so aptly reflects the theme of this year’s conference—No More Wars: Sovereignties, Sexualities, and Human Rights.
ceremony when NACCS honors scholars who have been instrumental in advancing Chicano Studies as an academic discipline and activists who have worked to improve the material conditions of the Chicano community. This year, the NACCS Scholars are Patricia Zavella (UC-Santa Cruz) and Richard Chabrán (UC-Riverside). The Community Awards will go to the Chicano Mora torium Committee members Lynn Ward, Rubén Salazár, and Ángel Díaz, all of whom died in protests against the Vietnam War; to the Women of the UFW, Dolores Huerta, Esther Rodríguez, and Helen Chávez; to Gloria Romero, a CA state legislator; to Ernesto Nava, son of Pancho Villa; to Tongues Magazine; and to Self-Help Graphics. The Frederick A. Cervantes Student Premio award winners will be announced and honored at this ceremony.

On Saturday, there is special cultural event at Self-Help Graphics in East LA, an important community center for Chicano artists, with both studio space and galleries for shows. Transportation is being arranged. Following this is the gran baile at the Biltmore Hotel! And for those who still have energy and arise early on Sunday, there is a tour of LA’s murals by SPARC (Social and Public Art Resource Center, in west LA).

NEW MASTHEAD!

With this new volume Noticias de NACC debuts its new mast head. Our logo, which was officially adopted in 2001, has a permanent place in our newsletter. For those of you that have been part of NACC since it was NACS, you might remember the special font used for “NACC” from the 1988 Colorado conference program. Andres Barajas—our logo artist, designed our new masthead and folio. A note for those who like to think of the continuity of our efforts—Andres is from Portland, Oregon of the Pacific Northwest FOCO which came about in the 1990s, and a fairly recent graduate—thus from the younger generation. We hope you like it as much as we do!

JOIN US FOR NACCS 2003!
Conference information at:
www.naccs.org
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Exact hours might vary slightly in the printed program. Check printed program for exact times and location.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2
2:00pm - 6:00pm Registration
Guided tour of historic MacArthur Park, time TBA
5:15pm - 6:15pm NACCS for Beginners
6:30pm - 8:30pm Opening Reception
8:40pm - 10:00pm Caucus Board meetings

THURSDAY, APRIL 3
7:00am - 5:00pm Registration
7:00am - 7:50am NACCS for Beginners
8:00am - 9:15am Session 1
9:25am - 10:40am Session 2
10:50am - 12:30pm Welcome/Plenary I: Opening Plenary
12:40pm - 1:30pm Caucus Mtgs: Lesbian, Student, K-12, Community
1:40pm - 2:40pm FOCO Meetings
2:45pm - 5:30pm Educational March
6:00pm - 8:00pm Joteria Reception
8:00pm - 11:00pm Noche de Cultura

FRIDAY, APRIL 4
7:45am - 5:00pm Registration
8:00am - 6:00pm Exhibitor Hall
8:00am - 9:15am Session 3
9:25am - 10:40pm Session 4

SATURDAY, APRIL 5
8:00am - 2:30am Registration
8:00am - 2:30pm Exhibitor Hall
8:30am - 9:45am Session 5
9:55am - 11:10am Session 9
11:20am - 1:20pm Caucus Mtgs: Chicana, Graduate, COMPAS, Joto
1:30pm - 2:45pm Session 6
2:55pm - 4:10pm Session 7
5:45pm - 7:00pm Business Meeting One
8:30pm - 10:30pm Awards Ceremony

SUNDAY, APRIL 6
Morning Tour. See printed program for time. Description available in front page story on the conference.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING RESOLUTIONS AT NACCS

Following are the guidelines for submitting resolutions at the NACCS national conference. All resolutions must be submitted for consideration during the general business meeting and need to emerge from and be approved by the regional FOCOs or Caucuses. The FOCO and Caucus meetings are scheduled before the national business meeting and will be the main avenue for processing FOCO and Caucus resolutions. Resolutions from the floor during the business meeting will not be entertained.

FOCO Representatives and Caucus Chairs are responsible for typing and submitting FOCO and Caucus approved resolutions to the NACCS Secretary before the national business meeting. A designated time and place will be announced at the national conference to all members regarding deadline.

All resolutions submitted must conform to the following rules: Resolutions must identify what FOCO/Caucus is putting the resolution forth; Resolutions must provide names of contact person(s) with phone numbers in case further clarification is necessary. If the resolution has budget implications, the resolution must include amount and purpose. The resolution must be worded in such a way that the implementation of such resolution be realistic in terms of funding requirements and logistics involved.

The FOCO/Caucus must take responsibility for wording its resolution in such a manner that it is actually a resolution and not a call for support on an issue relevant to only one region.

Resolutions need to be edited in order to make sense and keep copying costs down. Resolutions must provide names of persons who are expected to act on behalf of NACCS and their professional or community affiliation.

Resolutions that do not meet the criteria will not be on the agenda for the business meeting.

Once the resolutions are approved by the Coordinating Committee, the NACCS Secretary will compile, duplicate, and distribute the FOCO and Caucus resolutions before the NACCS general business meeting.

A consent agenda format (all resolutions are approved automatically unless a member requests that a specific resolution be removed for discussion and vote) will be followed during the business meeting.

The location of available computers and other necessary resources needed by the FOCOs and Caucuses to produce the resolutions will be announced and made available at the national conference site. Resolutions that have been passed by the membership will go into immediate effect. Any questions should be directed to the Chair of NACCS or Secretary.
The Department of History at the University of Houston invites applications to participate in our second annual Mexican American History Workshop “Mexican American Culture: Confronting Power, Regenerating Resistance” May 2-3, 2003. This year’s Mexican American History Workshop explores the implications of a political analysis of cultural expression on the field of Chicano/a History and American History in general. Recent scholarship in Chicano/a Studies demonstrates a variety of new approaches to understanding strategies of resistance to economic, social, and political oppression. As a fluid and plural process that includes all of the ways people make sense of and struggle in the world, culture is one critical arena for examining the contestation of power, identity, and community. Cultural productions, moreover, constitute spaces for debate within the Mexican American community over internal differences of class, gender and generation. As part of the two-day program, each participant will briefly present their paper to initiate discussion of their work with the rest of the workshop attendees. Two senior scholars in the field with research interest in the politics of culture will facilitate each session. In addition to these seminar sessions, the workshop will include events open to the University and local Houston community. The invited senior scholars, for example, will deliver presentations to the general public, allowing students and faculty at the University of Houston the opportunity to benefit from the workshop and interact with its participating scholars. We solicit applications for works in progress on this topic from advanced graduate students and junior faculty studying these themes. We strongly encourage submissions from scholars conducting research in a variety of disciplines outside of history who employ a historical analysis. Participation in the workshop is limited to senior graduate students, who plan to defend their dissertation in the next year, and junior faculty members, who have defended their dissertation in the last four years. Proposals for papers, covering any aspect of the theme, should be no more than two pages in length. Proposals, plus a letter of recommendation from either your dissertation advisor or other expert in the field, should be received by March 30, 2003.

Please send your proposal to:

Mexican American History Workshop  
Department of History  
University of Houston  
Houston, Texas 77204-3003  

or by email to: raramos@uh.edu

Those selected to participate will be informed by April 1, 2003. Participants are expected to submit their papers by April 25, 2003. Papers should be substantial, somewhere in the region of 25 pages, including notes, and should aim to address issues raised in your dissertation. Whatever you do, do not submit a chapter from your dissertation. Copies of each paper will be sent to all members of the workshop.

The cost of travel and accommodations will be covered by the workshop. Participants will also be offered a modest honorarium of $200. For further information write Raul A. Ramos. (raramos@uh.edu)

VOTE FOR 2003-2004 CHAIR-ELECT FORTHCOMING!

In our second Chair-Elect/Chair election, NACCS will be conducting its first online member only vote. This year’s candidates are Norma E. Cantú, University of Texas, San Antonio, and Dennis Valdés, University of Minnesota. Candidate biographies and statements will be mail on March 13th. They will also be available online beginning March 17th. Members will have from March 17th through March 31st to vote. Voting instructions and other details will be provided in your mailing and online. Keep an eye out for this very important mailing. If you are receiving this newsletter, then you are a 2003 NACCS member. Contact Kathryn Blackmer if you have any questions at 916.278.7784 or blackmer@csus.edu.
GRADUATE PREMIO

Nicole M. Guidotti-Hernández is the 2003 graduate winner of the Frederick A. Cervantes Student Premio Award. Her paper “Stripping the Body of Flesh and Memory: Imagining Transnational Histories of Violence in Montserrat Fontes’ Dream of the Centaur,” applies Chicana feminist literary criticism to examine the omnipresence of torture, sexual violation and institutional violence in Fontes’ novel Dream of the Centaur. According to Guidotti-Hernández, the novel “can be understood as a transnational narrative of violence that seeks to acknowledge how Chicana, Mexicana, India, and Mestiza actions and words spoken or unspoken continue to persist in narrative and history whether they are acknowledged or not” (pp 1-2). Dream of the Centaur chronicles the history of a Mexican family and the Yaqui struggle in Sonora between 1885-1900. The Yaqui struggle for survival extends over a 3000-mile radius that goes as north as Tucson, Arizona and south as Yucatán. Guidotti-Hernández proposes that as a Chicana feminist literary practice, Fontes shows how contemporary accounts looking into mestiza/o and Yaqui histories must be concerned with transnational relations borne out of violence. Guidotti-Hernández concludes that Fontes revisionist writing engages the Mestiza heritage of the borderlands. Fontes makes an explicit connection between her own politics as a Chicana writer in the late 20th Century with the struggles of women in the 19th Century Mexican borderlands.

Nicole M. Guidotti-Hernández was born and raised in the Salinas Valley. She received her Bachelor’s degree in Literature with Honors from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1997. She received her Master’s Degree in English at Cornell University in 2000. Currently, she is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of English at Cornell University. Her Dissertation is titled, “Made By Violence: Chicana Narrative and the Remaking of the World, 1872-1996.” Her next project focuses on representations of Latinidades in popular culture. This year she was awarded the Five Colleges Minority Dissertation Fellowship at Amherst College where she teaches Chicana/Latina Studies in the Department of English.

UNDERGRADUATE PREMIO

The Cervantes Undergraduate Student Premio winner 2003 is Robert L. Hernandez III. His paper, “A Window into a Life Uncloseted: Exploring U.S. Queer Latino Cultural Readership and Film Culture” offers a Queer Latino cultural reading of the gay films Billy’s Hollywood Screen Kiss and Trick released in the late 90’s. Hernandez provides an ethnographic reader-response cultural reading of the films by interviewing and surveying U.S. Queer Latino men. From the ethnographic study, four themes emerged: acceptance and rejection, language, identity construction, and engagements with power. Hernandez argues that although racial codes are embedded in these films perpetuating “Spice Boy” depictions, young Queer Latino men responded favorably to the films. Hernandez concludes that while it is surprising that these young men enjoyed aspects of the films, they were able to “confront and negotiate greater stereotypical notions of the ‘Spice Boy.’” That is, these young men constructed their own story within the films, filtering the racial coding.

Robert L. Hernandez, III is from the University of Colorado at Boulder where he studies in the Department of Ethnic Studies and in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. His honor’s thesis “Queering the Latin Lover in Cinema: Understanding U.S. Queer Latino Cultural Readership” was developed under Doctors Elisa Facio, Angel David Nieves and Katheryn Rios and earned him Magna Cum Laude Distinction. He is an active participant of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies Certificate Program and the University of Colorado Honors Program. In the summer of 2002 he received a certificate in Political Management from the Graduate School of Political Management at George Washington University. He was an intern with National Public Radio, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and a policy fellow with LLEGO: The National Latina/o Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Organization. Of late, he is a research assistant with the Center for the Studies of Ethnicity and Race in America (CSERA) at CU-Boulder and a guest teaching assistant for the Black Studies Program. Mr. Hernandez is currently applying to graduate school programs where he intends to strengthen his research interests in the politics of race, sexuality and cultural representation and cultivate deeper theoretical understandings of U.S. Queer Latino identity, visual culture and comparative film history.
NACCS 2003 Preliminary Program

This is an abbreviated program listing. Complete paper title presentations, time and location will be available in the printed program. Additional information on the panels is available on our web page.

Chicano Health Disparities-Graduate Student Panel Presentation 
Mexican American Studies-Latino Health Strand
Fran Brazzell; Fabian Valle; Marylyn Valencia

Discourses on the Body in Chicana/o Literature: Visualities, Bodily Functions, and Creativity
Francisco Lomelí; Linda Arellano; Gustavo Nanclares Gómez; Ricardo Vivancos Pérez

(Dis) Embodying the Nation: Chicana Cultural Production at the Crossroads
Hector A. Torres; Mary Teresa Avila; Anne Bingham; Jennifer Alvarez Dickinson; Adriana P. Nieto; Patricia M. Perea

Mexico and Aztlan: La Fundacion Solidaridad MexicanoAmericana
Richard Griswold del Castillo; Graciela Orozco; Arnoldo Torres; Jose Cortez; Roger Diaz de Cossio; Maria Quezada

Raza Internationalism: Aztlán, Cuba, Venezuela, and Progressive Social-Political Movements in Latin America
Ernesto Bastillos; Catalina Espitia; Armando Navarro; Harry Simon; Cecilia Ubilla

Research in Action: A Participatory Model for Advancing Latino Social Policy
Juana Mora; Diego Vigil; Claudia Dorrington; David Diaz

Raza Womyn Collectiva: A Dialogue About Sexuality, Love, and Revolution
Anita Tijerina Revilla; Aurora Cerda; Angelica Marin; Desirré Flores; Yolanda Petieda

Braceros and their Stories of Migrant Workers in the United States
Paul Lopez; Roberto De Anda; Jerry Garcia

Intersecting identities and Cultures
María Beltrán Vocal; Gardenia Rangel; Irma Ortiz; Rosa Yadira Ortiz

The War on Terror and the Chicana/o Community
Kevin R. Johnson; Jose R. Lopez; David Rodriguez; James Berry

Seeking Indigenous Autonomous Education: Alternative Models in Raza Education
Adaljiza Sosa-Riddell; Margie Berta-Avila; Marianna Rivera; Dina Suarez; Lorena Montoya; Raquel Jimenez; Rafael Sorozzano

The U.S. Before and After the Event of September 11, 2001: Its Impact on Chicanos and Latinos
Nelia Olivencia; Maria Castillo; Amanda Ramos; Luis Matus; Maricela Quirino; Gabriela Hernandez

Chicana Literature and Art: Cannibalization, Pedagogies, and Sexualities
Elizabeth Rodríguez Kessler; Maria C. Gonzalez; Rosa Maria Chacón; Lori Ramos

The Chicano/ Latino Experience in Iowa and Nebraska
Jerry Garcia; Leticia Romo and David Romero; Eduardo Diaz, Jr.; Keren Zuniga; William Maldonado; Ed Muñoz

Health and Chicano Youth Empowerment
Andrea Romero; Yvonne Montoya; Scott C. Carvajal; Zipatly Mendoza

Latino/African American Relations in South Los Angeles: Grassroots Approach to Social and Economic Recovery
Marta López-Garza; Karen Bass; Solomon Rivera; Marquesse Harris Dason; Saül Sarabia

Ambos Lados: Perspectives on the Transnational Identities of Mexicanos/as and Chicanos/as
Julie Hempel; Crystal Teague; David Young

Apocalypse Ahora: Chicanas, Corporate Media, Hegemony, and Counterhegemonic Media Literacy Practices
Elias Serna; Felicia Montes; Armando Gudiño; Gabriel Gutiérrez

Braiding the Spiritual, Activism, and Theoretical: Xicana Indigenas within the International Indigenous Women’s Movement
Celia Herrera Rodriguez; Hortensia Colorado; Elvira Colorado; Rosalia Gonzalez; Jennie Luna

Understanding Acculturation in Health Research: What’s Culture Got to Do With It?
Lisa M. Lapeyrouse; Patricia “Trisha” Miranda; Melissa Valerio; Lisa M. Lapeyrouse; Edna A. Viruell-Fuentes

Chicanos/as and Higher Education in the 21st Century: The New Diaspora?
Otoniel Jimenez; Victor Perez; Evelyn Perez; Annel D. Medina; Trinidad Molina

HIV, Diabetes, and the Construction of Social Disease
Elizabeth De la Portilla; Jose Munoz; Claudio Alberto Rivera; Rosario Arreola

Theory and Politics
Manuel Chávez-Jiménez; Manuel Barajas; Michael Dueñas; Andrés R. Aragón

Critical Readings in Literature
Rebecca Moreno; Manuel de Jesús Hernández-G.
Fulcrums of Change; Intersections of Chicano and African American History and Culture
Eric Avila; Anthony Macías; Daniel Widener; Jason Ferreira

Lupe’s Song: Chicanas as Mothers, Sisters, Daughters and Whores
Mónica Jean Alaniz; Elizabeth Marie Areválo; Margarita Morín Battaglia; Henrietta Lynn Muñoz

San José State University: A Status Report on Chicanas and Chicanos
Henry Gutierrez; Elma Arredondo

Multiple Matters in Literature and Poetry
Margarita Barceló; Laura Halperin; Marissa López; Miguel López

La Línea Chueca: A Video Documentary
Ray Reyes; Rafael Castillo; Bradley Rettele; Mario Roberston

Voces Latinas: The Chicano Experience through Literature
Graciela Limón; Mike Padilla; Jesús Trevino; Gabriela Baeza Ventura

Latinos and Latinas Oral History Project
Mario Barrera; Ana Cruz; Maggie Rivas; Jose Angel Gutierrez

Community Social Movements
Richard De La Garza; José Palafox; Noe Nieblas; Carlos Navarro

Histories of the Sexual Imagination
Richard T. Rodríguez; Pete Sigal; Eugene Rodríguez; John Ramírez

Terrorism on our Campuses: A Case Study of the University of California, Berkeley
Lupe Gallegos-Diaz; Roberto Hernandez; Taina Gomez; Layla Naranjo; Julian Ledesma

My Mother, My Sister, My Daughter: Chicana Feminism, Art and Feminism
Eliza Rodriguez y Gibson; Guadalupe Rodriguez; Sandy Rodriguez; Rebeka Rodriguez

Cultural Expressions
Desirée A.; Martín; Dolores Ines Casillas and Patricia Kim-Rajal; Kristen Guzmán

Identity and the Politics of Culture
Rodolfo A. Casarez; Roberta Orono-Cordova; Ruth Escalante; William Calvo

Contested Identities
Rose Borunda; Salvador Acosta; Felicia Isabel Salinas; Kristy L. Ulibarri

Institutional Tensions and Conflicts
Rachel Jennings; B.V. Olguin; Mari Castañeda Paredes

Struggles of Resistance, Literary Acts/Activism, and the Poetics of Solidarity
Victoria M. Banales; Alicia I. Estrada; Jesús S. Martínez; Josie Ramos

Border Theology, Border Religion
Ramon Sanchez; Lucila Ek; Judith Huacuca; Sonny Richard E. Espinoza

Our Bodies Our Justice: Chicana/o Organizing in Times of Change and Times of Backlash
Miroslava Chavez; Linda Heidenreich; Barbara Reyes; Rita E. Urquijo-Ruiz; Petra Guerra

Perceptions and Analysis of the Attack Through Media and Different Art Forms
Nelia Olivencia; Fernando de Leon; Tasha Stiger; Andrea Hall; Gideon Verdin Williams

Latino Struggles in Educational Reform: Chicago and Houston
Rita D. Hernández; Guadalupe San Miguel, Jr.

Contesting and Stretching Fronteriano Identities
Edward Mireles; Dava Hernandez; Christian Rodriguez; Nancy Garcia

Organizing and Institutionalizing Chicano/a Studies in Secondary & Middle Schools: Case Studies with A Methodology
Seferino Garcia; Judith A. Seferini; Lori Gonzalez; George Aguirre; Mel Sanchez; Xihuan & Xochil Montaluo; Sister Judy Bisignano

Challenging Racial and Gender Discrimination in Academia; The Work of the FOR Chicana/o Studies Foundation
Roberta Orona-Cordova; Rudy Acuña; Yolanda Broyles-Gonzalez; Alfredo Arteaga; Moises Vasquez

“Apocalypse Later...I’m Busy Now”
Esteban Malacara; Gabriella Hernandez; Karla Matus; Ron McNealy II; Leticia Ramirez; Paul Segura, Jr.; Victor Yañez-Lazcano

Violence in the lives of women: Intimate partner violence, family and community injustice and domestic violence in the queer Chicano/a community
Yvette Flores-Ortiz; Angela Gallegos Castillo; Magdalena P. Arceo

Mujeres de Maiz: Mujeres Artistas Making Love Not War
Felicia Montes; Margaret Alarcon; Martha Gonzalez; Claudia Mercado; Marisol Torres; Briseyda Zarate

Making War/ Haciendo Guerra: Creating Genderless Classrooms
Meredith Abarca; Gabriela Baeza Ventura; Carolina Villarroel

“The Juarez Project and Desert Blood: Artistic Interventions on the Juarez Murders”
Cesar Lopez; Judith F. Baca; Alicia Gaspar de Alba; Rigo Maldonado, Jr.; Victoria Delgadillo; Jennifer Araujo
Man-U-Fracturing Women

Night and day she's all alone on the assembly line.
A part here, apart there, made one on the assembly line.

Alpine coats, ID badges, sharpened tools, and special codes
to operate a micro-life only known on the assembly line.

Her iron body begins to chafe, her fingers dull.
This is the hard life of a clone on the assembly line.

She sweats cold polished metal shavings one by one
lives move on as she builds her home on the assembly line.

She is swept into the vacuum while her children grow
with mere wallet-sized pictures shown on the assembly line.

The belt waits for no one. She moves every second under the clock
until they place her worn broken bones on the assembly line.

I am only one of those she left far behind who came
from the machine that bore and raised her sons on the assembly line.

—Daniel Enrique Pérez
In the late 1960 and early 1970s, Chicanos living in the United States transformed the Mexican American civil rights movement’s scope and strategies to a more radical agenda and tactics. This rise of political activism led to the origins of the Chicano Power Movement of 1965 to 1975. The new political awareness of that period caused the U.S. Government to increase its aggression against the Chicano community. Under this historical context I am reviewing how Ernesto Chavez documents the Chicano Movement in Los Angeles, in his path breaking book *My People First! “Mi Raza Primero!” Nationalism, Identity, and Insurgency in the Chicano Movement in Los Angeles 1966-1978.*

Chavez documents the historical origins of the Chicano Power Movement in Los Angeles from 1966 to 1978, the organizational framework of the movement, and the factors that led to the decline of the Chicano Power Movement in that city. According to Chavez:

"Within the historical context of Mexican-American activism, the Chicano movement emerges as a moment albeit an important one rather than as a seminal event. Yet, like all epochs, the insurgency was a complex phenomenon with unique traits. With that in mind, this study seeks to assess the goals, achievements, and failures of the various political groups that encompassed the Chicano movement in Los Angeles – the city, then and now, with the largest concentration of ethnic Mexicans outside of Mexico City. (p. 3)"

Chavez consulted a variety of primary and secondary sources to document his thesis on the origins, structure, and decline of the Chicano Movement in Los Angeles. The author used interviews, personal accounts, FBI documents, newspapers, journal articles, and books as evidence to backup his perspective. Thus, the evidence well supports the author’s thesis that the Chicano Movement of the 60’s and 70’s had long-term effects for the Chicano community in Los Angeles, even though historically speaking the Movement was only a “historical moment.” Chavez does a wonderful job in weaving his evidence as a form to develop an eloquent narrative. The evidence he offers is a key factor in presenting the body of his work, in ways that it is difficult to deny the veracity of his statements.

*My People First!* is structured in different sections that facilitate the reader to follow the author’s perspective. The best and most significant chapters are Chapter Two, “Birth of A New Symbol: The Brown Berets;” Chapter Three, “Chale No, We Won’t Go! The Chicano Moratorium Committee;” and Chapter Four, “The Voice of the Chicano People: La Raza Unida Party”. The author’s argument is a groundbreaking perspective on the history of the Chicano Power Movement in Los Angeles. Chavez does a great job in applying his research to develop a new writing style on the history of the Chicano Power Movement.

This book is a primary example of what well researched committed Chicano Studies scholarship is about. Moreover, it could influence future perspectives on the history of the Chicano Power Movement. The only concern some might point out is that the book presents a regional point of view and not a national outlook. Nevertheless, this book will help NACCS members to better understand the scope of the Chicano Movement in Southern California as they prepare to visit Los Angeles.

Ernesto Chavez is a native of Los Angeles, California. He is Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas at El Paso, and holds a BA, MA, and Ph.D. in History from the University of California, Los Angeles. He is the author of several scholarly articles in the fields of History and Chicano Studies, and has made numerous presentations at national conferences and forums around the United States. *My People First! is Chavez first mainstream academic book,* which is based on his doctoral dissertation project. The first title of the book was *Creating Aztlán: The Chicano Movement in Los Angeles, 1966 – 1978.*
VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Visiting Scholars Program is designed to generate research about the Latino community and attract scholars who may be interested in assuming a tenured or tenure track position at the University of Houston. Research concerning the Latino community in Houston and the State of Texas is particularly encouraged. Applications are sought from junior and senior scholars in the Social Sciences, Liberal Arts and Education. Applications should include:

1. A current resume
2. Two page description of the proposed research project
3. Three letters of recommendation

Applications must be received by April 15 of each year.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Graduate Fellowship Program is designed to recruit outstanding students who have demonstrated interest in the advancement of the Mexican American or Latino community. Preference shall be given to students who plan to conduct research in the area of Mexican American or Latino Studies. It is open to all students who will be entering their first year to pursue an M.A. or Ph.D. in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Education or Social Work. A committee composed of faculty associated with the Center for Mexican American Studies chooses the recipients. Two fellowships of up to $12,000 per year, renewable for a second year, are awarded to students who meet the following criteria:

1. The students must be admitted as first year graduate students in the M.A. or Ph.D. program of their choice in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Education, or Social Work.
2. The students must agree to conduct their M.A. thesis or Ph.D. dissertation in an area dealing with Mexican American or Latino Studies.
3. The students will not be able to work during the two years of the fellowship award.

Nominations will be accepted through April 30 of each year.

NACCS for Beginners

New to NACCS? Planning to attend the conference in Los Angeles? If so here is your opportunity to learn about NACCS, its history and its governance. You will also hear about how the conference is structured and how best to enjoy all the many activities that will be part of your 3-4 days stay in Los Angeles. More importantly, however, is that you will learn how you can become part of this association. Members of the Coordinating Committee will chair this special session that will be held twice: Wednesday April 2nd at 5:15-6:15 p.m. and on Thursday April 3rd at 7:00-7:50 a.m. Check your program for locations.

The Night Shifts

María knew how her story would end. She chose to not put up a dogged fight. She knew her number: two hundred ten, Juárez women who disappeared at night.

She still could hear her mother’s last worn plea: Mija, no te vayas. Do you have to go? But the money, Ma. We need the money. And the maquiladora’s all I know.

They placed her on the graveyard shift again. An extra seven lucky cents per hour. Tonight her timecard would not be punched in. She never reached the lights of the tower.

And there was a rock and there was some wire A shred of clothes and a long burning fire.

—Daniel Enrique Pérez

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www.naccs.org
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We offer advertisement spaces as indicated below (total space is approximately 7.5" x 10"). NACCS can reduce or enlarge existing ads to fit ad space requirements.

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- August 2 (Sept/Oct), November 18 (December issues), January 17 (pre-conference issue), and May 9 (post conference issue). Ads for NACCS 2003 conference program are due January 31. We require camera-ready copy for all advertising. You may submit using e-mail attachments, with photos and graphics enclosed as "tiff" or "eps" files. Ads may be sent in Quark, PageMaker or Word. Payment is due upon submission and can be made by check, purchase order, or credit card (Visa and MasterCard) to NACCS.

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