

Volume
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La Voz de Aztlán



Caps and gowns a first for Chicano Commencement

By Debbie Richards
Special to La Voz de Aztlán

CSUF's 15th annual Chicano Commencement Ceremony will celebrate the record number of graduates this year and for the first time ever those graduates will be wearing caps and gowns.

After the university's regular commencement

on May 25, Chicano graduates will celebrate their achievements with a unique ceremony that is more personal and intimate than the mass graduation offered by the university.

"It's beautiful for the families. For some of them it's the first and only time they come to campus," said Manuel Olgin, chair of the commencement committee and coordinator of student services at the CSUF-College of Sequoias satellite center in Visalia. "It's a real emotional, stirring moment."

As part of his master's thesis in 1975, Olgin helped to create the Chicano Commencement Ceremony. The idea developed out of Olgin's feeling that something was missing from his own graduation in 1974. He wanted a more personal approach, and the Chicano ceremony was born.

To be involved in the ceremony, students were required

to send in an application. This year a record high 163 students applied to be involved in the ceremony. On the questionnaire, students were asked whether they would prefer their part of the ceremony to be in English, Spanish or bilingual.

"Many of the students' parents are monolingual, Spanish speaking,"

"It's beautiful for the families. For some of them it's the first and only time they come to campus."

—Manuel Olgin

Frances Peña, the director of the University Outreach Services office, said. "Giving the student the choice of language for the ceremony makes it more personal than the regular ceremony."

For the first time ever, students in the ceremony will be wearing caps and gowns like at the regular university ceremony. The tradition used to be that students would wear "whatever they felt comfortable in," Peña said. But this year students voted to wear caps and gowns, and the committee was happy to oblige.

"Times change, and we go with the changes in students," Olgin said.

The organizers of the ceremony pride themselves on making the ceremony more personal than the regular commencement and in following with that idea, personal touches are added to the ceremony. The names of

see COMMENCEMENT, Page 8

Muñecas danzantes



Hector Amezcua/La Voz de Aztlán
As part of Semana de la Raza Nicole Ortega Guzman, 4, and Marissa Ybarra Reyes, of Las Niñas de Aztlán performed for a cheerful crowd of more than 100 people.

California comes together for MEChA statewide

By Shannon Wentworth
Special to La Voz de Aztlán

"Chicana Power, Chicano Power, Chicanos Unite" chanted the MEChA statewide conference crowd, representing more than 50 high schools, community colleges and colleges.

Unity through education is the MEChA credo. Workshops on racism, job discrimination, educational opportunities, Chicano identity, political empowerment and other topics vital to Chicanos were held at the conference.

"We've got to understand that before we can become what we want to become we need to know how to get there," said Danny Interiano, an environmental geology major from East Los Angeles College.

"Education — that's the key to everything,

before we can help our people we've got to educate ourselves. In order for me to be a voice for my people, I must educate myself," Interiano said.

MEChA was founded in 1969 to educate La Raza and fight for Chicano rights. So far, the organization has been successful in its efforts with the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), Chicano Studies and the affirmative action hiring of Chicano faculty.

However, due to budget shortages, the programs are being targeted for elimination or funding cuts. MEChA chapters throughout the state are fighting to keep their programs funded on campuses and in communities.

The conference began on Friday, May 3 with

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Free trade agreement supports exploitation of Mexican labor

Hector Amezcua

What will a "free trade agreement," between Mexico, the United States and Canada really mean?

First of all it means that the wealthy will be getting fatter and the poor will slowly die of hunger.

Mr. Salinas de Gortari, President of Mexico, may be having the greatest relationship of any Mexican President with a U.S. President. But, with his new plan, will eventually rank as Mexico's worst president.

There are many things that Gortari is doesn't want to admit, like the fact that the people living in Mexico will become slaves to American corporations.

Already in Mexico, companies such as Green Giant have set up plantations and exploited the Mexican people.

Child labor is abundant in many regions of Mexico. Many of these children suffer as a result of rare diseases caused by polluted waters and malnutrition.

What is this free trade going to do for them? Create better health services or pollute the waters more?

Worst of all the companies who will be moving to Mexico will be paying workers miserable salaries without providing medical benefits.

According to Jorge Castañeda, an expert on Mexican policy, Mexican workers earn about \$1 an hour without benefits.

In the U.S., workers make up to seven times as much for the same work.

Although the cost of living in Mexico cannot be compared to that of the U.S., it is cheaper to

see TRADE, Page 7



English only—no way, José

Hector Amezcua

Walking by the money machines on campus one sunny day last month, I heard something that bit my ears and made me very uncomfortable. Two Caucasian men were transacting at separate automatic teller machines. As one of the men inserted his card into the Bank of America Versateller, he noticed that the machine offered instructions in both English and Spanish and shouted out to his friend at the talking Glendale Federal machine. "English or Spanish! How fucking embarrassing!"

see SPANISH, Page 8

Chicano not Hispanic

JOE TORRES

As a small Mexican boy being raised in the valley, wondering what or who I was always baffled me. Relatives would call me Mexican or Mexican American while my teachers and peers in elementary school referred to me as American.

This created confusion as I grew older. I really began to question my own identity. I hoped this could be cleared up when I entered Fresno City College.

This only served to mix me up more. I heard words like Spanish, Italian, and even Hawaiian and Somalian. But, as I first began hearing words like *Chicano* and *Hispanic*, I wondered if those terms applied to me.

At first the word *Chicano* was not the word of choice for me. It seemed kind of wrong to use a word meaning small boy or small man. I couldn't identify with the word.

Then, I took a course; Chicano-Latino Studies 3. I thought this would answer the question I have been asking myself for over 22 years. Who am I? *Chicano*, Latino or Mexican-American?

The more I was fused

in an atmosphere stressing the word *Chicano*, the more I truly felt it should be used to identify the mestizo class of people.

The word creates a sense of pride and of belonging to a mainstream culture. On the other side of the coin, *Hispanic* is a word creating more illusion than reality. Truly mindful people of the *Chicano* cul-

These were the first Hispanics.

The term *Hispanic* was used to identify numerous Cubans and Puerto Ricans. The term, coined through the news media, became a convenient tag and applied to all people south of the border. Apparently, it became easier to stomach.

Chicano has a certain ring to it. *Chicano* is pro-

scribe "A PEOPLE" should connect with the people. In terms of endearment of the struggle, representing the reality of the people. The word *Hispanic* forgets the true struggles and suffering that many *Chicano* people have to endure.

Every time *Hispanic* is used in place of *Chicano*—denoting the mestizo culture—it has an abrasive and demeaning effect, damaging the true plight of the *Chicano* community. It is the unhealing scar on the face of an already oppressed nation of people.

Chicano is the word that best describes those with Spanish and Indian heritage. It is a proud word, denoting three centuries of torment and underrepresentation endured by the *Chicano* people.

As I have grown older the term *Chicano*, along with another familiar term, *Aztlán*—referring to the land stolen from my people—have made me proud of my heritage. I have come to accept my Indianismo heritage, although it is unlikely I will ever know the lineage of Indian people I come from. I am proud to be Indian nonetheless.

The word is *Chicano* or *Chicana*. Use it.

It is a proud word, denoting three centuries of torment and underrepresentation endured by the *Chicano* people.

ture really demean themselves by succumbing to the use of the word *Hispanic*.

Chicano should be the word of choice for people of Mexican American descent. It recognizes an important trait, unrecognized in people either of Mexican or Latin American descent, Indianismo.

The Spanish who conquered Mexico in the 16th century mixed with the Aztec Indians and other Indian nations. This created the mestizo class of people—the *Chicanos*.

The term *Hispanic* originated in the area of Santa Fe, New Mexico (San Juan de Caballeros). Founded in 1598 by Juan de Oñate.

nounced with a thick "Chi" and the "cano" part is pronounced with a thick "k" sound.

The enunciation of this word as it is used in the traditional "calo" of the street barrio will be pronounced with a hard-edged tone, making it a bitter reminder of the oppressed conditions in which the majority of the *Chicano* people live.

The simple harsh sound derived from this word comes out of an ignorance of *Chicano* culture. It comes for a mere stereotype derived from the vague use of the term *Hispanic*. This is simply a misunderstood concept.

The word used to de-

La Voz de Aztlán

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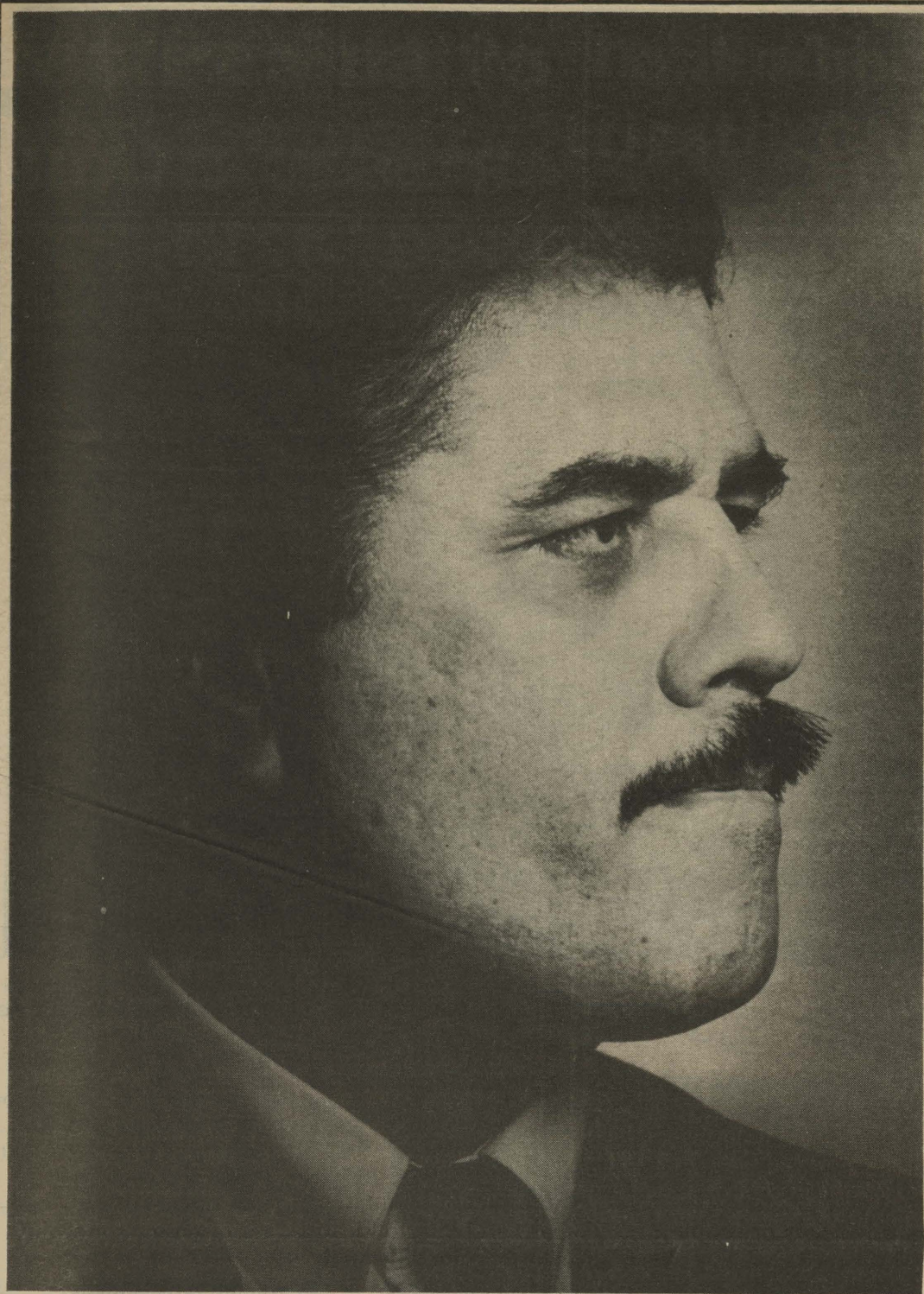
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Hector Amezcua/La Voz de Aztlán

Originally from East Los Angeles Leonard Valverde hopes to make some positive changes to the CSUF campus if selected as the school's president.

Valverde visits CSUF

By Virginia Adame
La Voz Staff Writer

Faculty involvement and participation are extremely important components of universities.

Dr. Leonard Valverde, presidential candidate, stressed this point at a faculty question and answer session during his May 1 visit. The meeting was intended to allow the faculty to get to know Valverde and find out if he is the most qualified candidate for president of CSU, Fresno.

The difference between a good university and an outstanding university is faculty, Valverde said.

"The heart, soul and guts of an institution—its reputation—is vested in its faculty."

Valverde, regardless of his position, still considers himself a faculty member.

The question of research interfering with teaching came up. Valverde said he doesn't believe that a professor has to limit his specialization to one area, but can excel in both teaching and research.

The new president will be facing a decreased budget with this in mind Valverde said he would work to reduce the deficit. However, he emphasized that academic programs would be the last cut.

Valverde did not hesitate to say that he would be willing to make administrative cuts if the need arose. He said that the administration is a support service.

Administrators have to be scrutinized to determine whether or not they are making an academic contribution if not, then the appropriate steps should be taken, he said.

In addition to faculty and budget questions, curriculum changes were discussed. Valverde said he wants to build a curriculum based on knowledge and information. He stressed the importance of getting individuals to be functional, independent, and think on their own.

"I don't think you can build a curriculum based on knowledge, you would build a curriculum based on pedagogy, instruction and confidence in skill knowledge; a person can read many different things,"

said Valverde.

Valverde said that the Euro-centric curriculum used now needs to be incorporated with other bodies of knowledge.

With the strong ethnic diversity prevalent in the university system, we have to incorporate Euro-centric curriculum and global curriculum, he said.

He also believes that students should be able to interact with the president of any university. Valverde said that the students and the president should be able to meet for lunch or for an informal get-together at the president's house. He would like to be able to discuss issues that are of concern to students with students.

On a final note, Valverde discussed the consequences of a UC campus in Fresno.

Valverde said that students still have a choice. They decide where they want to go.

"I was raised in Los Angeles. We had a saying—you want a degree go to UCLA, if you want an education go to Cal State L.A.," said Valverde.

Candidate diversity result of committee

By Jana Ballinger
Special to La Voz

As far as Chicano Latino Studies Department Chair Dr. William Flores is concerned, the diverse pool of candidates that the trustees has to choose from is a direct result of the Committee for Hispanic Educational Equity's struggles.

The five finalists included one Chicano, Leonard A. Valverde, and two African Americans. Two of the five candidates have dropped out; only Carol D. Surles, John D. Welty and Valverde remain.

The new president will be chosen on May 13.

The Committee for Hispanic Educational Equity was formed in the fall of last year. Members include faculty, staff and students from CSUF and Fresno City College plus various community leaders.

"I think it [the committee] is going to have a profound effect," said Flores. "It already has. It is going to change a lot in terms of ultimately who is selected."

In December of 1990 the committee requested that the trustees appoint a Chicano to the presidential search committee. When that didn't happen, they called for the committee to abort the search. Representatives protested in Long Beach; the result was the addition of two hispanics to the process.

Ralph Pasqueira was named a trustee and Manuel Lopez

was appointed to the Presidential Selection Advisory Committee. In addition, the search was extended.

Two Chicanos were ultimately chosen as semi-finalists; one of the final three candidates is Chicano.

"Obviously, there were serious problems in the process," said Flores. "They should have [appointed a Chicano to the committee] sooner and taken an affirmative position instead of having to be forced."

The committee is currently working on legislation that would ensure Chicano representation on all committees throughout the CSU system.

The purpose of this legislation, said Flores, is to improve the representation of Chicanos in all areas of higher education.

This is the first time that there was any sustained effort to change the search process.

"Clearly, they [the trustees] now recognize that they cannot have one out of 21 college presidents be Chicano," said Flores.

There are no Chicano vice presidents and only two assistant vice presidents in the CSU system, out of all the tenured faculty in the CSU system only three percent are Chicano; this does not reflect the demographic make up of California, he said.

Legislation has been introduced to require that the trustees

See COMMITTEE, page 7

Castañeda makes case for workers

By Debbie Richards
Special to La Voz

Jorge Castañeda impressed the campus community recently with a lecture berating the Mexican government for its unquestioning support of a free-trade bill between Mexico, the United States and Canada.

Castañeda said the free trade agreement will come at a cost, and that cost is workers.

"What is he [president Carlos Salinas de Gortari] selling to investors? Well, he is essentially selling investors—and let's be perfectly frank about this—he's selling cheap labor," Castañeda said. "That's what Mexico is selling. I don't think it's the greatest thing in the world to sell."

Castañeda spoke as part of the University Lecture Series. His talk came at the start of Semana de la Raza. Fitting in with the theme of celebrating

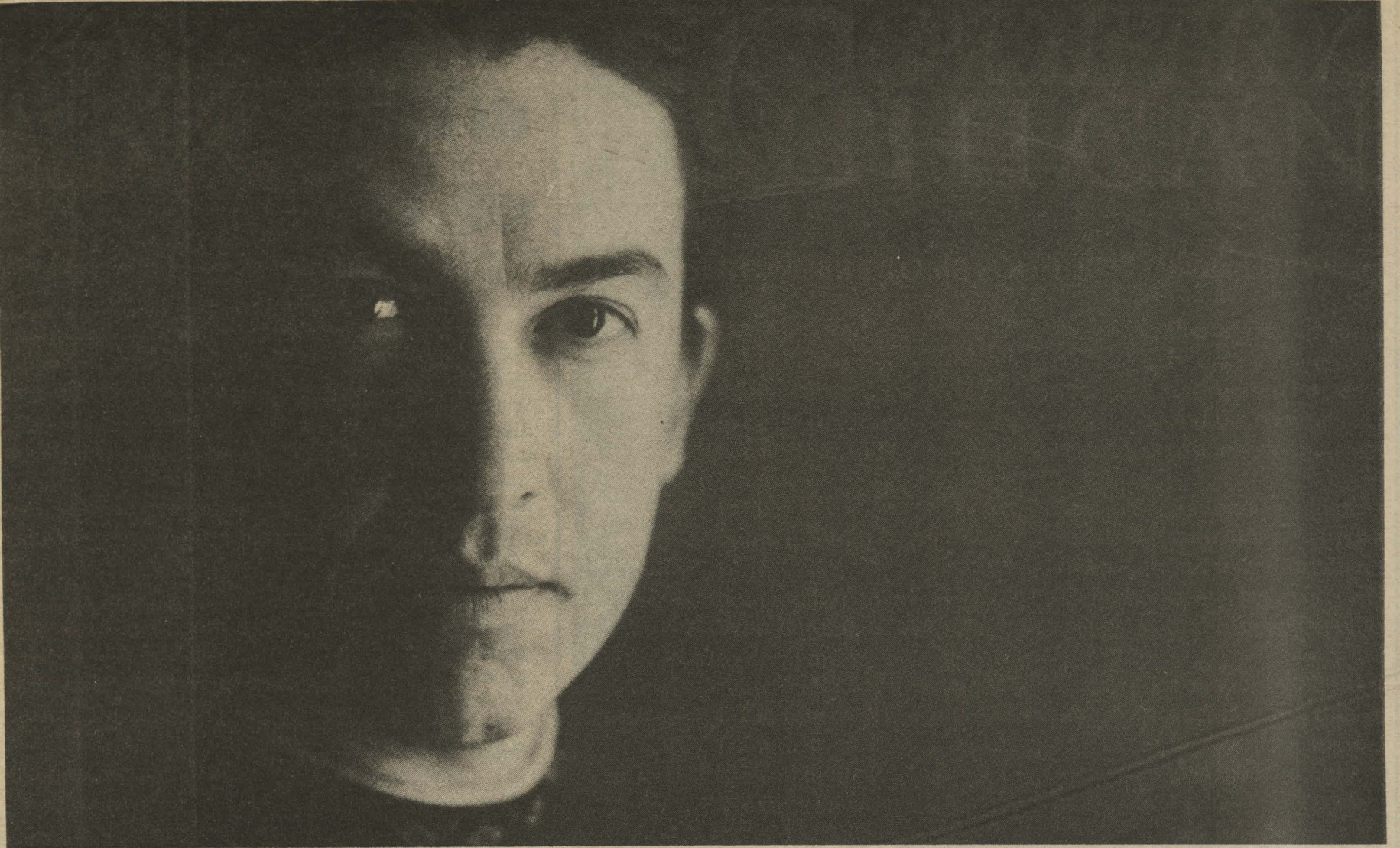
"the people," Castañeda emphasized the toll the new trade agreement would have on Mexican workers.

The agreement is a new twist in relations between the U.S., Canada and Mexico. It allows for free trade between the three countries and is considered revolutionary in form and nature.

Castañeda, a professor of political science at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, is a world-renowned scholar and author. He has advised the Mexican government on international affairs in the past and is considered one of the foremost experts on Mexican government and policy.

Castañeda argued that the Mexican government is signing the agreement without considering the workers, and without

See CASTANEDA page 7



Hector Amezcua/La Voz de Aztlán

Los Lobos' energetic May 3 performance at CSUF capped off Semana de la Raza's festivities. Louie Perez—drummer, singer and lyricist—said the band's

visit to CSUF was their first. Perez said he was impressed with the audience and felt "a good vibe going on."

By Jill Soltero
Special to La Voz

Los Lobos

The wolves were in full force at CSUF on May 3.

Los Lobos, the renowned Chicano folkloric and rock band from East Los Angeles, performed in the Satellite Student Union before a cheering, dancing crowd of 700 people. The event concluded the Semana de la Raza festivities this year.

The concert's repertoire focused heavily on their latest album, "The Neighborhood", in addition to songs from past albums.

In an interview with La Voz after the show, Los Lobos drummer Louie Perez said the band's visit to CSUF was their first. Perez said he was impressed with the audience and felt "a vibe going on" because their performance coincided with the Cinco de Mayo weekend.

The five-member band formed in 1974. Its members include Steve Berlin, saxophonist; Conrad Lozano, bassist; Cesar Rosas, vocalist-guitarist; David Hidalgo, vocalist, guitarist and lyricist; and Perez, guitarist, drummer and lyricist. All but Berlin have known each other since high school.

Perez said when Los Lobos first formed, its main objective was to reflect the band's Mexican heritage. "We formed Los Lobos as a group that was trying to preserve Mexican culture," he said.

The group began performing in Los Angeles, where they played exclusively Mexican music for almost 10 years.

Perez said they were "exploring more of the exotic regional music — huastecos, stuff from Veracruz and Guerrero. In doing so, because the music varies from region to region

as far as instrumentation, we managed to collect 30, 40 different instruments.

"And over a period of 10 years, we taught ourselves how to play [the instruments]. We made our way back to rock and roll during the late '70s ... when the new music movement was happening in Hollywood. At that time, we were exploring Tex-Mex norteño music," Perez said.

Subsequently, the group began playing in Hollywood nightclubs and also began receiving local music reviews of their performances. Success began to slowly unfold for the band.

"First was the critical acclaim. Then record company people started to come out to see us and we eventually ended up with a recording contract in 1983." The band put out their first album titled "And A Time to Dance" that year.

Although their first recording effort was done on a "shoestring" budget, Perez said the album was an important milestone for the Chicano music scene.

"It caught everyone by surprise because Chicano bands hadn't really done much since ... [the Chicano band] Tierra. Even though we didn't have a hit song off of that record,

there was a certain climate for new music at that time. We toured all over the United States ... in different places like Vermont ... places where there's no Chicanos at all, way down south in North Carolina, Atlanta, Ga. ..." he said. By 1985, they had traveled all over the world.

Perez said "And A Time to Dance" ended up on the Top 10 list nationally, from "the Village Voice in New York, to Rolling Stone magazine ... L. A. Weekly, and a lot of different magazines."

The group reached a milestone in 1984 when they won a Grammy award, under the category Best Mexican American Performance, for a traditional song entitled "Anselma."

Several years later, Los Lobos burst into the mainstream music scene with their soundtrack to the 1987 movie "La Bamba." Perez said the impact of the famous song was global.

"A lot of people would trivialize it as just a novelty song. [But] for that summer in 1987, we had people all over the world singing the Spanish lyrics to a song that was 150-years-old. I think that's a pretty heavy thing," he said.

The "La Bamba" soundtrack changed Los Lobos' future.

"We became very visible at that

point. Our reaction to that was to put out a record of Mexican folk music. ... "La Pistola y El Corazón" came out in the fall of 1988. It was a record of regional folk music; we kind of went back to our roots after the big hit song.

"We wanted to do something that was more artistically rewarding for us, and at the same time, almost a social statement.

"It was a record of Mexican music, that at that point — because of our visibility — was available all over the world ... so we had huasteco music playing in Tokyo, Norway; so it's a pretty heavy thing. We exploited our visibility in order to do something that we felt was constructive."

Since their successful breakthrough into the mainstream music scene, Perez said Los Lobos has made an effort to redefine the media portrayal of Chicanos.

"If I can just step out of my role ... and look at this group objectively, I think we've made some pretty major changes in contemporary music, which is a pretty heavy thing to say, but it's true.

"We're the first Mexican American band to really do what we've done and still not flag wave and portray ourselves as a microcosm of some exotic culture, but as ... part of the big picture in this world. We're just redefining [and] educating people. We've opened some doors for Latin music in the past three or four years."

Plans for Los Lobos include participating in national festivals through August. Prior to their CSUF show, they had performed in a jazz festival in New Orleans. They will hold shows in Jackson, Miss. and Philadelphia. They will also perform in New York City's Central Park and Vienna, Va.

Perez said the band's next album should be out by the beginning of next year.

POETRY CHICANO

NOWHERE TO BE FOUND

He works and does
not have the
tolerance
to be there for me
nor understand
what
i am
going through
i am
going to fall
Who is going
to catch me
when
i collapse
from this
miserable life?
Weak as i am
i could just
press myself
to the
earth and plunge
down into my own grave,
let her swallow
my foetus and keep it
warm for his supper.

by Lucia Sanchez

WHY

Their bond breaks
his mind
separated
from emotions

He couldn't
stand the
pain

No resolution
coke induced
decision

The hammer
falls
twice
rrraka takka
boom

there they
lie
two
spirits
rise

by Sam A. Gill

Ballad Of What The Wind Said

Eternity could easily
be only a river,
a forgotten horse
and the cooing
of a lost dove.

As soon as a man loses touch
with other men, the wind comes
and tells him other things,
opens his ears
and his eyes to other things.

Today I distanced myself from other men,
and alone, in this gully,
I saw only a horse
and listened only
to the cooing
of a lost dove.

And then the wind came near,
just like someone passing by,
and told me:
Eternity could easily
be only a river,
a forgotten horse
and the cooing
of a lost dove.

by Rafael Alberti
translated by Julio Leal

shine from the ceiling

up fast,
down hard,
long, like lightning
licking you
into a state of dreams

where wasps
tickle your ear
lovingly,

then sting
your stomach
until swollen
like a big taut ball.

When you wake,
i will be next to you,
the stars will
shine from the ceiling
and our bodies, wet,
will glisten
under their light.

by Andres Montoya

For the record:
La Voz de Aztlán would like
to apologize for miscrediting
the cover drawing of the April
29 insert. The drawing was by
Luis Ramirez, not Jose Ro-
driguez.

Community ties Padilla to Fresno Chicano interests

• *CSUF graduate hopes to maintain ties to community*

By Joe M. Torres
La Voz Staff Writer

Esther Padilla, 5th district candidate, wants to take campaigning to a grass roots level.

Esther Padilla graduated from CSU, Fresno in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in social work. At the time, there were "not very many Chicano students at the university," said Padilla.

Padilla has always felt the need to keep in touch with the Chicano community.

Working through "Centro la Familia," Padilla has put her efforts into the service of the Chicano community. "I worked in the community like a public servant working in the community with families, children, and youth," Padilla returned to the university in the early 80s to get her master's degree in social work.

Padilla's father who was a farmworker didn't want to see Padilla working in the same environment. "He didn't want to see us working in the same industry ... he was very adamant. It was a real effort in terms of our family."

Community interaction is the goal of Padilla's campaign. "This campaign has been real grass roots," she said. The mainstays of her campaign are mailing and door to door.

One of her goals is to rebuild community management. "Schools are going back into site based management," said Padilla. She wants schools restructured to involve parents and students in the educational process.

Another key element of Padilla's campaign is concern for the community's condition. Incidents of violence, drugs and gangs have prompted concern in the southeast community.

The environment is one of Padilla's target areas. "Southeast Fresno needs not to be a dumping ground," she said.

Approaching the campaign as a Chicana woman brought Padilla a better perspective on the community.

Padilla feels there is a challenge to confront. "As a woman, it sets into being a role model for young people," Padilla said,

"The next person coming through will not have to break those barriers."

Padilla stresses college and education as assets in the community. Her message is learn and be open-minded.

"Get your college education, complete it."



Virginia Adame/La Voz de Aztlán

Esther Padilla became the first Chicana city council member of Fresno after last week's elections.

Padilla said, "Try to be as open-minded as possible ... listen, hear and dialogue and respect the qualities that people have."

The key to Padilla's campaign is making people realize that change is needed. A change stressing community involvement in political processes.

Padilla's ability to bring people together has been the key to her success. Padilla said, "one of the elements is to bring people together. This race has allowed me that challenge."

Padilla becomes first Chicana council member

• *Grass roots campaign key to her success*

By Joe M. Torres
La Voz Staff Writer

At 10:18 p.m. on May 6 Esther Padilla defeated Chris Peterson to become the first Chicana councilmember.

She won the 5th district post with 3,331 votes, more than half of the majority. Padilla took 55.7 percent of the vote compared to 44.1 percent for Peterson.

There are several key issues facing Padilla as she prepares to serve on City Council. Padilla plans to bring a traditional role to the council, serving as a politician and continuing to work as a social worker. The incumbent Chris Petersen had served on the council for the past eight years.

Padilla is the third Hispanic and the fifth woman

I think the city of Fresno has spoken. They want a change at city hall, they don't want to accept the way things have been taken care of in the past

-Esther Padilla

on the city council.

Her successful bid for councilmember was a result of many long months of hard work.

The key to the success of Padilla's campaign was grass roots activism, utilizing an absentee ballot campaign which significantly increased the number of voters.

Padilla said, "we encouraged people to vote absentee because it was the only thing on the ballot and it seemed like the sensitive thing to do."

Padilla said, "I think the city of Fresno has spoken. They want a change at city hall, they don't want to accept the way things have been taken care of in the past and we want to move forward in a very positive way and be able to be inclusive of this very diverse community that we have."

Padilla and her husband Gilbert Padilla were involved in the United Farm Workers Union. She served as president of the Mexican-American Political Association. Padilla is also one of the founding members of Fresno Tomorrow which helps at-risk of failing elementary school students.

One of the key issues she will start on is repealing the council's pay increase.

CHO breaks language barriers for patients

By Cristina Medina
La Voz de Aztlán

Christina DeContreras believes that the needs of people of color are being overlooked in the health field.

As president of the Chicano Health Organization at CSUF, she hopes the club's efforts will attract students with similar concerns.

"Sometimes, because of language barriers, minorities are not able to get sufficient care. With more minorities in the health field, we can relate and care for those people and help to make a better society," DeContreras said.

• *Organization recruits students who believe they can make a difference in community*

The Chicano Health Organization (CHO) has been at CSUF for more than 15 years. It offers a support system for students pursuing careers in health sciences. Its priority is offering services to the community.

"We like the community to know who we are. We want to bring the students from the university and the people from the community together. One way is by going to the high schools and talking to students about health related issues,

subjects like diseases and AIDS," DeContreras said.

In recent years, the club has brought speakers from the science community to campus. The club is also responsible for organizing free, bilingual CPR classes.

"We established a fund to offer free one-day CPR instruction. It's important that people have the opportunity to take part," DeContreras said. "Last year, we went to a church and took the blood pressure of the

people. Those are just some of the things we do to help out."

DeContreras, a senior zoology major, said the club is always interested in new members and is currently trying to get more students involved in the club's activities.

"Many of our core people have graduated. We are trying to recruit people who believe that, as students, we can make a difference," DeContreras said.

"As minorities, it is impor-

tant to know where your roots are from and be able to go back and help our community and families."

In collaboration with the HCOP program, CHO brought Dr. Hector Florez, president of the Chicano-Latino Medical Association of California, to CSUF on Monday, March 18.

Florez's efforts, in support of legislation for better health care, have been recognized nationally. His presentation was titled "Pluralistic Society; Minorities Working Together for Better Health Care."

Nicaraguan sister city fights for education

Hector Amezcua
La Voz de Aztlán

While public education is taken for granted in Fresno, the people of Fresno's sister city Telpaneca, Nicaragua have given their lives in the fight for education.

During a two week visit, Ramon Gomez, a city council member and former mayor of Telpaneca, expressed appreciation to the people of Fresno for their support of sister city Telpaneca.

In 1989, the Fresno Sister City Council built a school that 98 children from the Telpaneca farming community attend.

"I'm visiting Fresno because of an invitation from the Fresno [Telpaneca] Sister City Council. An invitation that I consider very important.

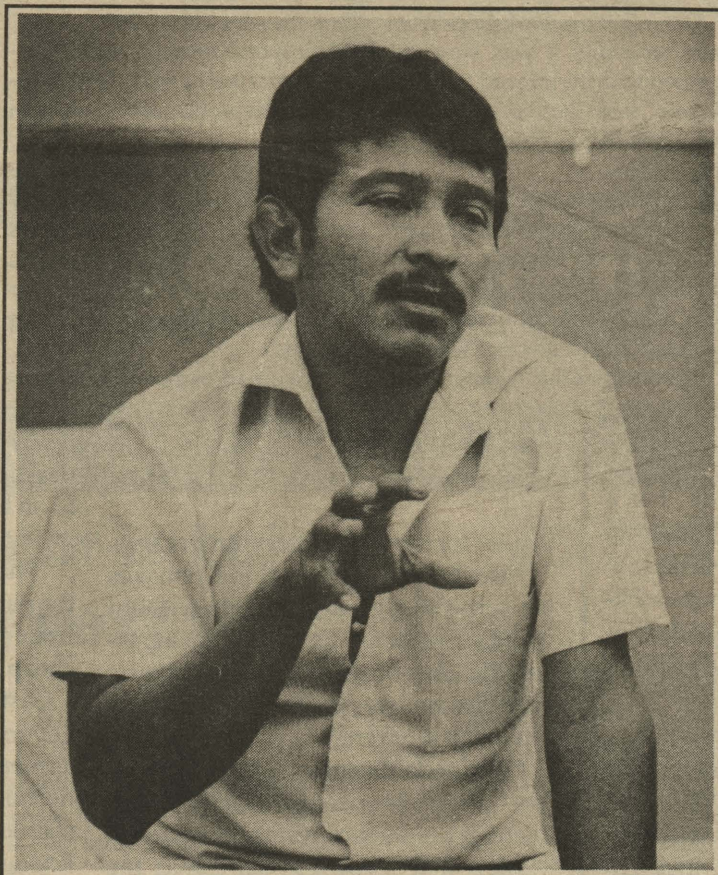
"For us, it is very extraordinary that people from other places see the necessities in our nation, and basically they put their focus on our city of Telpaneca," Gomez said.

Educating Telpaneca

Gomez, himself a teacher, explained the need to have students from Fresno teach young children how to read and write English.

"We've been speaking to students, and there is a lot of concern about the situation in Nicaragua.

"We need one student to teach English in high school, and that is something that has motivated a few people," Gomez said.



La Voz de Aztlán

According to Ramon Gomez of Telpaneca, Fresno's sister city in Nicaragua, it is in the process with the current government to increase their education budget.

In Nicaragua, English is a requirement for students seeking higher education.

The construction of a library in Telpaneca was another reason for Gomez's visit. He hoped to raise some money for its construction in

July.

"We now have a project of building a public library, that basically will serve as a medium to continue expanding the services of education," Gomez said.

"This project will remedy a very difficult problem that we are going through — especially in the intellectual field — because there isn't enough consultation material."

During a meeting with President Harold Haak, Gomez explained the need to have someone from Telpaneca educated in Fresno.

"We would like to see if we could have one or a few students teaching English, or if possible bring a student from Telpaneca so we could have a permanent English teacher," Gomez said.

Haak said he would assist Gomez in his search for someone to teach English.

Although Telpaneca receives help from many other countries, Gomez feels that Fresno is the greatest supporter.

"One of the [cities] that is supporting us the most with material and economic resources, is precisely the community of Fresno," Gomez said.

Sandinistas Misunderstood

Gomez explained that the confusion surrounding Sandinistas makes people hesitant to help.

In July of 1979, the people of Nicaragua managed to overthrow the dictatorship of the Somoza family, which had ruled for more than 43 years.

The Sandinistas took over the

government and began a movement toward democracy.

Although Gomez is a member of the Sandinistas, he does not represent them in city council.

"What we do in the municipal government is not representing the Sandinista front, but instead what we do is lift and push the development of the community not as parties, but as a municipal organization that has to respond to the basic needs of its people," Gomez said.

"Outside of Nicaragua it is thought that the Sandinistas are warriors, communist, marxist."

"The real truth is that the Sandinistas have pledged to assure a democratic process in Nicaragua and to actuate its development," Gomez said.

"I hope that the community of Fresno has clearer ideas than they had before about the concept of what a Sandinista is.

"The real situation is that there isn't a co-government or that the Sandinistas don't have any contact with the government to govern, but instead they are helping to support the reconstruction of the country, and in that way we are trying to show people that it's not the way they see it on television or the way they read about it in newspapers.

"What we are trying to do is consolidate the conquests that we've made and help the government in which ever way we can."

McDonald's seeks Chicano employees

La Voz Staff

Aware that nearly half its customer base in the Fresno area is Chicano, the McDonald's Corporation is encouraging Chicanos to join its local management ranks.

Olga Molina-Mares, a CSUF graduate now living and working in Sacramento as a personnel supervisor for the fast food hamburger chain, was in town last week for a special McDonald's manager training session.

She visited campus to finalize plans for McDonald's sponsorship of the Chicano Journalism Students Association magazine, *Destinos*.

She also promoted the McDonald's Internship Program which provides management training to students while they complete their college educations.

Molina-Mares is seeking Chicano stu-

dents for the program. The program places college juniors and seniors in the McDonald's Restaurant Management Training Program at entry level manager trainee positions.

"The trainee receives a \$1,000 annual stipend toward college expenses," Mares said. "The trainee can also work a minimum 20 hour week at \$8.15 per hour."

From manager trainee, with a salary range of \$17,000 to \$20,000, the participant may climb the McDonald's management ladder up to store manager which pays from \$27,000 to \$41,000.

McDonald's also offers its interns company benefits, such as health insurance, stock purchase plan, profit sharing and paid vacations, Molina-Mares said.

A 1976 CSUF graduate with a degree in psychology, Molina-Mares worked her way up the company ladder by entering the

training program in 1983. She managed her own restaurant for two and one half years before accepting the promotion to personnel.

In addition to seeking Chicanos for the internship program, McDonald's has supported CJSA's *Destinos* magazine for three years by sponsoring its past Chicano Youth Conference and Chicano Commencement Celebration issues.

Destinos is published twice a year and CJSA Advisor Tom Uribes says that McDonald's support has been crucial in allowing CJSA to provide quality publications.

Molina-Mares said McDonald's will continue to support these CSUF activities and she encourages Chicano students to take advantage of the internship program.

McDonald's not only seeks business students, but students from other disciplines

as well.

"For motivated individuals, the possibilities are virtually limitless," she said. "The entire Management Training Program is designed to move people up the ladder as quickly as their performance merits."

She said students have the opportunity to learn as much as they want about all aspects of the business — real estate, finance, accounting and marketing.

"At McDonald's you have the ability to create your own destiny," she said. "It's all here and management encourages and supports your desire to learn and move up in the company."

Students may obtain information about the program by calling Uribes at 278-5366 and leaving a mailing address, or by writing to the McDonald's Corporation, Personnel Department, 1750 Howe Avenue, Suite 550, Sacramento, Ca. 95825

Despite budget cuts UMS moves forward

By Hector Amezcua
La Voz de Aztlán

Migrant students in 1981 were given the opportunity to break from the traditional farmworking role by a federally funded assistance program aimed at keeping migrant

youths out of the fields and getting them into the classroom.

The College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), now called University Migrant Services (UMS), was formed to assist students with the transition from high school to college and help fill the needs of migrant students at CSUF.

A funding proposal for the CAMP program was written for the U.S. Department of Education by Raul Diaz, UMS director, and Raul Moreno, UMS counselor. Although the program initially received support, CAMP has had to make many changes due to funding cuts that began in 1986.

According to William Corcoran, dean of student affairs,

financial concerns led the CAMP staff to be incorporated into the university. "When CAMP lost its federal funding, we had to decide whether we would close down the services that CAMP was providing," said Corcoran.

"I made the decision that the activities directed at migrant students were too important to end. So we absorbed the staff that CAMP was carrying and we established UMS," Corcoran said.

UMS counselor, Bonnie Pickett, said, "we had a lot of strong support from the dean's office because he thought we were very effective in recruiting and retaining students from migrant and seasonal farmworker families."

With help from Corcoran, CAMP received a state grant in 1987 and changed its name to UMS.

Despite budget concerns, UMS has continued to serve the need of migrant students.

"Because of documents needed to qualify for financial aid, more and more students are forced to drop out of the university. Therefore, there is a greater need to help students more and more," Moreno said.

The programs success, according to Moreno, is due to the personal attention the students receive in a family atmosphere.

In addition to problems adapting to the stresses of college, some students experience stress problems because they were excluded from legaliza-

tion by the 1986 Amnesty Law.

Counselors are usually able to help with problems. However, according to Moreno, when they can't help, students are referred to someone who specializes in the area of concern.

Diaz and Moreno instigated the migrant assistance program in hopes of ending or lessening personal and educational worries.

"We saw a growing number of migrant students at this university who needed help," said Moreno.

Moreno declined to give the names of students with this problem because of the issue's sensitive nature.

"I feel that there are a lot of people who would react negatively about our students' problems," said Moreno.

Trade

•Continued from page 2

Mexico — if you get paid in dollars that is — otherwise, it isn't any easier.

The Mexican government is making a grave mistake in trading its people in the pursuit of capitalism. In the long run, Mexico will be far worse off with a free trade agreement.

MEChA

• Continued from page 1

a "cultural night" that consisted of poetry readings by Juan Felipe Herrera, Margarita Robles and Jorge Reynoso followed by "El Soldado Razo" a play by Ruben Fuentes. Ballet Folklorico de Dinuba capped off the night of Chicano culture.

Early Saturday morning the conference participants assembled in the Satellite Student Union to hear

guest speakers Arturo Rodriguez from United Farm Workers, Dr. William Flores, chair of Chicano and Latin American Studies department and Ben Benavidez, President of State and National Mexican-American Political Association.

The participants then chose to attend one of the nine workshops offered. Two sessions of workshops were held, one before lunch and one after.

"I thought the workshops went very smoothly, I was very impressed with the information presented," said Claudia Soria, a student from Kings River Community College.

In addition to hamburgers and Pepsi, the conference participants were treated to the music of Marimba de la Peña during lunch. The music was followed by a speech from a former nun wishing to be known as the "woman who

sang the songs of truth."

Her speech focused on the injustices Chicanos have faced and addressed the problems holding them back.

"We have been robbed and insulted by the rich. We have to show them that we will not sell ourselves to the dominant society," she said. "They took away our land, our beliefs, our language—everything we had."

"We are foreigners and strang-

ers in our own land. We are not Americans we are Mechistas."

"We have to fight. We must fight for our freedom to speak. We must fight for a better share of politics and the economy. We must fight against poverty and oppression."

The dance following the conference was cancelled due to an altercation between conference participants. The organizers of the 22nd annual MEChA conference were unavailable for comment.

Committee

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tees select a presidential selection advisory committee that "fully encompasses the diversity" and ethnic composition of the particular university's service area.

CSUF's service area is 40 percent Chicano and 19.8 percent of the student body is Chicano.

"That [legislation] was something that was initiated here," Flores said. If the legislation passes, all other universities would have to follow these guidelines

"We are trying to restore fairness to

the process," said Flores.

He believes that Valverde "has a very good shot" at being chosen to replace president Harold Haak.

"It is clear that the trustees are looking for someone who is a good manager and is willing to make cuts," Flores said.

"Valverde has a good track record," he said. "As far as whether they will hire him, I don't know."

It is important for the new president to be committed to affirmative action, faculty diversity programs and educational equity programs in addition to being sensitive to the needs of the rapidly growing Chicano population at CSUF, said Flores.

Castañeda

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regard for the welfare of those workers.

"Mexico will sign anything. It makes no sense to sign agreements without any teeth in them," he said. "[This agreement] makes no sense. It makes no sense to negotiate a free-trade agreement and leave out workers."

Castañeda discussed the "cheap labor" pool in Mexico and said the agreement gives Mexico an opportunity to exploit that labor. He compared the earnings of a Mexican worker to that of an American worker to demonstrate the way that American corporations moving into Mexico will be able to exploit the Mexican worker.

In Mexico, Castañeda said, an aver-

age worker makes about 25,000 pesos a day, or about \$8. That amounts to about \$1 an hour, and that, Castañeda said, is "what cheap labor means."

"That's what Mexico is bringing to the party. To the North American free-trade party Mexico's coming in with its cheap labor," he said.

Castañeda urged the United States government to reconsider signing the agreement because Mexico is not a democratic government. The U.S. shouldn't favor making deals with what Castañeda calls an "authoritarian" system.

"The last thing the United States should do is to become a supporter of the last authoritarian political system surviving practically on the Latin American mainland."

Commencement

• Continued from page 1

each graduate are called, along with the parents' names, hometown, high school and career goals. The students and their parents are included in the graduating process.

After the ceremony, there will be a reception followed by mariachis in The Bucket. The organizers said it's a chance for everyone to celebrate the accomplishments of those who've graduated.

"It's just a very nice thing," Olgin said. "We like to do this, we really like to do this."

Spanish

• Continued from page 2

Without looking around to see if a brown person might have been walking by, he continued his tirade. "This is America and we have to deal with this shit. Learn English! How fucking embarrassing!"

• • •

I wonder what his reaction would be if I spoke no English and was trying to operate the Versateller before him?

That person doesn't realize exactly how valuable those Spanish-speaking people are to this nation and its rich corporations.

Although I do know how to speak English, I have been using the Spanish

option on the Versateller. It identifies more with my culture and people, and most of all I'm very proud to be a Spanish speaker.

Last month when I received my bill from PG&E, I was pleased to see the many languages included in a special insert. Clearly this company knows that through English-only policies it would only mean less business for them.

Sure, everyone who comes to this country may lead a better life by knowing how to speak English.

In the 20 years that my father has been in this country — without knowing hardly any English — no one in my family has been without food, and, no,

we've never been on welfare, either.

Without our non-English speaking people we would never have had any food on our tables. Even the most sophisticated machinery nowadays can't pick lettuce, peaches, oranges or bell peppers.

"This is America love it or leave it" — one of the most common phrases used to shield against people who have different opinions — has been so ingrained in peoples' minds that I've even heard immigrants, who have become "acculturated," use it.

America is a melting pot and not a barrel of English speaking assholes.

1991 Chicano Commencement Celebration magazines now on sale!

CSUF's Chicano Journalism Students Association is now taking orders for its current edition of DESTINOS magazine, which features a portrait section of 1991 Chicano graduates.

DESTINOS will be available on May 24 for \$2 each. Copies will also be available at the May 25 celebration in the CSUF Amphitheatre.

CALL 278-5366 TO RESERVE A COPY TODAY!