Ballet Chicano de Aztlán, 1970

The Ballet Chicano de Aztlán, a dance group part of the Crusade for Justice, dance in Mexican costume.
Ballet Chicano de Aztlán, 1970

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Protest after Denver bus bombing, 1970

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Protest in Denver after the Denver bus bombing case, 02-11-1970

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Solidarity Day Called for Activists

by Julie Stark

This Sunday, March 17, a rally will be held on the state capitol grounds in conjunction with a National and International Solidarity Day in Support of the Crusade for Justice and Luis "Junior" Martinez.

According to the Crusade for Justice's literature, within the last year the Chicano movement in Denver has been subject to repeated harassment. A year ago this Saturday, Luis "Junior" Martinez was shot and killed by Denver Police during a raid on the property of the Crusade for Justice. Since that time over one hundred Chicano activists have been arrested and taken to court on charges of one kind or another. All but one have been freed.

According to the Denver Chicano Liberation Defense Committee, a more recent attempt to discredit the Chicano movement comes from the Rocky Mountain News. On January 15, the paper ran a headline saying "Bomb Recipient: Crusade for Justice Connection Traced." Until this story broke the police were not aware of any connections.

Gary Garrison, a teacher at the Crusade Enrique Talibicsco was arrested for reasons which are not clear; at this point to the Defense Committee, and is now out on a personal recognizance bond, which the Defense Committee says is an indication that the city does not have a very strong case.

On Sunday the Defense Committee and the Crusade asked for people's support by joining the Solidarity March. At 10:30 interested persons will meet at five parks in the Denver area: La Raza Park at 38th and Osage; Mesiti Park at 30th and Curtis; La Alma Park at 10th and Marion; Cheesman Park between 8th and 13th at Race; and Luis "Junior" Martinez Park at 37th and Lafayette. From these parks the marchers will proceed to the state capitol at Colfax and Lincoln. The estimated arrival time is one o'clock. At the capital the speakers will include Corky Gonzales from the Crusade for Justice, Russel Means and Dennis Banks from the American Indian Movement, Los Tres Del Barrio, Angela Davis, William Kunstler, and several others.

For additional information call the Denver Chicano Liberation Defense Committee at 222-0825.

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Denver Activist Gonzales Explains Chicano Struggle

by A. Evangelista

Rudolph Corky Gonzales, director and founder of the Crusade for Justice, spoke in the Bannock Center Cellar Tuesday afternoon as part of the MSC 1973 Mayfest.

Gonzales, who was also introduced as a poet, writer, and activist, commented about appearing before a mixed crowd—Anglo, Chicana, and Black. He was fortunate, he said, especially in this day and age when the Chicano Movement seems to be slowly disappearing, to speak to many students, especially the Chicano students at Metro.

In looking at the Chicano Movement in particular, Gonzales stressed the importance of “evaluating” its role as a movement and of seeing the possibility of it becoming an industry.

In looking back to the year 1965-67, he recalled how the young people were looking for something to be a part of, and he stated that the ‘Chicano Awareness’ became “very important to them.”

“It gave them a sense of pride,” he said, “and it gave them an identity and a road to struggle on.”

He added that the Chicano “now has a battleground, and is willing to commit and involve himself in it.” Speaking for the Chicano Movement, Gonzales said, “We’re willing to invest ourselves and commit ourselves, and we’re ready to face the results of it.”

Gonzales was interrupted momentarily as more people came in and found seats.

In stating how the Chicano Movement began, he said that the Chicano people have always been involved with union strikes, union organizations, and union involvement since time began.

We started recognizing those people that have shed their blood on the ‘social battlefield,’ he proclaimed, and added that the revolutionary symbol that they have adopted fall back to those people.

“There has been resistance against oppressors, against those seeking riches, and a resistance against those people who believe in ‘Manifest Destiny,’ which he claims “most of the direction and philosophy of this country is based on.”

Manuel Gonzales, said Gonzales, was that belief by those people coming from the eastern seaboard—“The WASP element”—that they were superior to “our groups, who they felt could not govern themselves.”

In doing so, he went on, “they have destroyed culture—taking land away from the Indians, enslaving the Blacks, and creating ‘Expansionism’ into Mexico, and thus creating economic expansion into Aztec and Wounded Knee.”

He claims that this country believes that “thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s goods,” yet, says that this country is “ripping off” the minerals from every South American, African, and Asian country in the world.

The problems that the Chicano is faced with, he believes, are the “racism, bigotry, discrimination, and the forces of capitalism.”

The corporate structure of this country, he observed “controls the marked values, the economy, controls the Universities, and their administrations, and controls the flow of money into programs which are supposed to help the poor.

“We must teach and learn Chicano history and culture so that we can identify with our positive elements,” he insisted. The young people, he said, have begun to ‘identity’ with these types of freedom.

“The Cultural Awareness Level is only one step,” said Gonzales. “The other level is ‘politicized’—understanding the system, and understanding what to struggle against.”

Continued on Page 2

Weds. Afternoon Classes Cancelled for Mayfest

By Brian Horson

Gina suggested the idea to the administration in April and later received the support. The entire authorization was contingent upon the willingness of the faculty to participate. The departments were asked to develop programs to fill the afternoon.

“IT is not just an afternoon for students to leave early,” Gina stated emphatically. “It is designed strictly to benefit the students by allowing them to attend May Fest.”

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Rudolph Corky Gonzales speaks at Metro State, 1973
Denver Activist Gonzales Explains Chicano Struggle

By A. Gonzales

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Stop Bombing Denver" 1975

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Maria Cerna, Rosemary Quinano Ornelas, Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales and Ernesto Vigil at press conference with sign that reads “Stop Bombing Denver”, 09-20-1975

Damaged apartment building after a battle between police and Crusade for Justice, 1973
Damaged apartment building after a battle between police and Crusade for Justice, 1973

Photo of damaged apartment building at 1567 Downing Street, Denver, after an explosion and gun battle between Crusade for Justice and Police, 03-18-1973

Protest on 15th St., Denver, 1960s

Protest on 15th St., Denver, 1960s
Protest on 15th St., Denver, 1960s

Mexican American protesters carry banner “It Is Better to Die On Your Feet Than to Keep On Living On Your Knees,” “Es Mejor Morir de Pie, Que Seguir Viviendo de Rodillas” down 15th St. in Denver, late 1960s

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Crusade for Justice building, undated

Undated photo of the Crusade for Justice Building, at 1567 Downing Street, Denver

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Corky Gonzales, Cesar Chavez, and artist Carlos Santistevan
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Corky Gonzales, Cesar Chavez, and artist Carlos Santistevan

Corky Gonzales, Cesar Chavez, and artist Carlos Santistevan, sometime in 1960s in Denver

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TLATELOCO

Article on money raised for TLATELOCO, the school operated by the Crusade for Justice, 01-01-1971

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Corky Gonzales speaking at rally

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Corky Gonzales speaking at rally

Corky Gonzales speaking at rally in Denver, 1960s

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Crusade for Justice pickets Post Office

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Crusade for Justice pickets Post Office
Crusade for Justice pickets Post Office

Latinos picket the Denver post office for discriminating against Mexican-American workers, 02-04-1969

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Crusade for Justice Founders, late 1960s

Picture of Corky Gonzales with donors and other founders of the Crusade for Justice, c. 1966-1970
Chicano Liberation Day demonstration, 1975

Chicano Liberation Day demonstration, 1975

Chicano Liberation Day demonstration, 1975

Article with pictures of the Crusade for Justice’s Chicano Liberation Day demonstration in downtown Denver, 09-16-1975

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“Sunday Walk for Peace” Article on an anti-war demonstration in downtown Denver, organized by several groups including Crusade for Justice, 11-13-1969
Chicano Leaders, 1960s
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**Chicano Leaders, 1960s**

Joe Gonzales, Geraldine Gonzales, Nita Gonzales and John Haro, Chicano leaders, Crusade for Justice, Denver, 1960s

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Photo of aftermath of police bombing of a Crusade for
Justice Building
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Photo of aftermath of police bombing of a Crusade for Justice Building

Photo of aftermath of police bombing of a Crusade for Justice Building, 1973

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Political buttons Chicano Civil Rights
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Political buttons Chicano Civil Rights

Political buttons that read “Razasi Raza Razasi Si : Migra No” Chicano Civil Rights Movement Button, 1970s
The Ballet Chicano de Aztlán, a dance group that was part of the Crusade for Justice, dance in Mexican costume.