

Chicano Liberation Day Demonstration

By Ricky A. Kemm
Transcript Staff

September 16 marked the fifth annual Chicano Liberation Day demonstration in downtown Denver.

Hundreds of Chicanos and Chicano supporters turned out, including guest speakers John Trudell of the American Indian Movement and Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, leader of the Crusade for Justice in Denver.

The date, now an annual day of demonstration, was set down in 1969 when the Crusade for Justice Headquarters sponsored a National Youth Conference.

More than 3000 Chicanos attended the conference.

POETIC FORM

During the conference, El Plan Espiritual De Aztlan, was written in poetic form and adopted. Other resolutions, points of

organization and ideas were also created, of them, the motion to observe September 16 annually as a day of walk out — from school and work — to demonstrate the importance of better education, economical, and political implementations for Denver's Chicano communities.

NO CULTURAL CARNIVAL

September 16 is not a day of conservative politics, but a day for Chicano activists who have struggled for the liberation of all oppressed Chicano people.

To quote "Corky" Gonzales, the idea behind September 16 is "not to have a cultural carnival," but a day when all people who participate can gain understanding on a political and educational level from the Chicano Movement perspective.

HIDALGO'S CRY

And Denver was not the only demonstration area. There were other demonstrations, parades, and celebrations throughout the southwestern United States and Mexico, where "El Grito de Dolores" is celebrated in honor of the infamous Catholic priest Don Miguel Hidalgo who issued the cry for independence of Mexico from Spanish rule in 1810. It was Hidalgo's cry that eventually led to the war that freed Mexico from Spain.

MECHA

Metro's El Movimiento Estudiantial Chicano De Aztlan



(MECHA) worked on a float for the Denver demonstration (see photo) in conjunction with the Community College, Auraria Campus MECHA people and the United Mexican American Students (UMAS) from the University of Colorado at Denver.

The float depicts a cake with candles. Each candle carries a slogan — oppression, genocide, Tlatelalco 1968, imperialism, capitalism, and others — representing oppressions suffered

by Chicanos during the past 200 years. The candles serve to denounce the Bi-Centennial Celebration coming up.



photo by Les Crandell



photo by Dave Peril

*The New Leaf
where the girls go*

Sun and Mon- football on 52 inch screen
Sun and Tue- shot of Tequila 70 cents
Wed- 75 cent drink night
Thurs- ladies night, ladies drinks...50 cents
Every night- 50 cent drinks from 8:00 - 9:00
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