

GUEST EDITORIAL

EXPLORATIONS IN ETHNIC STUDIES, A NEW JOURNAL

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The National Association of Interdisciplinary Ethnic Studies (NAIES) was organized at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse during the third annual meeting of the Minority Studies Conference in the spring of 1975. The founding of the "association," with its unwieldy title that was changed a year later, resulted from a meeting of about a dozen persons. Two of those, George Carter and James Parker, were responsible for developing the NAIES' successful *Newsletter*. The ideas that members of the "association" have had to communicate grew too numerous to be contained within the newsletter format, and each member is valued for that overwhelming success.

The launching of *Explorations in Ethnic Studies* is the result of more than eighteen months of discussions in clarifying goals and directions, which are perhaps best summed up by the phrase "significant new directions" for finding *solutions* to the multiplicity of problems facing ethnic communities in our society through ethnic studies. In our discussions: We found no multinational organ that spoke to the need for advancing the frontiers of knowledge for ethnic studies. We found no scholarly journal designed to eliminate oppression and eradicate social injustices from ethnic communities. We found that the language of *pluralism* obscures and militates against all forms of ethnic well-being. Consequently, the NAIES proposes *Explorations in Ethnic Studies* as a vehicle for providing an expanded forum for discussing and resolving the pertinent issues of oppression and social injustices for ethnic communities. More is involved, however. We must go beyond

analyses and resolutions, i.e., we must enter the arena of action through the wedding of theory and practice.

It is our responsibility as an *association of ethnicians* to organize, clarify, and propagate meaningful *solutions* to the continuing problems confronting ethnic studies and ethnic communities. *Explorations in Ethnic Studies*, as a journal, is unique in its focus. *Solutions* are expected to flow from all segments of our society. The vehicle is operational, and each association member is fuel for this exciting journey. We welcome you as a reader, writer, critic, and general contributor.