

## EDITOR'S CORNER

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What will remain of Ethnic Studies in the 1980's? At the 7th Annual Conference on Ethnic and Minority Studies, away from the formal sessions and speakers, one heard a good deal of gloom and doom regarding the future of Ethnic Studies. The same dismal theme was present at several other major national conferences held during Spring 1979. It would be easy to conclude that Ethnic Studies is on its last legs and quietly will fade into oblivion.

Yet; those at the 7th Annual Conference who attended the formal sessions know that they saw Ethnic Studies at its best. The quality and scholarship of the papers presented at this year's meeting were far superior to those of previous Conferences. A glance at earlier *Proceedings* volumes demonstrates the same point. There has been a general upgrading in the quality of Conference papers each of the seven years of the Ethnic and Minority Studies Conference.

What will remain of Ethnic Studies in the 1980's is the academic discipline itself and the quality scholarship which is just now reaching a maturity and validity of its own. What will remain are the devoted scholars, the scholars committed to serious research and writing, not the frauds and the rhetoric seekers. The strength of any Ethnic Studies program lies in the academic and scholarly base of the effort. Without that base, the programs will go the way of the cultural and social programs--out at the first sign of budget cuts.

What will remain of Ethnic Studies in the 1980's is the kind of scholarship reflected in *Explorations*. NAIES has set high standards for its publications and, in doing so, has taken a major step in ensuring the lasting quality of the publications.

The 1980's should be viewed as a time for expansion in Ethnic Studies. The academic and scholarly foundation has been laid and will serve as the fundamental base. Not the students, not the community, not the cultural or social center, but the academic programs will provide the lasting base on which Ethnic Studies will grow and achieve the kind of recognition it deserves.

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