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Que Ondee Sola - Septemeber-October 2007

Xavier Luis Burgos

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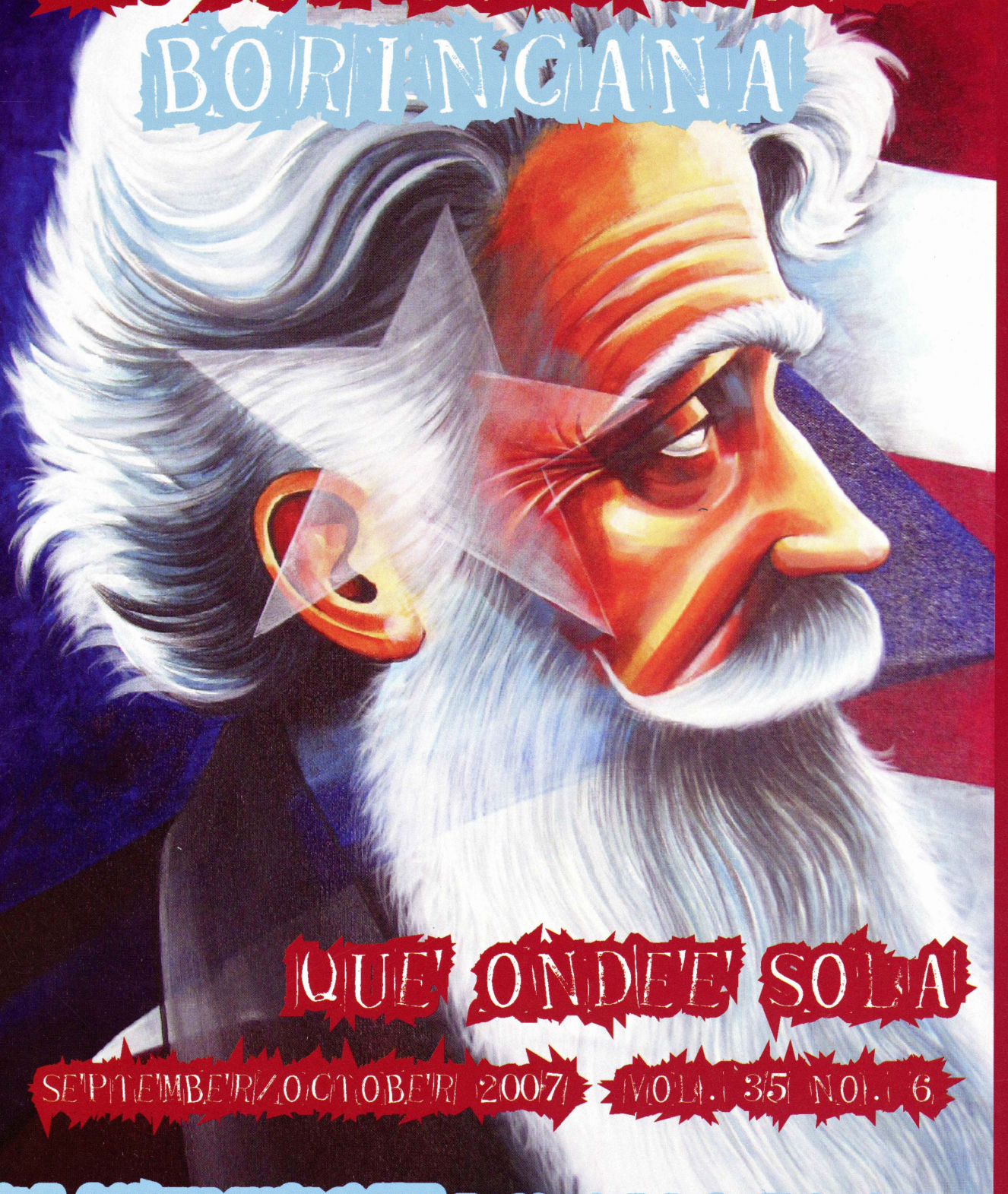
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139TH ANNIVERSARY

LA REVOLUCION BORRIANCIANA



QUE ONDEE SOLA!

SEPTIEMBRE/OCTUBRE 2007 VOL. 35 NO. 6

Rep. Luis V. Gutiérrez speaks at NEIU Marching in D.C. for Elvira Arellano

Building a Latina/o Coalition on campus

EDITORIAL

Through a series of conversations with members of the **highly influential Illinois Latino Legislative Caucus**, the issue of a Latina/o Cultural & Resource Center has become much more real and serious. The need for a Latina/o-focused, student-led body to address the pressing concerns, issues, and ideas of NEIU's student population is also evermore urgent.

Therefore, the following letter is to request your participation in a **new Latina/o student and faculty Coalition on campus**.

NEIU prides its self in being a "Hispanic Serving Institution" and is a member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), but lacks or minimally supports essential resources addressing its Latina/o students. Currently, **31% of NEIU's student population is Latina/o**. However, **only 17% of those students graduate in a six-year-period**. Many of the Latina/o students

attending NEIU have very specific obstacles they must overcome in order to complete their degrees. Some of these include: undocumented status, first generation college students, English as a second language, parenthood, returning students, living in marginalized communities, and many others. Furthermore, there are an extremely disproportionate number of Latina/o instructors as well as counselors. Programs such as Proyecto Pa'Lante and the Latino & Latin American Studies minor (LLAS) are both horribly **under-funded and understaffed**. These facts *cannot* be ignored.

Furthermore, it is essential to state that there **once existed a Latina/o-focused space on campus**. The Albizu-Zapata Portable One, demolished by the university in 1982, was a small, student-organized space where tutoring was available, educational/cultural events were held, and student organizations

were able to meet. Would it not be beneficial to have a permanent space for Latina/o-focused events, like resource fairs, potlucks, lectures, and conferences? **A permanent space for student organizations and university institutions?** A resource center with books and computers for research, tutoring, and classes? This obviously would not only be beneficial for the large Latina/o population on campus, but for the entire student body that is committed to diversity.

It must be noted that a Latina/o student and faculty coalition would not only address concerns specific to Latinas/os, but other, **broader issues affecting student and faculty life at NEIU** that can truly provide the resources that NEIU needs. We are therefore proud and excited in extending this invitation to begin a process of recreating a sense of community at NEIU.

**Latina/o Coalition Meeting will be held on
Thursday, October 25 in room
Student Union (SU) 217 at 1:40 pm (Activity Hour)**

**Que Ondee Sola (Q.O.S.) - Union for Puerto Rican Students (U.P.R.S.)
Chican@, Mexican@, Latin@ Student Coalition (ChiMexLa)**

ADENTRRO LOS

ON CAMPUS

- 4 Rep. Luis V. Gutiérrez speaks on Immigration Reform
- 6 The Long Battle for a Latina/o Open House

PUERTO RICO & LATIN AMERICA

- 8 FBI Repress Puerto Rican independence movement

ARTE Y COMUNIDAD

- 9 Nicole Pérez, Latina LGBT activist
- 10 Paseo Boricua celebrates *El Grito de Lares*
- 12 Zori4: Breaking-down gender roles with Graffiti
- 16 Elvira Arellano: A Voice for the Voiceless
- 18 Marching Through Congress for Elvira Arellano
- 20 *She*: A Poem for Elvira Arellano
- 23 *Otra Risa* comic

Cover Art by Erasmo Mayorga
Portrait of Dr. Ramón Emeterio Betances, the leader of El Grito de Lares, Puerto Rico's first revolution

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QUE ONDEE SOLA

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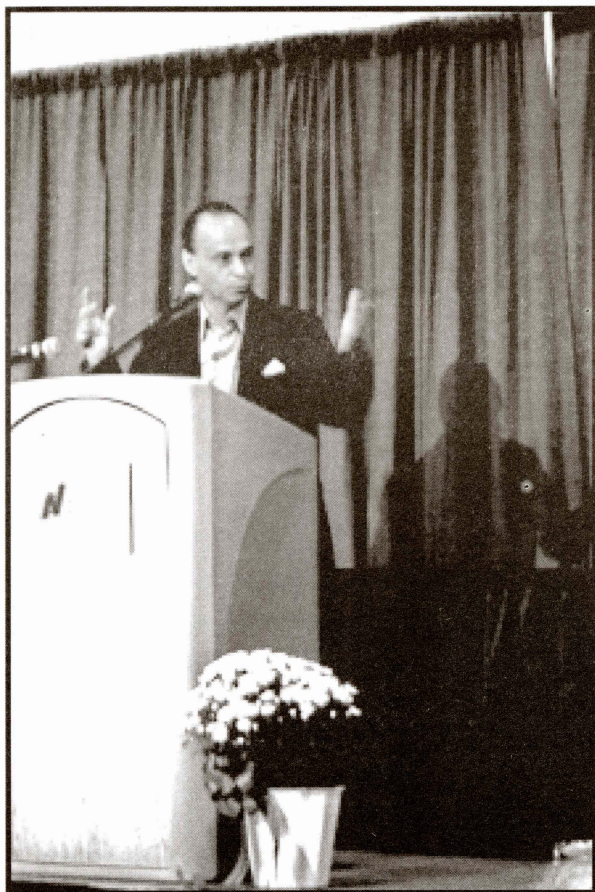
Que Ondee Sola was established in 1972 and remains the oldest Puerto Rican & Latina/o university student publication in print. Our mission is to provide the NEIU community with a relevant and engaging publication that deals with student issues with a focus on Puerto Ricans and Latinas/os, our communities, and our *patrias*.

Que Ondee Sola continues to affirm the right of Puerto Rican self-determination, freedom for all Puerto Rican political prisoners, and support for a truly participatory democracy.

CONGRESSMAN ON CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE LUIS M. GUTIÉRREZ SPEAKS ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

Eric López

On October 9, Congressman Luis V. Gutiérrez presented a unique and important lecture to the NEIU community as part of the 13th annual Equity in Action Conference.



Photography by Eric López

workers in the United States who are "living in the dark." These people are in a precarious situation. They are mostly unskilled laborers who are almost defenseless against an economic system that exploits them and a country resentful and hostile to immigrants. According to Rep. Gutiérrez an estimated 375,000-400,000 jobs are created every year that require unskilled labor, however only 5,000 visas are given out to this labor force. The United States does not produce a sufficient workforce to meet the demands of our economy. The U.S.-born workforce is becoming increasingly educated and is not willing to occupy positions in industries dominated by 12 million undocumented workers. Therefore, Rep. Gutiérrez

Rep. Gutiérrez, the highly respectable Chicago Congressman, is an alumnus of the university as well as its **Union for Puerto Rican Students** organization. The theme of his lecture was the urgent need for a comprehensive immigration reform.

There are currently 12 million undocumented workers in the United States who are "living in the dark." These people are in a precarious situation. They are mostly unskilled laborers who are almost defenseless against an economic system that exploits them and a country resentful and hostile to immigrants. According to Rep. Gutiérrez an estimated 375,000-400,000 jobs are created every year that require unskilled labor, however only 5,000 visas are given out to this labor force. The United States does not produce a sufficient workforce to meet the demands of our economy. The U.S.-born workforce is becoming increasingly educated and is not willing to occupy positions in industries dominated by 12 million undocumented workers. Therefore, Rep. Gutiérrez

proposes changes in U.S. immigration policy. The Congressman suggested that 400,000 visas be distributed every year to unskilled workers and after 6 years these people would be eligible for residency. The 12 million undocumented workers already living in the US would have to comply with several stipulations in order to be eligible for residency. These people must be employed, pass thorough background checks, take English and civics

it seems likely that the policy is fair and reasonable.

However, the U.S. Congress has been unwilling to accept immigration reform. Rep. Gutiérrez stated that the resistance he and other Democrats face has little to do with public policy. The underlying hostility toward undocumented workers and immigration reform has much to do with the "color of skin of people coming in." Rep. Gutiérrez reminds us that

languages" - those of us who are first generation born in the U.S. acquire the language skills needed to survive and often loose fluency in our native languages.

Finally, the Congressman also spoke about solidarity between Mexicans and Puerto Ricans and its role in the mobilization for immigration reform. The Congressman spoke about the historical tensions between Mexicans on the South Side of Chicago

"The underlying hostility toward undocumented workers and immigration reform has much to do with the "color of skin of people coming in."

courses, and cannot receive any government financial aid. In addition, families would have to pay \$1,500 for the first two applicants and \$500 for every additional applicant. Rep. Gutiérrez boasted about having the support of the Wall Street Journal's editorial section regarding comprehensive immigration reform. When those who are politically conservative can agree on public policy with a progressive liberal like Congressman Gutiérrez,

racism toward immigrants is nothing new in the U.S. The Congressman pointed out how the Irish and Italian communities faced similar discrimination when immigrating to this country.

The Congressman also mentioned that some people view immigrant communities with suspicion because of a language barrier. In response to such suspicions Rep. Gutiérrez said, "America is the graveyard of foreign

and Puerto Ricans on the Near North Side. According to the Congressman, these tensions are being diffused as our communities come together to struggle for our political rights. With such intelligent commentary, there is no doubt that Congressman Luis V. Gutiérrez embodies the political strength and determination of the Latina/o community and is an indispensable representative of our struggles.

THE LONG BATTLE FOR A LATINA/O OPEN HOUSE

Xavier "Xavi" Luis Burgos

Despite many unnecessary obstacles, the **Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS)** hosted the first Latina/o Open House & Resource Fair on September 4 at Alumni Hall with the participation of a myriad Latina/o-focused student organizations and programs of Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). Participating organizations and programs included ChiMexLa, Alpha Psi Lambda, Proyecto Pa'Lante, ENLACE, the McNair Program, the

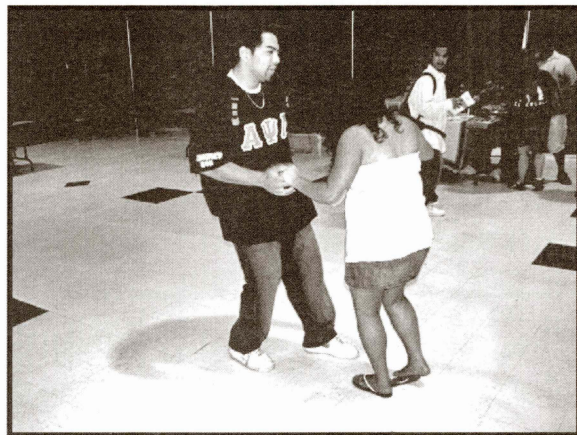
Hispanic Heritage Committee, the Latino & Latin American Studies program, and many others.

Although, nearly 1/2 of the fall incoming students were Latina/o, those who graduate is extremely low. Especially for

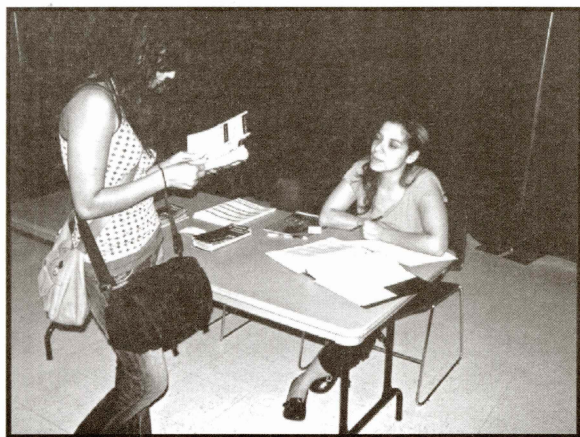
people of color, it has been proven that use of academic programs, cultural activities, and student organizations can be essential in guiding students

towards academic success. Therefore, in order to address such a reality, UPRS decided to host a resource fair to kick-off the new school year with food and a musical performance by one of Puerto Rico's most successful musicians, planned two months in advance. What a difficult road it is when students ask for funding!

Every step of the way, we



Jason García dances with a member of Alpha Psi Lambda



Jannan Cotto finds more info about Proyecto Pa'Lante

faced obstacles. Whether it was a miscommunication between university staff to unscheduled Student Government meetings to denial to even hear our proposal because of an alleged time constraint (that was out of our hands) to even a complete denial of funds for the event - not even for potato chips (even after we reduced our funding request by one-third)! All in all, we had to attend 11 different meetings during the summer to struggle for

this event. During that time we could have fundraised, mobilized, went to the beach... so much could of the done. All we wanted was to celebrate diversity and provide a fun, multifaceted event for the students of this university. Is that so bad? I guess so.

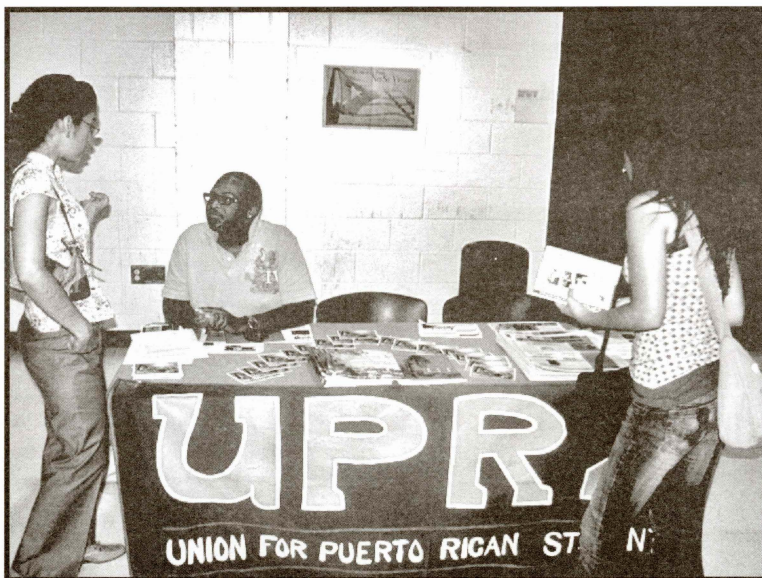
NEIU holds much pride in being designated a "Hispanic Serving Institution" and thus has a responsibility to address the Latina/o experience, whether that be political, cultural, social, or academic.

name of 'fiscal responsibility' or 'bureaucratic procedure' does the values and needs of NEIU become undermined? Is this really a student-friendly university? A "Hispanic Serving Institution?" Nonetheless,

there are great, ethical human beings in SGA and the university administration that are committed to seriously improving this university and we thank them.

All in all nearly 40 people attended the first Latina/o Open House & Resource

Fair (could have been more if we had some 'chips and a guitarist!) and we plan to host many other cultural and political events in the future - which is the joy and the obligation of the Union for Puerto Rican Students!



Eric A. Rice talking with Mimi Crespo

Sadly, there are certain figures in the university that make it difficult for that experience to be appropriately addressed, whether they are in Student Activities or the members of the Student Government Finance Committee. One must ask oneself, when, in the

Join the Union for Puerto Rican Students!

Come meet us every **Tuesday, 1:40 pm** in the *hallway* near room **E-041**

(near the cafeteria, below Beck's bookstore)

uprs_movement@hotmail.com

myspace.com/uprs

LA NUEVA ESCUELA CONDEMNNS

FBI HARASSMENT

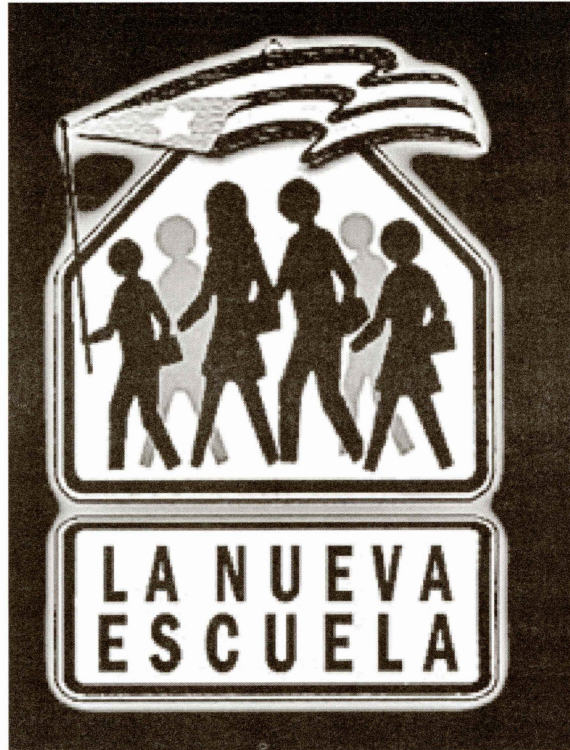
Jesús Dávila

The detention last week of the treasurer of the *independentista* organization *La Nueva Escuela* on a rural road by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigations of the United States – assisted by members of the local Police who were not using badges - motivated denunciations that a new wave repression is being prepared.

With the case of Roberto Viqueira, a total of six members of this organization have been harassed by the FBI on diverse occasions; it is alleged that the FBI has used vehicles and helicopters for the harassment, for which the organization announced

that it does not rule out “calling for civil disobedience.” Lawyer Martín

or “otherwise we demand that they should stop the illegal practices of harassment and persecution.”



The spokesman of the FBI in San Juan confirmed that Viqueira was stopped and his automobile searched by order of the US District Court based on a “sealed” declaration, but he said that it could not give details of what was found in the vehicle nor what is being investigated. Nevertheless, he clarified that his [Viqueira’s] case does not have anything to do with

González demanded that a series of FBI interventions relating to common crime in the last several days.

According to Viqueira, 31-years-old and who has stood out in the independence movement since he was a university student, the harassment against his person began in 2005, after which a commando unit of the FBI injured the commander of the Boricua Popular Army - Macheteros, Filiberto Ojeda, and allowed him to bleed to death. He narrated that the agents of the FBI allegedly said that his name "appeared in a

few documents" and that they offered him "immunity," but that if he was not cooperating in identifying others he would be accused of terrorism.

In this new incident, which occurred August 7 on a highway that leads to the Dry Forest of Guánica - where he works as marine biologist - the police officers without badges ordered him to stop and then three federal vehicles came. He

was handcuffed and removed from his automobile while the agents checked the interior, seized his mobile phone and his planner and left. "We must all prepare ourselves because incidents are going to occur, repression is coming and we are going to be ready, we are going to be here in the trenches of struggle," said in response to the incident Elma Beatriz Rosado Barbosa, widow of Comandante Ojeda.

Originally published in El Diario/La Prensa in New York, 8/12/07

NICOLE PÉREZ, AN LGBT ACTIVIST AND ORGANIZER WORTH KNOWING

Sophia López

"One person's oppression is everyone's oppression," says activist and community organizer Nicole Pérez. Five years ago, while attending the Chicago Dyke March, Pérez was captivated by

the political nature of the parade and it sparked her involvement in the activism world. Her enthusiasm in fighting for social justice has made her an important member of the

Latina/o LGBT community.

As an undergrad, Nicole Pérez spearheaded the creation of the Office of LGBT Student Services at DePaul University. Her

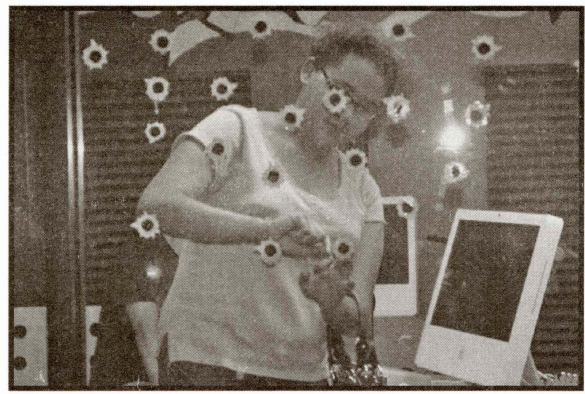
Continue to page 14

ARTE Y COMUNIDAD

100 BULLETS AND 20 HOURS THE PUERTO RICAN REVOLUTION & THE DEATH OF FILIBERTO OJEDA RÍOS

On September 23, 2007, the National Boricua Human Rights Network and the Batey Urbano celebrated the 139th anniversary of *El Grito de Lares*, as well as commemorated the 2nd anniversary of the murder of Filiberto Ojeda Ríos. Two years ago at Lares, Puerto Rico, while Puerto Ricans celebrated their declaration as a nation against Spanish colonialism, the FBI descended onto the home of Filiberto Ojeda Ríos in Hormigueros, Puerto Rico and assassinated him. At 4:30 am, in a military-style operation, over 200 agents surrounded the home of Ojeda Ríos, who was 72 years old. The agents, heavily

armed, fired over 100 shots into his home. Filiberto was shot once under his clavicle and was left to bleed to death for more than 20 hours. During the autopsy, it was determined that his wound



was not fatal and he would have lived if he had received immediate medical attention. The *Grito de Lares*, or Lares uprising, occurred on September 23, 1868 in the

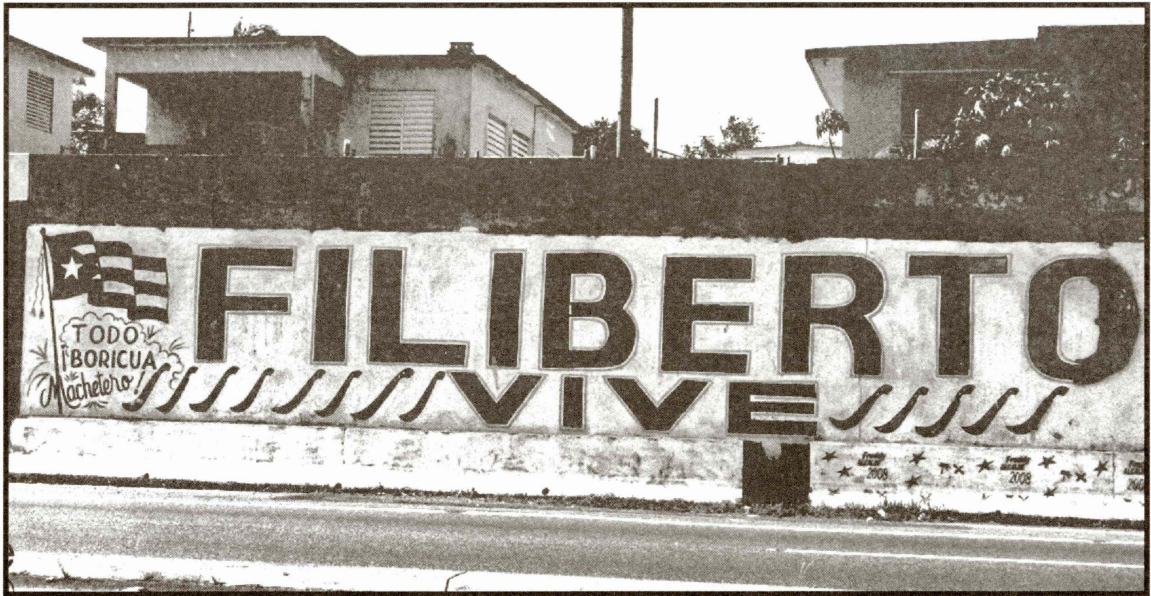
town of Lares. The uprising was planned by a group led by Dr. Ramón Emeterio Betances and Segundo Ruiz Belvis, founders of the *Comité Revolucionario de Puerto Rico* (Revolutionary Committee of Puerto Rico) from their exile in the Dominican Republic. The *Grito de Lares* was a response by the pro-independence movement to the exploitation of Puerto Ricans by Spain and its colonial system. Participants in the insurrection represented all sectors of Puerto Rican society, including landowners, merchants, professionals, peasants, and slaves. The night included invited

guests Julio Chávez, Mayor of the city of Torres, State of Lara in Venezuela, who spoke on the act of solidarity the Venezuelan government committed by placing a bust of Filiberto on “La Avenida de los Ilustres” (Avenue of the Illustrious); Jan Susler of the People’s Law Office, who gave the latest legal update of the investigation into the assassination of Filiberto, and the PRCC Executive Director José E. López, who wove the evenings presentations together by discussing the

historical context of *El Grito de Lares* and why it is relevant today. Poetry was then performed by the Batey poets – Michael Reyes, Janeida Rivera and Judy Díaz – and by a newcomer to our community, Yomaira Lugo Vélez.

The event progressed with a silent procession to the Batey. First, the group stopped at *La Casita* to raise the Puerto Rican flag and sang “*La Borinqueña*”. The event ended with guests participating in an art installation by pasting

cut-outs of 100 bullet shots on the window of the Batey to represent the 100 bullets that were shot into the home of Filiberto Ojeda Ríos and lit twenty red candles – which represented the 20 hours he was left to bleed to death by the FBI. Over 100 people participated in the event, including over 30 students from Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School and the Lolita Lebrón Family Learning Center.



La Red online:

www.boricuahumanrights.org

www.presospoliticospuertorriquenos.org

ARTE Y COMUNIDAD

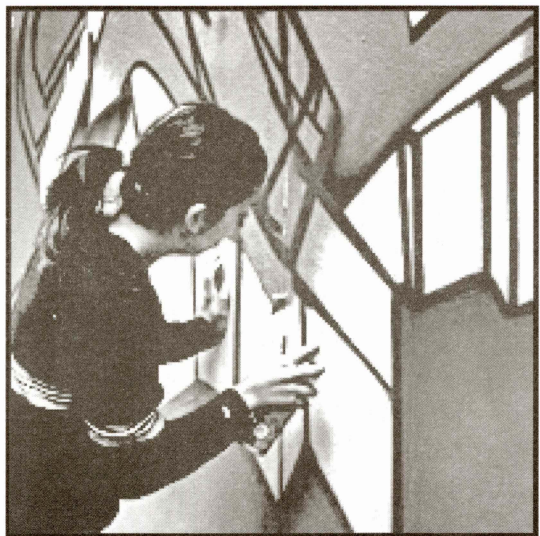
ZORI4: BREAKING DOWN GENDER ROLES WITH GRAFFITI

Myra Rodríguez

Zori4, an acclaimed Puerto Rican graffiti artist, has an original style that is way beyond others. Receiving the 1st prize at the *Time Machine Squad's 2002 Express Your Skills*, winner of the 2002 *Pro Am's Black Book* competition in Miami, and selected to paint in the Harlem graffiti Hall of Fame in 2004, one would never guess that Zori 4 is a woman.

Men dominate graffiti art. In the graffiti art culture women encounter many obstacles not faced by men. Women in any field have to struggle to have their work recognized. Zori4, like other women graffiti artists, encounter sexist comments all the time, such as "her boyfriend must 'throw her up'" (her boyfriend, a man, does the art instead). To fathom that a woman is not capable of participating in aerosol art, and being good at it, is demeaning! If these people think that women cannot survive in this graffiti art

culture they are very wrong! Zori4 is breaking stereotypes. Not only is she a woman of color, but she is also an honor student receiving a degree in design at the University of Puerto Rico. As a woman she is making a statement by stepping outside during the late hours of the night, which is "dangerous for a woman", and creating her pieces of art on the walls of not just Puerto Rico but in New York as well.



Zori4 has created many events surrounding pressing issues in Puerto Rico, one being a graffiti event presenting issues of violence against children. Zori4, like many other Latina graffiti artists serve as examples for other young women of color, that they too can participate in a male dominated art culture and exceed beyond expectations. Other Latin American and Latina graffiti artists to look out for: TooFly (Ecuador) and Chicago's very own Zena, Bel, Monstra Chica, and Venom.

QOS



For more information, go to:
<http://zori4.graffgirlz.com/>



ARTE Y COMUNIDAD

Continued from page 9

efforts led to her receiving the Women's and Gender Studies Outstanding Service Award in her graduating class. Pérez says that progressive organizations on campus are very active and her participation in these groups was far-reaching.

She holds key leadership positions in Chicago-based Latina/o LGBT organizations like *Orgullo en Acción* and *Amigas Latinas*. She is also an organizer for the Chicago Dyke March and the Gay Liberation Network. Pérez is also part of the Howard Brown Health Center's new LGBTQQ Mentoring Program.

In 2006, she received the *Windy City Times* "30 under 30" award. Each year, 30 young activists under the age of 30 are recognized for their outstanding work in the LGBT community. Needless to say, Nicole Pérez is a recognizable face to those engaging in issues of social justice in the Chicago Metropolitan area.

Still, she sees difficult

challenges in forming coalitions among different groups. Pérez explains that many people limit themselves to single-issue organizations; like those concentrating strictly on the "gay" or "race" issue, for example. She believes some activists miss the overall picture and fail to see how all forms of oppression are deeply intertwined.

In her work as an organizer, Nicole Pérez says she encounters sexism from gay men. At meetings she has attended, gay men also tend to silence women and be dismissive of them altogether. Indeed, prejudices of all kinds pervade nearly every aspect of our lives.

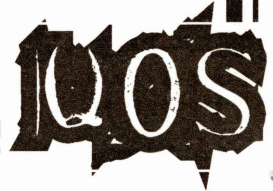
Pérez describes the terrifying experience she and her partner faced at the May 1 march for undocumented immigrant rights last year. As she and her partner were holding hands during the massive demonstration, they became targets of verbal harassment and intimidation;

one man even told them to keep their "gay stuff" away because the march was only for the rights of immigrants. The couple soon left the demonstration because it got so uncomfortable and dangerous for them.

Organizing around LGBT immigrant's is a unique challenge they face. Nicole Pérez points out that very few Anglo queer activists are tackling the issue of immigration. She believes racism plays a role in their indifference to this struggle.

Pérez also sees racial elements in the Dyke March and the Gay Pride Parade. She explains that a majority of the organizers for the Dyke March, which takes place in Andersonville, are women of color, yet it's mostly Anglo women who show up. She wonders what the turnout would be like if Dyke March was held in a different location, like the Humboldt Park community, for example.

As for the Gay Pride Parade,



Nicole Pérez admits it can be disheartening. She believes that all the corporate sponsorship undermines the real struggle for gay rights and equality. She feels as if these companies just happen to be supportive of gay rights that one day, but what about all the other days? There is no real sense of solidarity or collective organizing, unfortunately.

Nicole Pérez now works as a youth case manager at the Broadway Youth Center, which is located at 3179 N. Broadway. It is a program of Howard Brown and offers comprehensive services to all youth aged 24 and under. She emphasizes that the Broadway Youth Center is a "safe space" and that no one is turned away because of her or his political views. However, it is made abundantly clear that there is no hate allowed and that respect for others is required in order

for one to receive services.

In Chicago, there are about 8,000 to 10,000 homeless queer youth under 21 years of age. Part of Nicole Pérez' job is to help them get basic survival stuff like food, showers, toothbrushes, and other toiletries. Also, there are those queer homeless youth who do sex work and therefore are taught safer ways to work and protect themselves.

Nicole Pérez also helps those who enter the Broadway Youth Center with finding housing, employment, school information, and access to other valuable resources. She works intensively with youth in realizing what they really want to do with their lives.

"The world needs you!" is the message she wants to tell Latina/o LGBT youth. She stresses the importance of mentoring other youth and

simply being there for them. Nicole Pérez believes that we are all responsible for nurturing and creating the next generation of activists.

Also, she feels that we owe it to each other to fight for each other. She does not believe that everyone should necessarily be 'out,' since being so, for some, is just too much of a risk. Still, she encourages all of us to ask ourselves, on a daily basis, what we have done for the LGBT cause. All of us must contribute, she says. It can even be in our own small way.

Nicole Pérez is now a graduate student in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program at DePaul University with a focus in Women's and Gender Studies as well as LGBTQ Studies. She is in the process of finishing her master's thesis and continues her work as an activist and community organizer.

ARTE Y COMUNIDAD

ELVIRA ARELLANO:

A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

Myra Rodríguez

Many say, "She wasted her time. Good riddance she's back in México." But, many see Elvira Arellano in themselves: as an immigrant who crossed an invisible border and entered the United States looking for work. A Mexican immigrant that was forced to cross the border because of the United States' imposition of NAFTA, the very country and its corporations that benefit from cheap Mexican labor on both sides of the border. Promises were made when NAFTA came in effect more than 10 years ago, but the reality is that the Mexican economy is worse than before and working conditions have worsened.

A high standard of living and employment possibilities are now unheard of in many parts of México. Mexicans are thus forced to cross a border into the United States looking for



survival. Elvira Arellano left her country looking to survive. In August of 2006 Elvira Arellano was caught using a false social security number while working in Chicago's O'Hare Airport. Sure enough

it would seem that she would get deported once again. Or she could have, very easily, gone in hiding and made a living somewhere else in the United States with a new social security number. But, Elvira did something else. She took refuge in a church. She sought sanctuary in a church in the middle of the Puerto Rican community saying, "Enough is enough!" and became the voice for the voiceless millions. In Adalberto Methodist Church, on Paseo Boricua (Division Street), is where Elvira would stay, with her 7-year-old U.S. born son, Saulito, for one year. In a Puerto Rican community she stayed, because we have taken the responsibility to be a voice for the voiceless, to

defend our Latina/o brothers and sisters. The consistent efforts of Congressman Luis V. Gutiérrez, a Puerto Rican, are a perfect example of Latina/o solidarity when it comes to the issue of undocumented immigrant rights.

In August of 2007 Elvira Arellano, who had become an international icon for undocumented immigration rights, announced to the world that she would be leaving the church and

hours, Elvira was in dropped-off in Tijuana, México.

Elvira Arellano stands for those families who are facing violation of their human rights. She represents the many families that are being separated. She stands for the many families who have U.S. born children and find themselves having to leave them behind when deported. Elvira represents the families who come to work here because they must, and

and the Puerto Rican Cultural Center/Batey Urbano, traveled to Washington D.C. and presented a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi his mother had written stating the need for immigration reform. On that same day Elvira organized a rally in Tijuana to press immigration issues. But, things always have a way of shining a little bit of light on what seems to be dim. Discussions have occurred in México that might have Elvira become an ambassador. This

“She took refuge in a church. She sought sanctuary in a church in the middle of the Puerto Rican community saying, “Enough is enough!” and became the voice for the voiceless millions... with her 7-year-old U.S. born son, Saulito, for one year.”

traveling throughout the United States to promote and mobilize supporters of the immigrant rights movement. She stated that on September 12, she and many others would travel to Washington D.C. to demand that U.S. lawmakers seriously take on the issue of immigration reform. Unfortunately, on August 20 armed ICE agents detained Elvira in Los Angeles after speaking at a rally in a church. Within six

they work for very little pay. Families that are forced to leave their countries. The millions of undocumented immigrants have now become the new slaves of the United States. Like Elvira, many are being deported after they have been used and overworked, and are sent back with nothing.

On September 12, Saulito, Elvira’s son, along with Centro Sin Fronteras/Zócalo Urbano

means that Elvira Arellano would be able to freely travel to and from the United States!

Elvira represents the millions upon millions of undocumented immigrants not only in the United States but also throughout the world. Immigration reform has become a major concern internationally and it is because of a Mexican woman who refused to let the U.S. government take advantage

ARTY Y COMUNIDAD

of her. She made a stand and became the voice for the many who find themselves in this situation. Elvira Arellano has been labeled a fugitive, a terrorist, and a woman

hiding behind her son, but she has made the faces of undocumented immigrants more human. She has made their faces more visible. She is a symbol of resistance, of the

immigrant rights movement. She is far from being a victim. She is a Mexican woman who struggles for the benefit of all immigrants in this country and around the world.

IMMIGRANTS RIGHTS SUPPORTERS

RALLY IN WASHINGTON, DC:

MEMBERS OF THE PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY SAY

PRESENT!

Eric López

On September 12, activists, students, and families all across the country mobilized for an immigrant's rights rally in Washington, DC. Members of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, including a large contingent from Batey Urbano and Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School, chartered a bus to show their solidarity and commitment to undocumented immigrants and their dilemma. People from Los Angeles, New York, Cleveland and other cities participated in making the call for immigration reform heard.

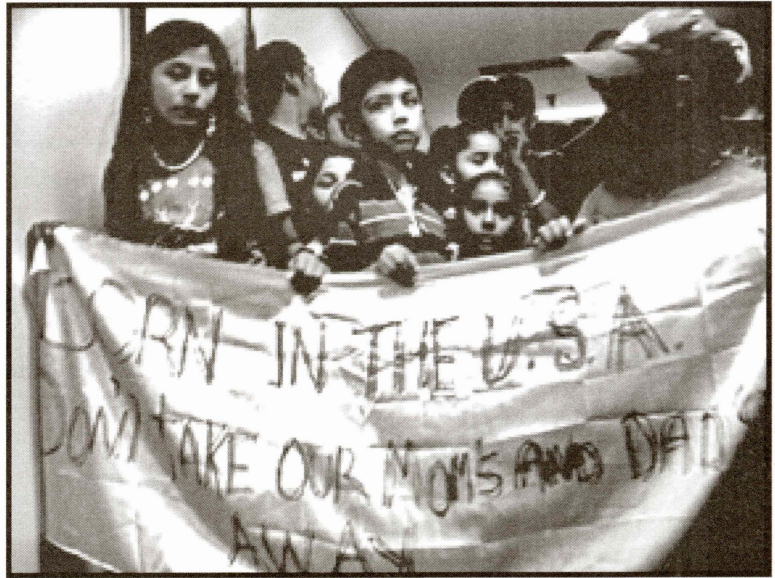
Youth from the Batey Urbano and Zócalo Urbano held a commemorative event at Adalberto Methodist Church to raise funds

for the Washington trip. Poetry invoking the indignation of discriminatory immigration policy and the resilience and strength of Elvira Arellano was read. The funds raised from this event contributed to making the trip accessible to anyone interested in attending.

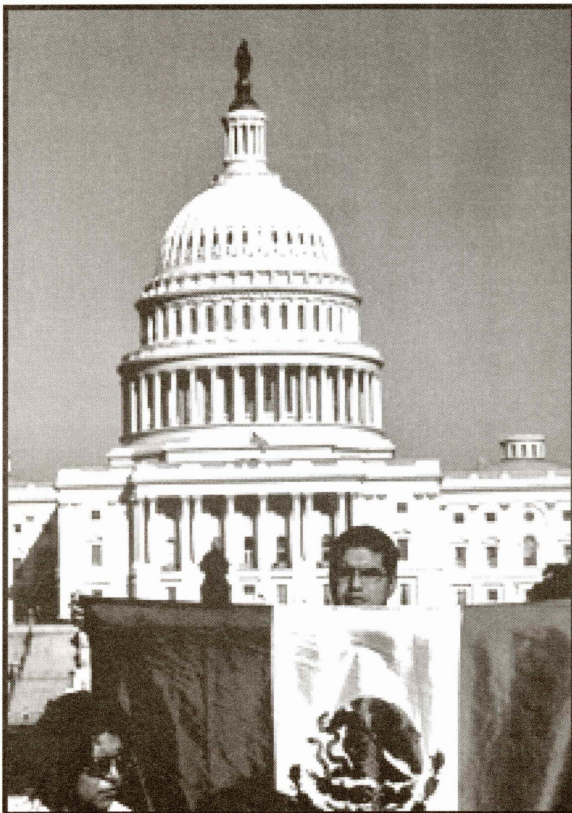
Representatives from NEIU, UIC, Columbia College, Wright College, Truman College and other institutions of higher learning participated in the rally. In addition to university students, and community organizers, parents and their children were also present. During a press conference held that day, Enrique Fernández, deputy chief of staff for Luis Gutiérrez, spoke about the

QOS

political discourse of immigration reform being labeled “dead” by politicians in Washington. Fernández insists that the issue is not dead. He argues that the mass mobilization across the country by hundreds of thousands of people who rallied in protest for justice and a humane immigration reform in the last year made the “political discourse in this country change overnight.” Councilman Joel Rivera of the Bronx, New York praised the solidarity between Boricuas and

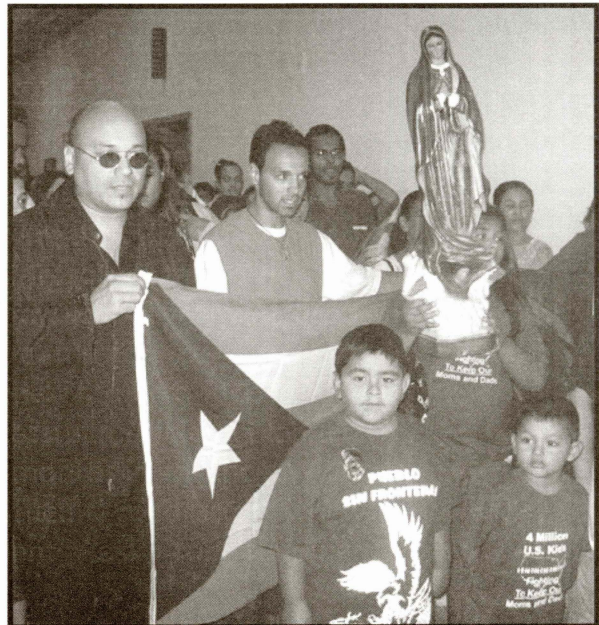


Photography by Eric López



Photography by Eric López

Mexicanos during the same press conference. He promoted the unity of both groups in this struggle by saying, “we are one Latino nation.”



SHEN

Michael Anthony Reyes Benavides

She the warrior
She the mother
She the fighter

Standing against all odds
Refusing to be an object
Of an unjust power structure
That yearns to objectify her
With the only object
Being that she is objected
To the pain of power

She who objects the same structure that
Values plastic and products
Over flesh and soul

She, fighting this new war
That is not new to us

She fighting with beautiful
Poetry of sanctuary

She warrior of the people
Fighting not for herself

That would be too easy
But fighting for all of those

Who have been

Pulled away by night
Stolen away from their children and

families
Disappeared
Ripped apart from all that they know
Arrested and cuffed at work

Shipped away as if to be the products
They toiled to create

This country disinfecting this nation
Of what they believe to be a parasitic problem
As she, they, we, clean in their kitchens, their airports
Their homes, their restaurants, their streets, their
churches

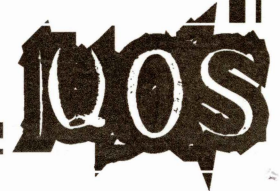
At gun point breaking into our
Homes with papers
That make it legal to steal human life

She who is the reflection of Tonatzin
Of the Virgen
Of La Adelita
Of Emma
Of the Mexican people

She the reflection of us
Of me, of you, of we

She the reflection of our struggles
Our victories

She who gave her freedom



For more than a year

She who is facing and confronting
All that is unjust
Fighting the real
Illegalities of human rights

She who has fasted so others
Could eat
While yet others can feast
On the malnourishment
Of the rest of the world

She who blocked the
shining light of 50 white stars
taking their cosmic power
and exposing them
for the hypocrites that they are

Like Huitzilopochtli consumed his brothers and
sisters

She who bore the scars
Of 7 red stripes of modern day slavery

She who bore 6
white blisters on her hands and feet
From years of work

She who displayed
The dark blue bruises
Of brutal laws of man

She who brought those in power
To a standstill

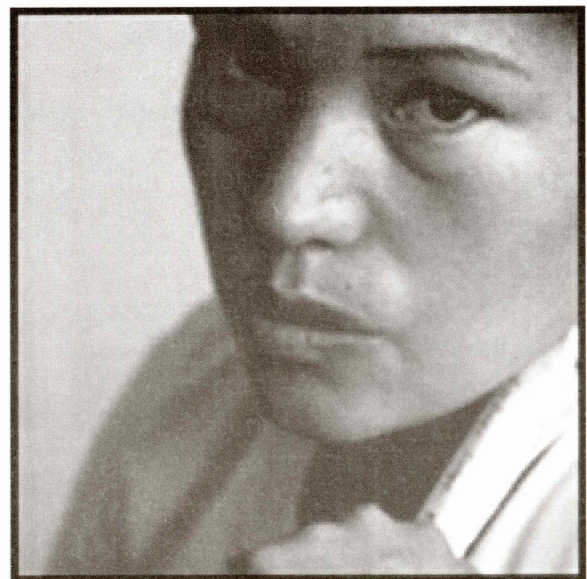
She who made those powers

Have to face their fears

She who was crucified
apprehended giving her life voluntarily
with dignity, respect and honor

All the while knowing the risk involved
the sacrifices that had to be made

She who was resurrected



In every Mexican home
Etched into our consciousness
Our dreams
And in our resound resistance

She who inspired
the dreams of the dead

and woke the world
to beautiful yellow flowers

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adorned with red roses
making believers out of non believers
like Juan Diego forced those
who did not want to understand

She the child separated from his mother

She the daughter in school paying full tuition
Not able to receive aid

She the man selling paletas
On every street corner

She the women selling tamales, mango, sandia

She the young man cooking
Making the best Mexican Italian
Chinese Greek food in the city

She the women taking care
of children that are not hers

She the young gang member

that has no hope
and sells drugs to his own people
his only option to live

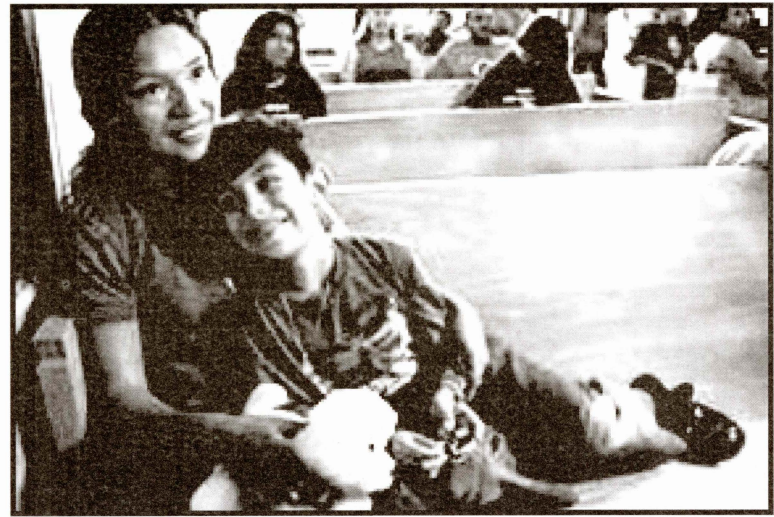
She the loving father and mother
working two jobs each to pay the rent

She the young optimistic
Activist poet
Dreaming that they can still change
The world

She simultaneously her and us
they and we
The duality of
The Mexican soul
The living and dead
The Christian and the pagan

She very much her
But she very much us

She, Elvira Arellano



UOS

MYRIA RITSA



ART BY MYRIA RODRIGUEZ

INSPIRATION BY LANEIDA RIVERIA

ARTE Y COMUNIDAD

¡HUMBOLDT PARK NO SE VENDE!



Can you IMAGINE a Humboldt Park WITHOUT Puerto Ricans?

MOVIE NIGHT IN THE BARRIO Sat. Oct. 6, 7PM

Youth Videos: "Humboldt Park Forever: The Flags Will Never Come Down!" & "Why are U Running?"

Batey Urbano, 2620 W. Division St.

BARRIO POETRY NIGHT Sat. Oct. 20, 8PM

Through poetry our history can be told and preserved!

Featured Poets: Jackie Arroyo, Reyes, Xavi, and D.V.S

Batey Urbano, 2620 W. Division St.

HIP-HOP CD RELEASE SHOW FRI. NOV. 2, 8PM

The best in Chi-Rican underground Hip-Hop! Performances by: Pinqy Ring, Chi-III, Lah Tere, Dark Crime Records, Tony Centrino, Batey Poets and more...

Batey Urbano, 2620 W. Division St.

SAT. NOV. 3 – ¡BORICUA, DEFIENDE LO TUYO!

Community March to Preserve the Barrio!

March to the Humboldt Park Housing Summit!

Begins at 9:00 AM. North Ave. & Artesian

**NNNN/HPEP 1st Annual
Humboldt Park Housing Summit**

What housing resources exist? How can we make things better in our barrio?

Humboldt Park Field House, 1400 N. Sacramento Blvd., 11 AM,

Humboldt Park Participatory Democracy Project

(of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center)

(773) 342-8022 • participatorydemocracy@prcc-chgo.org
myspace.com/humboldtparkpd

For more updates, pick-up a copy of *La Voz del Paseo Boricua*, found in most Puerto Rican-owned business in the Northwest Chicagoland area.

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MAGAZINE!**

THURSDAYS - 1:40 - 2:40 PM - E-041

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