

CMPP workshop at SDSU MEChA High School Conference

PRISONS AND JAILS ARE BEING USED AS WEAPONS OF OPPRESSION AGAINST LA RAZA!

Las Galles/RPMA
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On Nov. 20, 2010, San Diego State University MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán) held its 40th Annual High School Conference. Organized under the theme, "Spreading Consciousness Through Solidarity Across All Borders", over 500 Raza youth from throughout the barrios and communities of San Diego County attended the conference.



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SELF-DETERMINATION AND UNITY

The main objective of the conference was to provide Raza students the experience of attending a University event that specifically encourages Raza to see a future for themselves in higher education, as well as empowering them with the principles of self-determination.

Every year, the Chicano Mexicano Prison Project (CMPP) a collective of Unión del Barrio, facilitates a workshop at the SDSU MEChA conference. Educating our communities to the reasons for the massive and ever growing incarceration of Raza and other oppressed nationalities (African, Asian-Pacific, etc.), is one of the main goals of the CMPP. Hence it sees the space created by MEChA as a means by which to realize this goal. The CMPP especially does out reach to young Raza with the objective of stopping the cycle that leads Raza into prison. Moreover, the CMPP wants to encourage them to use their education to help those Raza who were victims

of the drugs, racism, and violence –conditions imposed upon our communities by the capitalism-colonialism system within which we currently exist.

WEAPONS OF OPPRESSION

At this year's conference, the CMPP organized a workshop titled: "HOW PRISONS AND JAILS ARE BEING USED AS WEAPONS OF OPPRESSION AGAINST LA RAZA!" The goal of workshop was to address: (1) What prison life is really about; (2) What all of us can do to fight back against the incarceration/imprisonment of Raza; and (3) What we can do to keep from being arrested and becoming one of the hundreds of thousands of Raza locked-up prison camps throughout the United States.

Presenting on behalf of the CMPP were Tobias Hernandez and Ernesto Bustillos. In a standing room only capacity, some sitting on the floor, over 40 young people attended the workshop. They listened attentively as the Tobias and Ernesto summed-up how the CMPP saw the question of prisons and La Raza.

They explained that all Raza can do "their part" to put an end to the terror and nightmare of the prison industrial complex. This process, they explained, begins with educating ourselves and others to the reality of the prison system and by joining an organization that will struggle until we put

an end to the incarceration of Raza. **RAIN DIDN'T PUT OFF THE SPIRIT OF THOSE ATTENDING CONFERENCE**

The keynote speaker of the conference was Eduardo "Kiki" Ochoa, a teacher of Social Justice at Lincoln High School and member of A.R.E (Association of Raza Educators). Compañero Ochoa gave both



Ernesto Bustillos/MEChA Conference 2010

a motivational and informative presentation, explaining how his own life is a testament to –we not only can uplift oneself but to struggle for all of nuestro pueblo.

Although it rained throughout the day, the conference was a success. The day's agenda included dozens of workshops, entertainment, and lunch. The message throughout the conference was one of cultural pride, unity, and what everyone can do to better themselves, their families, and their communities.

The CMPP salutes SDSU MEChA for their continuing efforts to better our communities and struggle for the self-determination of La Raza.

For more info see:
<http://uniondelbarrio.org/>



Tobias Hernandez at MEChA H.S. conference 2010