

L.A.C.E.C.A.



MAY, 1971

THE NAMING OF A NEW BIRTH

Our first publication of Las Nuevas is going to touch upon the sensitive subject of the use of the word "Chicano". In selecting a name for our paper, a semi-popular vote method was used, and it is interesting to note that the name "El Chicano" won over all other suggestions; however, during the poll-taking the subject came up again concerning the fact that a few Latinos do not appreciate "that word". So, in order to avoid further controversy, the second choice, "Las Nuevas", was selected.

We will now briefly explore the history of the word "Chicano": It is definitely a fact that some people of Mexico were referred to as Chicanos as early as the turn of the century. One theory is based on the belief that the Prehispanic Mesoamerican Indian referred to his culture as the Mechicano, from which the shorter form was derived. In any event, the facts that the ancestors of most of us were known by the name and that the word does have some historical cultural background far overshadows any "bad" impressions which might have been brought about by the more recent actions of the pachucos, Brown Berets, or other "militant" groups. To quote an opinion given to us during our poll-taking: "A poco no me voy querer ser llamado "Mexicano" porque los Brown Berets tambien así se llaman!"

The L.A.C.E.C.A. has proudly adopted the word "Chicano" and it has defined it in its By-Laws in a way so as not to exclude, offend, or berate any member. We now move that this matter be permanently closed and that the energy expended on this subject henceforth be used on more constructive areas that might be beneficial to the goals of our Association. Those Spanish-speaking people who do not appreciate the word "Chicano" and who have been using that excuse to not join the L.A.C.E.C.A. should also take a more serious attitude toward the real problems at hand. They should come to our meetings and join us, as we feel everyone should be heard and seen in order that we might have a more representative group.

ENLIGHTENMENT

The L.A.C.E.C.A. deeply appreciates the informative talks given by its first two guest speakers. On March 31, Mr. Samuel Sperling of the City Special Services Division gave us a good understanding of the City's Affirmative Action Program by explaining its efforts in attempting to help racial minority contractors to bid on more City jobs. There proved to be many problems involved, but the Division is tackling each one as it comes up.



Las Nuevas feels, however, that Affirmative Action Program is a misnomer as it exists. It feels that the Program would have more meaning if it would encompass the many other problems which exist between minority groups and the City.

On April 13, the guest speaker was Mr. Philip Montez, Western Region Director of the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights. Mr. Montez's office is an independent body which reports directly to the White House on allegations of discrimination. He gave a brief history of the Commission and also talked about reapportionment, police brutality, and the difficulties he encounters from governmental agencies in obtaining data required by his investigations. Being extensively involved with the problem, Mr. Montez stated that he is convinced that discrimination against Mexican-Americans exists wherever they are.

We are proud to say that Mr. Sperling and Mr. Montez are now both members of the L.A.C.E.C.A.

#### NUEVA RICA

El médico examinó la garganta del hijo de la nueva rica y le dijo a la madre:

"Creo que con un poco de nitrato de plata se aliviará."

"No, doctor, no!—Tengo con que pagarle, así que pongale nitrato de oro....."

#### NUESTROS COMPAÑEROS

Communication is vital to any organization if its goals are to be accomplished, and an essential aspect of communication is getting to know one another. Las Nuevas will attempt to provide some of the communication necessary among the members of the L.A.C.E.C.A. by regularly featuring a brief personality outline of one of its members.

Richard Carrizosa is one of our most hardworking and enthusiastic members. He was born and raised in the small copper mining town of Globe, Arizona, where he excelled scholastically in high school and consequently received a four-year scholarship to the University of Arizona. Upon graduating Richard began working for the City as a Civil Engineering Assistant and has thus far completed the rotation program and been promoted to his present position of Senior C. E. Assistant in the Bridge and Structural Design Division. For relaxation Richard enjoys playing the guitar and singing. He and his wife are expecting their third child in July.

#### KULTURAL KORNER

1. A free, six-week course entitled "Ancient Mexico" is being offered every Tuesday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., April 13 through May 18, in the Students' Lounge of the Los Angeles City College, 855 No. Vermont. Between 100-150 beautiful color slides of the Prehispanic Indians' art, sculpture, pottery, and architecture are shown at each lecture. The four remaining presentations will include a look at the Teotihuacanos, the Mayans, the Toltecs, and the Aztecs. The lectures are very interesting.