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Que Ondee Sola- July Update 1982

Que Ondee Sola Staff

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For the last ten years the Latino student body has utilized Centro Albizu Zapata (Portable One) as a vehicle to enhance their education at U.N.I. Centro Albizu Zapata has historically served as a study center for Latino students who do not find the library and study areas of U.N.I. viable for 'group study.'

Portable One represents a congregating place for serious students to share their ideas and problems, as Latinos within an abrasive institution. But most importantly, a place to reaffirm their identity. Portable One is a reflection of the students who use it. It is a Cultural Center with books and magazines on Puerto Rico, Mexico and other Latin American countries. It is also a museum in which past students have painted murals, posters and artifacts depicting the Puerto Rican and ChicanoMexicano struggle for social justice. The Portable has been a place in which prominent people from Puerto Rico, Mexico and

Portable One:

Symbol of Latino Student Struggle Must Remain Open!

across the U.S. have lectured on topics which the Scholars of this University do not address.

Presently, Portable One is the meeting place of Chimexla Student Organization, Union for Puerto Rican Students and the Advisory Board to the ChicanoMexicano Puerto Rican Studies. The success of Centro Albizu Zapata is attributed to the hard work of the Union for Puerto Rican Students, who have constructed a network within the community and campus to obtain movies, speakers and materials to keep Portable One a work place everyday of the year.

In 1975, UNI President Mullen turned over Portable One to the Union for Puerto Rican Students. This came out of a struggle when the portable was part of Proyecto Pa'lante Counseling Center. Then Proyecto Pa'lante Coordinator, Max Torres, closed the portable, locking the Union for Puerto Rican Students out. After demonstrations by Latino students, headed by the Union for Puerto Rican Students and a meeting with President Mullen, the portable was given to the students.

For the last 5 years Daniel Kielson, Vice President of Student Affairs, has known that the Latino students want to keep the portable open. Mr. Kielson's contention is that all portables have outlived their usefulness and present a financial problem to the University.

It is true that some of the portables are in bad condition. However, this comes out of neglect on the part of the university, rather than from use. State fire marshals inspected the Project Success Portable and deemed it a fire hazard.

In Portable One maintenance men are only seen twice a year -- once in the winter to turn on the heat and once in the summer to check air conditioning. The portable is maintained by the students, for example, the entrance ramp of P-1 had to be repaired by the students.

From reliable sources, Q.O.S. has learned that all portables outside the Village Square are proposed for demolition, except the brown portable (Special Services), to make room for a Picnic area similar to the one outside the Book Nook.

Que Onde Sola staff had the opportunity to speak with a university employee, who was inspecting the portable's conditions for a report which would be sent to Springfield. He stated that Portable One was the best unit of the 4 targeted for demolition. He later added that his report would determine if the portables would be taken out for another destination or dismantled for refuse.

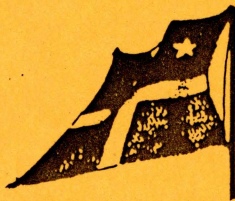
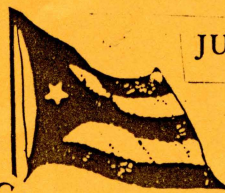
At this present time, the old financial aid office is being remodeled to house staff from Proyecto Pa'lante, Project Success and Special Services Counseling

QUE ONDEE SOLA UPDATE

JULY 7, 1982

NO. 3

"THERE IS NO PLACE ON CAMPUS WHERE LATINO STUDENTS CAN GO AND FEEL AS THOUGH THEY WERE PART OF THIS INSTITUTION WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PORTABLE ONE"



centers. By the beginning of July the remodeling should be over and the process of moving the counseling services should be completed by the end of the month.

Historically, Puerto Ricans in this country are among the poorest of the poor; they are forced to live in the worst neighborhoods and take the most degrading jobs. This comes out of the forced migration of the Puerto Rican people from their island by U.S. finance capital, which annually robs the nation of 2 billion dollars.

The attack against the Puerto Rican nation continues with Plan 2020 which will convert the island into 17 military bases and 11 industrial parks. This will uproot thousands of Puerto Ricans creating a mass exodus to the United States where they will be alienated and marginalized by the racism which prevails in this country.

U.S. Imperialism seeks to destroy the Puerto Rican identity by destroying the island.

UNI seeks to eliminate the visibility of the Union for Puerto Rican Students by demolishing Centro Albizu Zapata (P-1).

The best analogy on the P-1 issue was given by a U.P.R.S. member. "The demolition of the portables not only affects the Latino students but also the Black Student organizations housed in Project Success (the Black Heritage Club and the Black Caucus) . . . There is no place on campus where Latino students can go and feel as though they were part of this institution, with the exception of Portable One."

The removal of Centro Albizu Zapata is part of a long line of attacks against Latino students on campus, particularly the membership of the Union for Puerto Rican Students. It was the UPRS, with other concerned Latinos, who fought against the elimination of the Puerto Rican History line, the termination of Puerto Rican History Professor José López, UNI expulsion of ChicanoMexicano student activist Irma Romero, the hiring of Ignacio Méndez, and the attempted suspension of two student activists. Coupled with the rise in tuition, cuts in financial aid, and the limbo state of the ChicanoMexicano Puerto Rican Studies Program, it is clear that this institution does not see Latinos as part of this University's future.

SAVE P-1 ACTIVITY
WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1982
12:00-

PORTABLE ONE- CENTRO ALBIZU/ZAPATA

IT IS A STUDENT'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIVERSITY PLANNING