

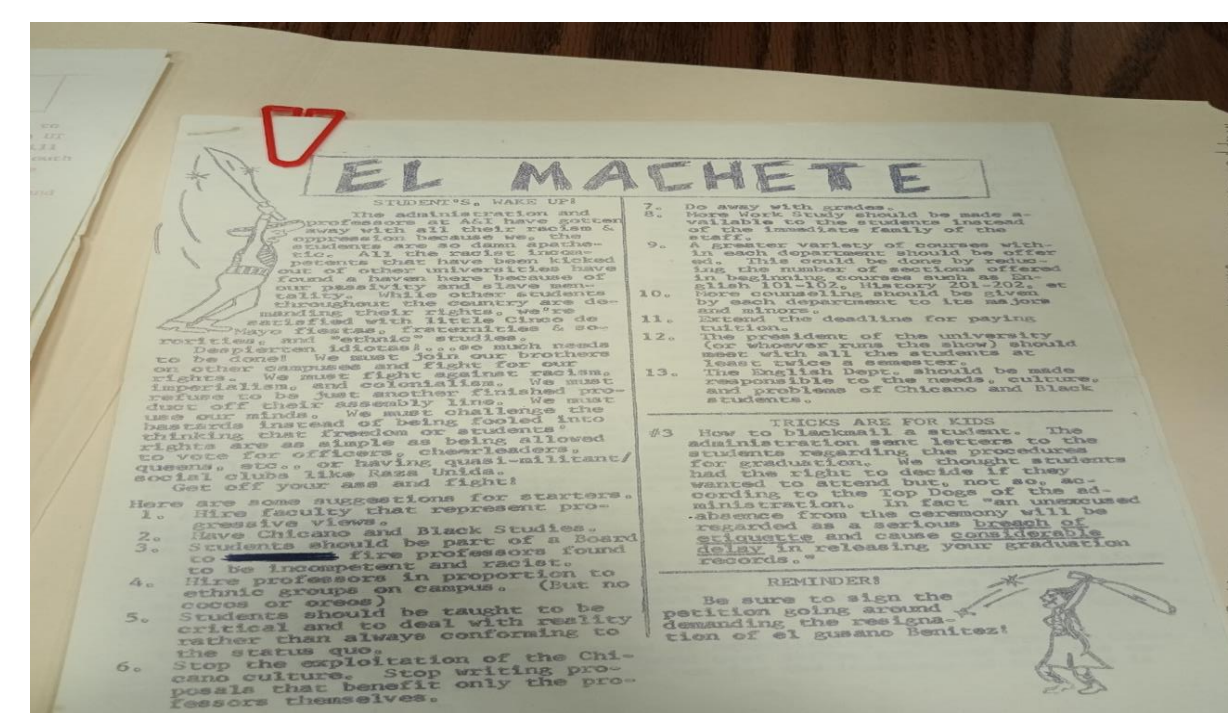
PURPOSE OF STUDY

The purpose of this study is to examine the roles that Chicana women played in the Chicano Movement in and around the Texas A&I campus from 1965-1985, focusing on the roles and jobs they held during the movement, their relationships with their peers, their participation in important events and spaces of activism, their impressions of the movement, and the challenges they experienced in the Chicano Movement.

INTRODUCTION

During the second half of the 20th century, Chicano individuals and allies across South Texas advocated for stronger civil rights in education, labor, law, economics, and community life. Chicana women were central in these efforts, including on the Texas A&I University campus; however, their perspectives are underrepresented in our archival records, scholarly analyses, and public humanities.

This historical study researches archival collections and conducts oral interviews to learn about Chicanas' experiences in activism, advocacy, education, labor, economics, family, gender, race, and social life.



METHODS

This study involves a historical analysis using a qualitative research approach with a narrative design. It integrates two methodologies: conducting interviews to document the oral histories of Chicana women involved in the campus Chicano Movement, as well as conducting primary archival research in the South Texas Archives.

- **Oral Interviews:** The oral interview recruitment process has used a "snowball" effect. One interview has led to the next interview. The interviews follow a semi-structured format done either through zoom or in-person, as well as through written communication.
- **Archival Sources:** Two primary archival sources that are used in my analysis are: *El Chile* and *El Machete*. These provide background on the Movement on campus, and what they were calling for.

Participants: To date, interviewees have included: women and men who participated as activists, faculty advisors for related student organizations, scholars, and alumni.

RESULTS

Research Question 1 (RQ1): What roles and jobs did Chicana women hold during the movement?

"Rosa Perez and her husband demonstrated some of the favorite corridos sung during the Chicano movement between the 1960s and 1970s. Both were activists to bring music to the university at that time."

-Ofelia Garcia Hunter

- This recollection provides one role that Chicanas had within the movement: playing music.
- *Corridos* are a long-standing cultural tradition; integrating them on campus was a form of heritage expression and activism.



Research Question 2 (RQ2): What was their relationship with their peers during their time of activism?

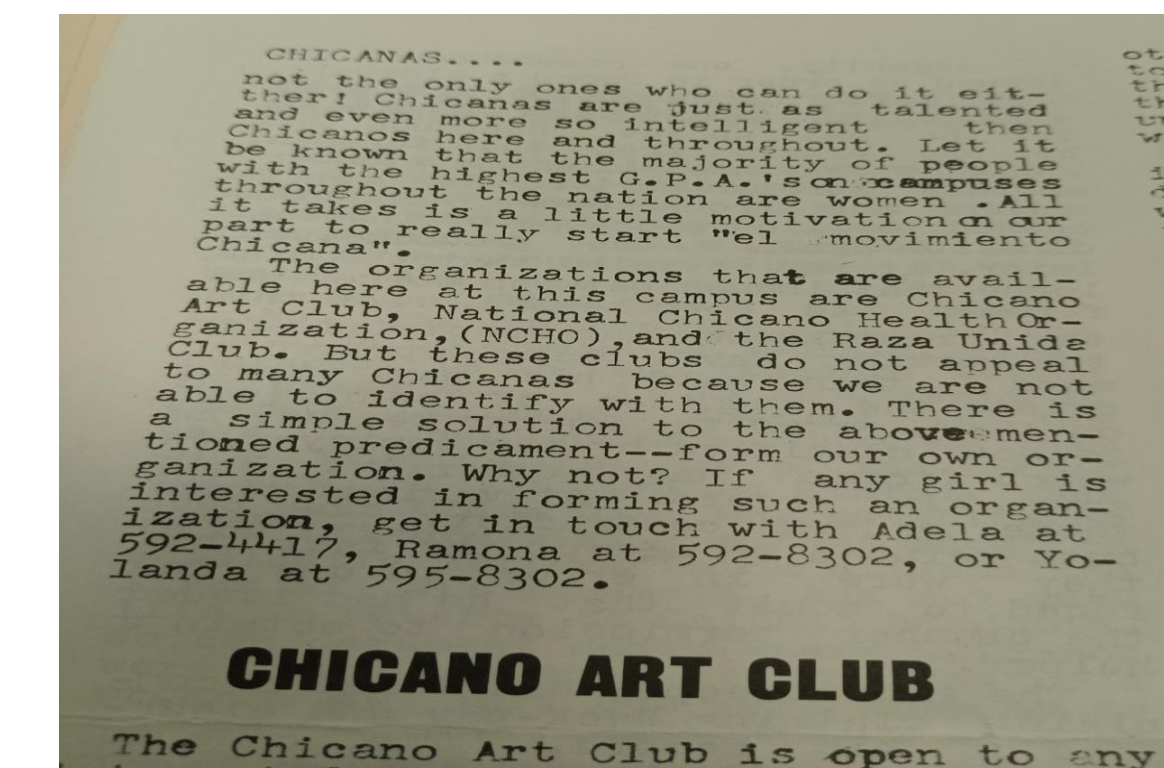
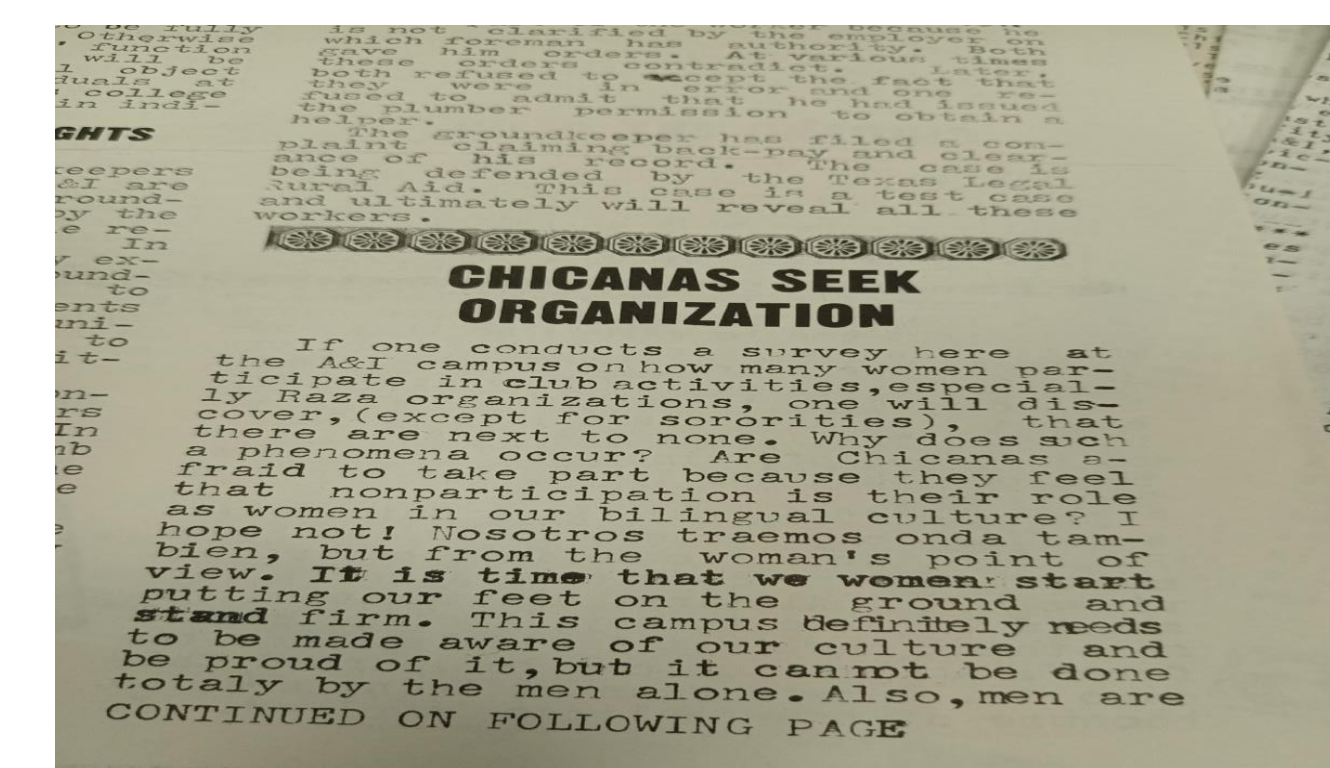
"And so we would have these really long discussions at their house about the philosophy of the Chicano movement and what we were trying to do."

- Carmen Lomas Garza

"We would listen to music, we would discuss issues, we would watch special events on television-like the landing of the astronauts on the moon..."

- Carmen Lomas Garza

- These two quotes provide a first hand in the close relationships and interaction that was held in the movement.



Research Question 3 (RQ3): What participation did Chicanas have in important events and spaces of activism in the Chicano Movement?

"In the spring of 1969, the first Mexican American Lantana Queen was elected, Linda Salinas, and her two ladies in waiting were also Mexican Americans, Diana Franco and Glenda Martinez..."

-Ofelia Garcia Hunter

- This was a form of participation from Chicanas, as it was an act of protest and progress that was being called for within the movement.
- This was a critical moment because Linda Salinas was the first Mexican American Lantana Queen.



DISCUSSION

- The results of this research provide a starting point in understanding the influence and impact of Chicanas within the movement on the A&I campus, particularly an understanding of some of the roles, relationships, and spaces of impact from Chicanas.
- An important understanding that this research has shown for Chicanas in the movement is that there was a unified mindset within the movement.
- The data also shows how on hand Chicanas were within the movement (for example, with the Lantana Queen).
- A common trend that had appeared was that meeting spaces for Chicanos and Chicanas in the movement often occurred off campus.

LIMITATIONS & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Limitations in this project included:

- the challenge of locating people named in archival sources because of commonality of names
- discovering that some individuals were already deceased
- time delays due to some contacts needing to be made through a middle party (e.g. Alumni Office/Foundation).

There is more opportunity for research to be conducted in this field, particularly by conducting more interviews.

- This is crucial for the first-hand experience is very beneficial in investigating the impact and understanding their feeling within the movement, particularly Chicanas' impressions of the movement, their perspectives on change and progress, and the difficulties or challenges they faced.

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