

### **“Chicanos Discuss Riots,” Steve Lantz, Nov. 7, 1975**

This article offered Chicano Trojans’ perspectives on the East Los Angeles Chicano protests of 1975. Interviewer Steve Lantz spoke with members of USC’s MECHA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Atzlan) chapter about the key issues Chicanos care about as well as the validity of the violence at these protests. Members spoke on the fact that marginalized populations often feel as though they have no other alternatives to fight their oppression than a violent reaction. Rudy Chavez brought up the point that White people must be physically and intellectually confronted in order to bring about change because historically their conscience alone has not been enough.

Different members showed up to the protest to bring attention to different Chicano issues. Some common causes included unemployment in U.S. barrios and the disproportionate amount of Chicano deaths to other ethnic groups in Vietnam. Armando Varela placed the protests in a larger context of Chicano disenfranchisement, as Chicanos had few interest groups and little legislative power to bring about change in any other way. Yvonne Armendariz pointed out the disadvantages Chicanos face in the classroom, such as cultural and language barriers. USC’s MECHA chapter worked with other organizations in the area to fight for educational reforms and greater opportunities for Chicanos to access higher education.

This article remains relevant today, as racial minorities continue to face and fight disenfranchisement. In particular, with the reinvigoration of the Black Lives Matter movement, the Black community and its allies are taking to the streets to protest a history of institutional oppression and continued state violence. MECHA members’ comments about the validity of violent protest also retain their relevance in contemporary discourse. While a few Black Lives Matter protests have turned violent, it’s important to evaluate the root causes of systemic abuse and powerlessness that cause this reaction.

# Byrd faces campus Judicial

By TIM TAYLOR  
Managing Editor

Glenn Byrd, an 18-year-old freshman accused of making false bomb threats last fall, faced the University Judicial last night.

After the 30-minute hearing, the Judicial deliberated for almost an hour before rendering its decision.

The Daily Trojan was allowed to hear the proceedings but was excluded when the decision was handed down. The Judicial refused to release its ruling.

Bill Poland, the chief justice, also refused to release a copy of the complaint filed against Byrd. During the hearing, however, Poland said that Byrd

was being charged with committing "acts inimical to the welfare of others" as described in the Student Conduct Statement.

Poland said the specific incident was a telephone bomb threat allegedly made by Byrd Nov. 4.

(Byrd has been charged with making two other bomb threats, but the University Judicial based its complaint on only the last one.)

Erin Jones, a second-year law student who represented Byrd at the hearing, entered a plea of no lo contendere on Byrd's behalf. This plea, said Jones, is considered as a guilty plea in the court in which it is given, but cannot be used

or even referred to in any other court.

The Judicial asked Byrd to tell what had happened on the morning the alleged threat was made. Byrd said: "I woke up 15 minutes before class. I wasn't really prepared for the class. I felt that this (the telephone call) was one of the easiest ways to postpone the test. I made the call and then went to class." The teacher, Byrd added, postponed the test as expected.

Jones asked Byrd if he understood the ramifications of his act when he did it. "The only thing I thought was that the class would be cancelled. I didn't know that it was a felony or that the police or anyone else would be involved. I didn't

know that it was against the law. If I had known it was against the law I would not have done it," Byrd said.

Jones also asked Byrd if he actually intended to put a bomb in the building. "No, I don't even know how to make one," he said.

Byrd has not registered for any classes this semester on the advice of his attorney. Before the hearing last night, Jones told the Daily Trojan that Byrd would be allowed to register and probably will do so today.

In a recent hearing at the Hall of Justice, Byrd's case was transferred from Superior Court to juvenile authorities.

University of Southern California

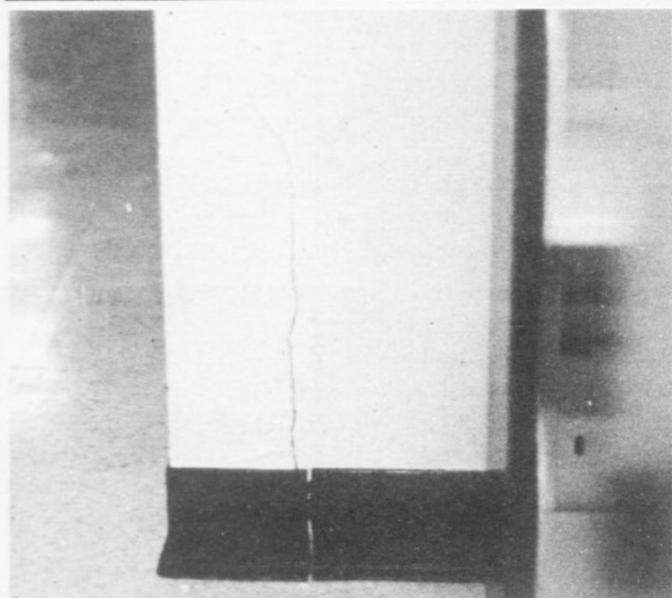
## DAILY TROJAN



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IT'S CRACKED UP

Cracks like this in the newly built Law School were caused by Tuesday morning's earthquake

### Law Center dedication Friday despite damage

Despite some damage in Tuesday's earthquake, the new Law Center will be formally dedicated as scheduled Friday at 11 a.m.

Byron R. White, associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, will be one of the guest speakers at the ceremony for the \$3.4 million center.

Other participants will include Justin Dart, chairman of the Board of Trustees; Chancellor Norman Topping; President John Hubbard; Asa V. Call, USC trustee for whom the new Law Center library is named; and Dorothy Nelson, dean of the Law School.

Gary Bellow, associate professor, will speak for the law faculty, and Patrick Neill, final-year law student with the highest academic standing, will talk on the clinical program.

Meanwhile, workers were proceeding to clean up the damage caused by Tuesday's earthquake, as they replaced books that had fallen off shelves on the third floor.

The sandy areas around the building were covered with new soil for small trees and ivy plants, while gardeners placed squares of grass in the bare areas near the center.

But cracks could still be seen on the walls of the center, especially along the stairway leading to the second floor library.

Some thin cracks were on the wall facing the east entrance to the center (by the parking lot). The wall holds an engraved list of major donors to the center.

There were also long cracks down the corners of part of the second floor, in the area just outside the library, where rare law books are on display.

On the first floor, light fixtures dropped out of place on the artificial skylight, and in several places ceiling tiles were ready to fall, particularly along the east edge of the second floor library.

About one-third of the tiles in the row at the east edge of the third floor library had already fallen, and the tiles were still not replaced. The interior of the Law Center's structure, with pipes and concrete, could be seen through the missing tiles.

Elevators were under check as well as the entire building. Despite the cracks, "there was no structural damage to the building caused by the earthquake," said James M. Graves, project coordinator at the Business Office.

The Law Center, designed by Albert C. Martin and Associates, is named in honor of Elvon Musick, a Los Angeles attorney, and his wife Mabel.

Musick, a USC alumnus who died in 1968, provided the foundation for the Law Center support campaign in his will. For three years before his graduation in 1915, he was top man in his law class.

He served on the Board of Trustees for 35 years and was honored by the General Alumni Association in 1948 with the Asa V. Call Achievement Trophy, and in 1957 with an honorary degree of doctor of laws.

Over 400 fulltime students and 21 fulltime faculty members are using the five-level, 84,000 square foot facility, with its 200,000-volume library.

### Junior coed nominated for director of CACC

Patrice Edwards, a junior in public administration, has been unanimously nominated by the Central Committee of the Community Action Coordinating Council (CACC) to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Dan Smith last November. The Executive Council will now vote on the nomination.

CACC, the coordinator of Troy Camp and the Tutorial Project, has been hampered in the past by understaffing and financial difficulties. But Miss Edwards felt that lack of exposure is the cause of the problems.

"Few people know of any CACC projects so I plan to meet with the chairman of each project and discuss publicity," she said.

An existing form of publicity that Miss Edwards planned to continue is the Volunteer Placement Service initiated by Smith while he was heading CACC.

The service was designed to contact potential volunteers by placing members of the committee on each floor of the campus residence halls and in every fraternity or sorority house on the Row.

But the service is hampered by the very problem it was designed to solve—it is understaffed. "We never have enough people," she said.

Miss Edwards has worked in many of the CACC's projects, notably Troy Camp and the Small Fry project. She is now involved with the YWCA and recently sat on a committee that discussed racism.

Has the CACC accomplished its goals?

Miss Edwards thought so. "While USC is viewed as an apathetic and 'lily white' school, there have been many great strides made by the CACC," she said.

With the apparent success of Troy Camp, Miss Edwards felt that the parent organization, the CACC, has also been a success. She said that a questionnaire sent to the parents of the children attending Troy Camp was returned with "a unanimously positive response."

"Even the kids were pleased with what was going on," she added.

More important, she felt that the success of the CACC is actually measured in the growth of the students themselves. She said the students become aware of the children and their culture through working on Troy Camp.

"There is a willingness in the volunteers to see the goodness of the kids," she added.

Miss Edwards anticipated no serious threats to the CACC's goal to provide contact between the surrounding community and USC—to eliminate what she described as "The idea that USC students are apathetic and the school itself, 'lily white.'"

### MECHA

### Chicanos discuss riots

By STEVE LANTZ

In the wake of the recent peaceful protest that turned into a riot in East Los Angeles, the question arises, can the Chicanos in the nation's barrios make progress without violence.

Members of the USC chapter of MECHA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Atzlan) feel that perhaps this is the only alternative available.

Rudy Chavez, a member of MECHA, said "The Anglos have to be physically as well as intellectually confronted to bring change. If you leave the alleviation of problems to the Anglo's conscience, I don't think they are going to act to fix the problems."

All members of the group agree that the demonstration was called to dramatically show the public and the community that Chicanos are united in their cause.

However, each member of the club went to the demonstration

to protest different Chicano problems. Some went because of the 20% level of unemployment in the barrio. Others were protesting the Chicano fatality rate in Viet Nam which is three times higher than the Anglo fatality rate. Police brutality was cited by some as the most important theme of the demonstration.

Armando Varela, a spokesman for MECHA, said that the riot was built on frustrations with the limited channels for community betterment.

"MECHA has no effective interest groups. We have no legislative power, so our only immediate alternative for quick change is to stage a dramatic event. From that event, we hoped to get recognition, further investigation of the barrio's problems, and, reform of those problems."

MECHA is also concerned with the long range opportunities. The members of the cam-

pus organization feel that they have a responsibility to assure that one alternative is opened for the Chicano residents of Los Angeles.

Yvonne Armendariz feels that education overrides every other alternative and therefore, that education should be given the most emphasis.

"East Los Angeles doesn't allow an adequate educational opportunity to its Chicano residents. The school system hasn't instituted its pilot programs in bilingual education into the regular curriculum. A student that has been raised in a Spanish speaking home spends the first three years learning English instead of how to read and write. Hence, Chicanos are ending up in mentally retarded classes."

MECHA is supporting other civic special interest organizations by trying to institute a Chicano-oriented system which

(Continued on page 2)

## ASSC offices open

The positions of graduate representative, international student representative, and treasurer on the ASSC Executive Council are now open. Interested students may pick up an application form at the Student Union 303 or 309.

The deadline for applications is 5 p.m. Feb. 19. All applicants will be interviewed by the ASSC Executive Council, which will also appoint the replacement officers.

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# MECHA

(Continued from page 1)

would teach the usual subjects but would take into consideration the cultural and language problems of the barrio resident.

The organization is trying to get East L.A. students to go to college. As of now, Chicanos are channeled in trade preparatory courses. MECHA is working with campus administrators

to set up scholarships, to help new applicants with admission procedures, and to start a fee waiver program.

Members of the club feel that there is an identity crisis in the Chicano community. They cite the demonstration as an example of the problem with community support of changes.

Arturo Abarca stated, "A lot of people who support the movement didn't go to the demonstration because they were afraid the police would come down on them."

Varela said, "Barrio residents are afraid of the symbols of officials, teachers, and welfare workers. This fear of symbols must be changed to a positive image of community unity. To get this unity we (MECHA) have to attack problems by educating ourselves and then helping other barrio Chicanos educate themselves."

Members of MECHA agree that they face their own identity problems.

When a member of the club speaks about programs, he is approaching the Chicano problems as an individual reacting to the current issue.

The club has no standing officers. MECHA's loose organization consists of interest groups split into problem-centered committees.

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