

# El Laberinto

## Chicano Caucus Newsletter

### Spring 2007



### Upcoming Events

April 13  
Chicano Caucus Mesa

April 21  
Senior Banquet

April 28  
Chicano Caucus  
30th Anniversary:  
Alumni Dinner

April 29  
Cinco de Mayo  
Celebration:  
Low Steps

October 19 - 21  
ECCSF at Columbia

### Letter from the President

Hola a todos! I hope that all of you are having a wonderful year so far. Chicano Caucus, now in its thirtieth year, would like to breathe new life into this great organization. Over the years, Chicano Caucus had been categorized as becoming increasingly social, losing sight of the responsibilities stated in its constitution. Last semester, the Minutemen Incident put Chicano Caucus in the spotlight, branding the organization as solely political. Groups such as El Ballet Folklorico led some students to believe that Chicano Caucus was becoming more cultural. So how do we reconcile these differences? We create a balance of all these forces. There is absolutely no reason why Chicano Caucus can't be a social, politically aware group that is cultural and active within the community. As the 2007 president of Chicano Caucus, it is my hope that this multi-faceted balance will begin to emerge and become the foundation of this organization. Only then will Chicano Caucus appeal to everyone, not just a handful of Columbian Chicano students. We will then be able to serve not only Chicanos at Columbia, but also in the greater New York City community. Only then will Chicano Caucus be what Chicano Caucus is meant to create, "an environment that will help [its members] to fulfill their educational goals, to promote their cultural consciousness, and to help them become active in serving the needs of their community." Chicano Caucus has and will continue to create more events with our mission statement in mind. This year, we will be hosting the 2007 Fall East Coast Chicano Student Forum. Following the success of the 2006 Columbia ECCSF Fall Conference, we have taken it upon ourselves to explore Mexican-American assimilation into American culture. Along with our annual celebration of Cinco de Mayo on the steps of Low Library, Chicano Caucus will also hold an alumni dinner commemorating our 30th Anniversary and the past members who helped keep this great organization alive. I hope all of you enjoy our first newsletter. Please stay in contact. As Chicanos, Mexicanos, Mexico-Americanos, we must stay together and fight for a better future not just for ourselves but also for the generations to come, always remembering all those who came before us. Thank you for your time and attention. Que Dios los bendiga. God bless you all.

Fernando Rojas CC '08  
Chicano Caucus – President

### 2007 - 2008 E-Board

**Chair:** Fernando Rojas

**Vice-Chair:** Eloy Gardea

**Treasurer:** Ernest Herrera

**Secretary:** Rocío Beltran

**Political Chair:** Yadira Alvarez

**Education Opportunities:** Johanna Ocana

**Cultural Chair:** Rosemary Almonte

**Community Chair:** Julia Gonzalez

**Alumni Relations:** Martin Lopez

**Historian:** Iliana Feliz

**Webmaster:** Rene Serulle

**Newsletter Editor:** Melissa Saldana

# Events In Review

**October 20 - 22 ECCSF at Columbia**  
*The Caucus hosted for the first time ever the East Coast Chicano Student Forum. The three-day weekend brought together Chicanos from East coast schools to talk about issues relating to the theme "Cruzando Fronteras: Illegality, Invisibility, and Identity."*

**November 4 - Dia de los Muertos**  
*A candlelight vigil and speakout was held on Low Steps in honor of the dead. Tamales, arroz con leche, and pan dulce fed hungry Columbians.*

**February 16 - 18 ECCSF at Yale**

**February 9 - Caucus Retreat**



*Chicano Caucus at the Retreat*

**February 21 - Dia de la Bandera Event**  
*The Chicano Caucus celebrated the Mexican flag by inviting Prof. Pizzigoni and Prof. Gonzalez-Mello to give a presentation on the history of the flag. The event was topped off with food, music, and dancing at the Dia de la Bandera Mesa.*

**February 24 - Dia de la Bandera Mesa**

**March 6 - Pan Con Leche Study Break**  
*Students took time off to study by attending the study break that filled their pansitas with sweet Mexican bread and coffee.*

**March 27 - Immigration "DREAM Act" Event**

**March 29 - Immigration Action Day**

*Ballet Folklorico at Cinco de Mayo*



*Gaby and Rocio at Dia de los Muertos*



*Julia eating pan dulce*

*Fernando's zapateado*



*Anthony, Gaby, and Karina at ECCSF*

### **cruza-fronteras:**

La palabra **cruza** significa aquí el verbo de cruzar en la forma indicativa, una acción continua en el presente. La pregunta que surge entonces es ¿cuáles son las fronteras?

### **es encontrar**

la armonía

en uno mismo

### **es encontrarse**

a uno mismo

### **adaptándose** en medio de

*dos lugares*

*dos estados*

*dos extremos*

### **es el acto**

perpetuo

de cruzar

*no te encuentras*

*en un punto de  
embarque*

*tampoco logras*

*dejar un lugar*

*atrás*

Las fronteras fueron creadas por los humanos. Pueden ser físicas, mentales, reales y artificiales; pueden ser tangibles e intangibles, volubles y transparentes, históricas e irreconocibles, pero nunca estáticas. Pueden tener una complicidad (sea política, social, cultural, académica) pero realmente nunca podrán dividir. Aunque una frontera aparenta ser una división, es sólo una demarcación de un lugar a otro, por eso siempre será una transición, que tiene como sinónimo la transformación. Así que como "cruza-fronteras" soy una persona que cruza (anda avanzando en un espacio y tiempo transicional para cruzar, nunca cruzando) y también soy las fronteras (el espacio transformador colocado por el límite del otro, siempre transformándose).

*e.p. ruby pilar*

**"I AM. YO SOY."**

**Soy Mexicana.**

**I might be Chicana**

**Am I American?**

**Don't Know.**

**(I don't live, I survive.)**

**Soy inmigrante.**

**Even an estudiante**

**Am I American?**

**Don't know.**

**(I don't live, I survive.)**

**I am a Luchista.**

**But not guerrillista.**

**Am I American?**

**Still don't know.**

**Estudiante, Luchista  
Immigrante, Optimista**

**Who I am.**

**Who will I be?**

**Americans live.**

**I don't.**

**Will I, American be?**

**By Yadira Alvarez**

*Questions? Concerns? Comments?*

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