

Guest Opinion

The Return Of The "Tio Tacos"

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The announcement that the Chicano Federation (which is neither Chicano nor a Federation) that the Master of Ceremonies for their annual dinner would be San Diego Chief of Police, Bill Kolender, signals the return of "Tio Tacoism."

This action by the Chicano Federation brings to mind George Orwell's classic novel "Animal Farm" where the sellout of the revolution and the capitulation of the farm animal leadership is characterized by the Pigs (who were the leaders and defenders of downtrodden farm animals i.e. the masses) wind-up breaking bread and drinking wine with the oppressor, the humans.

In the novel, the farm animals (the masses) look in from the outside, thru the windows of the forbidden farmhouse, in bewilderment and amazement. They wonder what has happened to their self-proclaimed leaders who are now breaking bread and drinking wine with those who continued to oppress them? What has happened to their fight for justice and equality? They know and understand as well as the sell-out leaders (the pigs) that nothing has changed for any of the farm animals (masses).

Much like the George Orwell's novel, Chicanos in 1985 are still on the outside looking in. They are still on the outside of the political, social and economic institutions of society. Now they look from the outside in amazement and wonderment as the Federation

(which proclaims itself as the leader for change and defender of the downtrodden) breaks bread and drinks wine with the chief enforcer of the White Power structure, Police Chief Kolender, when they know as well as we do that NOTHING HAS CHANGED for the Chicanos of this county, this state or this nation.

You may ask what is wrong with inviting San Diego Police Chief Bill Kolender to be the Master of Ceremonies? It must be understood that this dinner is not just a social event. Nor is the appearance of the Chief an innocent act of social graciousness. It is in fact a purposeful political act entered into willingly by the co-opted leadership of the Chicano Federation which will be fully exploited by the power structure, if we allow it.

Politically what is wrong is that the Federation by its invitation of the Chief of Police Bill Kolender is telling the majority community and our own community that the status quo is a-okay. That the power structure can continue doing business as usual.

This political act is being carried out with the full knowledge and comprehension that:

--That 20 million Chicanos/Latinos of this country are still treated as second class citizens.

--That we are the only racial group in the U.S. that the Supreme Court has ruled may be arrested and deported solely on the 6th sense of law enforcement officers.

--We are the only racial group that is denied the protection of the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

--We are the only societal group that has a national police force (the INS/MIGRA) with authority to break into our homes, our cars, stop, harass, beat, rape and intimidate our families and our person.

--We are the only group in society that has been successfully excluded through control of the apparatus of government from enjoying full political and economic participation in our society.

--We are one of the main groups that has continued to suffer the effects of institutional racism and discrimination since 1848 when the United States took over the Southwest.

--We are the only group that still lives under treaty (The Treaty of Guadalupe), aside from the indigenous Indians which is consistently broken, ignored, and trampled upon.

The Chief of Police can signal to the whole community the total co-optation of the Chicano Federation and harness it to the systems machinery of oppression. But what he is getting, however, is a bankrupt organization that lost its importance and relevancy to the Chicano community years ago.

What the Chief is buying is but an empty taco shell without CARNE or SALSA!

Herman Baca