

To: Ms. Denise Lugo/ Ms. Monica Torres Creason, Latino *Museum* , Los Angeles

From: Peter Valentin Fernandez, Editor, Con Safos Magazine, '97

Date: January 2, 1997

Re: Los Four's involvement with Con Safos Magazine, 1968-1972 : A Personal Perspective

Introduction

" 380 Mexican American newspapers, published from 1848 to 1958, have documented Chicano life in the barrios of the United States.... This newspaper bibliography, compiled by Herminio Rios and Lupe Castillo has contributed greatly toward the eradication of the commonly disseminated but erroneous notions of the non-literate, non-literary, and non-intellectual Mexican American" (El Grito, Vol. V, No. 4, Summer, 1972, p.38).

I. Background: Con Safos Magazine, 1968-1972

A. Genesis

1. Dejure segregation/ "separate but equal" doctrine established by the Supreme Court Decision, Plessey vs Ferguson, 1896 Case
2. 1910 Mexican Revolution
3. Mexican Muralist Movement
4. Deportation/Repatriation of Mexican Americans, 1932, City/County of Los Angeles
5. America Tropical, mural by Siqueros, 1932, whitewashed after official unveiling, on Olvera St.
6. Mexico nationalizes its petroleum industry, 1935
7. " Aryes Report", filed by the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department, 1938
8. Executive Order 9066, Internment/Imprisonment of Japanese Americans, 1941
9. Sleepy Lagoon Case. 1941
10. Zoot Suit Riots, 1943
11. Desegregation of the Armed Forces of the United States, 1948
12. Korean War, 1951
13. " War" on " Rat Packs" of Mexican pachucos
14. Dejure segregation/ " separate but equal " doctrine, ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, in Brown vs Topeka Case, 1954
15. Cuban Revolution, 1959
16. Presidential election of 1960
17. Asssination of President John F. Kennedy, November, 22, 1963
18. War on Poverty, 1964

19. Civil Rights Act, 1964
20. Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, 1964, US Troops sent to Vietnam
21. Lau Decision, 1964
22. United Farm Workers Union/ Grape Boycott / Cesar Chavez, 1965
23. Raza Unida Party, Ch ystal City, Texas, 1967
24. Reis Lopez Tijerina, New Mexico , Tierra Amarilla, 1967
25. Chicano Student Walkouts, 1968
25. Deaths of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. & Robert F. Kennedy, 1968
26. Chicano Moratorium March and Rally against the War in Vietnam; death of Ruben Salazar, August 29, 1969
27. Election of Richard Nixon, 1968 & 1972
28. Crawford vs LAUSD Case decision, ruled LAUSD guilty of de facto segregation by established school attendance boundaries policies.

B. Beginnings

1. Ralph " Rafas" Lopez-Urbina, Frank " Pancho" Sifuentes, Antonio Gomez, Rudy Salinas, Arturo " Tudi" Flores, Gil Gonzalez, & Peter Valentin Fernandez contributed to the the initial publication of Con Safos Magazine, in Summer, 1968. In subsequent issues, many artists and writers gave, through their art and writing, diverse expression of Chicano experience.

C. Publication:

1. Con Safos Magazine, published eight issues during 1968-1972 (Vol. 1, Nos 1,2,3 4, & Vol. 2 Nos 5,6,7 8)

D. Content:

1. Barrio prose, poetry and art created by Chicanos *of that* experience whose world view *of that* reality produced literature and art, that, unincumbered by traditional and occidental literary form and content, expressed affirmation of the spiritual essence of Chicano values and culture in language and images and symbols derived from barrio *experience & thought*.
2. Social attitudes of mainstream literature during the 60's
 - ... Ralph F. Lopez-Urbina, who founded the original Con Safos with Frank "Pancho" Sifuentes, recalls starting the magazine because of what he called 'institutional racism' in the early sixties.
 - ' I found out that anytime I tried to write about my experiences, I was told my point of view was too ethnic... not universal, not the kind everyone could relate to... the racist posturing that was going on... was an idignity.'
 - ... Lopez-Urbina gathered... writers, poets and artists, and launched the magazine... Con Safos... because... ' the only people... generating any... creative activity were the pachucos.... Their dress... the Spanlish.... There was... imagination

coming out of that culture. The cholos...represented Chicano Pride against all the bigotry and prejudice...' (A Cultural Victory, by Michael Quintanilla, Los Angeles Times, Life & Style section, October 26,1995)

II. Art contributors to Con Safos Magazine, 1968-1972

A. Artists whose art, graphics, photography, cartoons, comic strips illustrations appeared the magazine during its publication:

Sergio Hernandez, Benjamin R. Luna, Nettie Pena, Ramses Noriega,
John Parsons, Cuca, PeterValentinFernandez, Antonio Gomez, Gene Flores,
Grace Hernandez, Becky Hernandez, Teresa Gomez, Ralph "Rafas" Lopez,
Ernest Garanillo, Armando Chaparro, Oscar Castillo, Daniel C. Garzia,
Gilbert "Magu" Lujan, Rick Reyes, Sandoval, Jorge Pena, Arturo Camargo,
Richard Lujan, Beto dela Rocha, Chito Gomez, Martha Villesas, Ronaldo Ramirez
Carlos Almaraz, Frank Romero, Bob Gronk, Bob Gutierrez, Robert Chavez,
Jose Garcia, Edward Carbajal, Lola Sandino, Roberto Arenavar, Antonio Esparza
Armando Cabrera, Tom Acosta, Julie Tarin, William Bejarano, Mickey Lorenzana
Chano, Martha Perez, Mando Meneses, Willie Herron y Isamael Camposano

B. Los Four: Artistic contributions to Con Safos Magazine, 1968-1972

Carlos Almaraz Vol 2. No. 7, Winter '71 , p 13
Vol 2. No. 8, 1972 , pp 1,29,31& 44

Beto dela Rocha Vol 2. No. 7, Winter '71 pp 12,50,53,55&56
Vol.2 No. 8, 1972 pp 21,22,23,&24

Gilbert "Magu" Lujan
Vol. 2, No. 6, Summer '70 pp 9,26,30,39,41,42&47
Vol.2, No. 7, Winter, '71 Cover(front)
pp 24,34,36,39,41,43,45,&64
Vol.2, No.8, 1972 p27

Frank Romero Vol. 2 No 7, Winter '71 p13

III. Summary

Chicano Art and Literature published by Con Safos Magazine, 1968-1972 , represented the pool of artistic talent active during the Chicano Movement, reflecting and affirming the inherent value and spirituality of barrio life & experience.