

# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I suppose this letter should begin with my apologies for the situation upon which you were subjected at the March 30 VML meeting. Of course, we shouldn't blame the migrant people for standing up against what they consider discrimination and downgrading by your publishing the sub-human conditions to which the migrant people are exposed, whether you depict them in writing or photographs.

What we ex-migrants and migrants don't realize is that we are confused by the perpetual exploitation and injustices imposed upon us by the social system which includes the growers and "Mr. Contractor." Therefore, if somebody seems to speak or at least sympathize on the migrant's behalf, they (the migrants) rally behind him, thinking that he's their real spokesman and protector. But "Mr. Contractor" knows quite well on whose behalf he is speaking—not on the behalf of the migrant people, but on behalf of his own self interest.

And "Mr. Contractor", if you are so concerned about the migrant's condition, then what seemed to bother you so much about the story in the VML newspaper telling about the manner in which they are transported, or shall I say, hauled in like a herd of cattle in your late model trucks. Do you think it might affect your take, next year, if people who sincerely care about the migrant's sub-human conditions succeed in putting a stop to it? "Mr. Contractor", I don't believe this is the kind of sympathy and support "La Raza" needs, and you know it darn well too.

If you have ever lived the life of a migrant, you would probably know what it's like to ride twelve hundred miles in an almost completely dark crate which is just what the back of a truck is like. Sure, you might say that you have made the trip many times, "pero hemano", isn't it much more comfortable riding in the late model sedan you purchased just a few weeks ago, while your right-hand men do the truck driving?

Editor, I congratulate you for the courageous stand you have taken in the VML newspaper even though you may seem as nothing but a bigot and villan to the eyes of the majority of we Mexican-American people. But sooner or later we migrants will realize that you're helping instead of down-grading us. Nothing but the truth will bring us up from the ignorance and narrow mindedness which many times you have had occasion to witness. This is not only true of the Mexican-American people but also of the entire population of the United States of America, as you may well know.

So please keep up the good work and don't become discouraged if you never win, and don't expect to—at least for now and the near future, because the good guys still don't win! I'll close by quoting the now immortal lines of a friend:

"Keep the faith baby", and if you want to spread the truth, "spread it gently baby."

David Loera

(ex-migrant from Ontario)

## LETTER FROM NORBERTO ROBLES

Dear Editor,

I have been chosen to come to the Capitol Job Corps Center in Washington D.C. This Center is very good. They have education and here you live as if you were out in the world working and having your own home.

They teach you how to take care of your money and yourself too. They teach you how to keep a job. There are so many things you can learn at Capitol Center that you can't learn elsewhere.

I am sending you my change of address. Well that's all for this time.

Yours truly,  
Norberto Robles

Querida redactora,

Me han escogido para asistir al Capitol Job Corps Center en Washington D.C. Este centro es muy bueno. Nos educan y se vive como si se estuviera trabajando y ganando la vida en la propia casa.

Se enseña como cuidar el dinero y a sí mismo también. Se enseña como mantener un empleo. Hay muchas cosas que se pueden aprender aquí en Capitol Center que no se pueden aprender por otras partes.

Le envío mi cambio de dirección. Es todo lo que tengo que decirle por ahora.

Atentamente,  
Norberto Robles

A la redactora:

Supongo que debería empezar esta carta disculpándome por lo que U. tuvieron que sufrir en la reunión VML del 30 de marzo. Claro, no de mos culpar a los migrantes por haber opuesto lo que ellos conside ran perjuicio y desprecio por su publicación acerca de las condiciones humanas a que están expuestos los migrantes—sea por lo que se escrí be o por las fotos que se publican. Lo de que nosotros migrantes y ex migrantes no nos damos cuenta es que estamos confundidos por la explotación perpetua y las injusticias que nos impone el sistema social que cluye a los agricultores y al Sr. Contratista. Por eso, si parece que alguí hable o simpatice favoreciendo al migrante, los migrantes le dan su apo pensando que ése es su portavoz y protector. Pero el Sr. Contratista sa muy bien para quien está hablando—no para los migrantes sino para propios intereses.

Y Sr. Contratista, si se perocupa Ud. tanto por las condiciones del migrantes, ¿qué es lo que le molestó acerca del cuento en el periódico VML contando como se transportaban o mejor dicho como se carga como ganado a la gente en sus camiones del último modelo? ¿Piensa danará su ingreso el año próximo si los que son sinceros impiden el Sr. Contratista, no creo que la Raza necesite esta clase de apoyo y Ud. sabe muy bien también.

Si Ud. ha vivido la vida del migrante, sabría lo que es viajar mil, docenas millas en un cajón negro que es detrás de un camión. Claro, Ud. que ha hecho el viaje muchas veces, pero hermano no le sale mucho cómodo pasearse en el coche cómodo que acaba Ud. de comprar ha pocas semanas, mientras sus asistentes manejan los camiones?

Sra. Redactora, le felicito por haber defendido nosotros en el periódico VML. Aunque unos Mexico-americanos pensaron en Ud. como fanática malvada. Pero más tarde o más temprano, nosotros migrantes nos darem cuenta de que Ud. nos ayuda en vez de desprecia. Nada menos que la v dad nos levantará de la ignorancia y el perjuicio que Ud. ha presencia muchas veces. Esta no es la verdad unicamente con los Mexico-american sino de la población entera de los EEUU—como Ud. bien sabe.

Así siga en ese buen trabajo y no se desanime aun jamás ganará— puede esperar eso—por lo menos por ahora porque ¡los buenos aun ganan! Voy a concluir al citar las palabras inmortales de un amigo:

"Mantenga la fe, chica", y si Ud. quiere dejar saber la verdad "hága con ternura, chica."

David Loera

(ex-migrante de Ontario)

## VML Job Opening

The Valley Migrant League announces a job opening for a Job Counselor Aide in Dayton. Please apply at any VML opportunity center.

El VML tiene un puesto por asistente a un Consejero de Empleos en Dayton. Solicite en cualquier Centro de Oportunidad.

### ROPA USADA DE VENTA

Sabado, 29 de Abril, 9:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m. Centro de Oportunidad Woodburn.

### OPPORTUNITY NEWS

Vol. 3, No. 15

Friday, April 28, 1967

The VALLEY MIGRANT LEAGUE, sponsor of this newspaper, is a part of the President's War on Poverty and is funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity, Washington, D. C.

OPPORTUNITY NEWS is published weekly for free distribution to seasonal farm workers of this area, and to persons associated with the activities of the VALLEY MIGRANT LEAGUE.

If you do not qualify for free copies, please send \$2.00 for a 1 year subscription. Group rates on request.

BOB WYNIA,  
Acting Executive Director

PRISCILLA CARRASCO, Acting Editor

JUDI JARVILL, Acting Assistant Editor

LEONORA GUINAZZO, Translator

This newspaper is a publication of the VALLEY MIGRANT LEAGUE

P. O. Box 128  
Woodburn, Oregon

VML phone 981-3171  
Newspaper phone 981-9711