

Pictured left to right: Leopoldo Tanguma, Leticia Tanguma (Denver), Jose Orantes (Seattle), Felipe Gonzalez (N. Portland), Sherrian Haggar (N. Portland). Photo by Richard J. Brown

Mural Depicts Quest for Freedom and Justice

On Friday, August 7, 1987, a structural mural on Central America was dedicated at Centro Cultural in Cornelius. The mural is titled "We are al children of the Quetzal." It is a project of LA CAUSA (Latinos, Americanos, Cnicanos/Mexicanos Against U.S. Aggression) in Central America, a program of the American Friends Service Committee.

This portable mural, created by Leopoldo Tanguma, represents a Latino perspective on U.S. policy in Central America. At the same time, the mural draws a link between the problems faced by U.S. Latinos and the struggle to end apartheid in South Africa.

The structure, standing 8 1/2 feet high by 22 feet, resembles the Quetzal bird, a bird native from Southern Mexico to Panama that will not live in captivity, thereby symbolizing Central America's quest for freedom and justice.

On one side, at the base of the bird, are eight crosses of various sizes arranged as in a graveyard.

On the central cross is the figure of a 3-year-old girl who was tortured by the military forces in Guatemala. Among the figures torturing the little girl, is Uncle Sam, a Central American general, and soldiers. This cross represents the torture and repression in Central America and those charac-

This side of the mural is based on the suffering and struggle of the people of Central America trying to determine their own destiny. It also puts forth the notion that the current struggles elsewhere have to be viewed as one.

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Along these lines, Nelson Mandela is portrayed in one of the crosses. He was incorporated in the mural out of a recognition to oppose apartheid as well as the fact that there are Afro-Central Americans in Central America. There is a need in our communities to become aware of this aspect and become solidarious with our brothers and sisters in Central America and South Africa who are struggling for a just cause.

Also, in this side, we find a portrait of Santos Rodriguez, a twelveyear-old that was killed by Dallas police. And next to him, the picture of Ben Linder from Portland who was killed in Nicaragua by U.S. sponsored Contras. Another cross carries the image of Archbishop Oscar Romero, assassinated by government military forces in El Salvador in 1980.

The opposite side of the mural represents building a new society in Central America based on social justice and love.

A Central American couple is portrayed holding their daughter over a Central American flag. Behind the couple are such noted figures as Martin Luther King Jr., Mexican Revolutionary Emiliano Zapata, Jean Donovan who was killed in El Salvador by the National Guard, Sitting Bull, Che Guevara and others.

The mural is expected to be displayed throughout Oregon and Washington. Anyone interested in suggesting locations can contact 230-9427. Contributions to the mural may be sent to AFSC-LA CAUSA, 2249 E. Burnside, Portland, OR 97214.

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