



Chicano grads talk by professor Jose Carrasco

Chicano Graduation Held

Some 30 graduating Mexican-American students yesterday participated in a Chicano commencement exercise, which hopefully will become an annual event.

Attired in suit and ties or typical Mexican costumes, the students represented various Valley colleges. Any Chicano graduating from a college, university or junior college was eligible to participate.

Program speakers were community representative Sophie Mendoza, who exhorted the new graduates "not to

forget the community and to become involved in the community struggle;" and Richard Herrera, a San Jose State College graduating student, who urged fellow students to continue the Chicano struggle for equality in all senses.

The Chicano ceremony was organized by a San Jose State student committee for the purpose of breaking away from the traditional graduation ceremony which Mexican-Americans feel has little relevance for them.

One organizer said the

event aimed at setting a precedent for Chicano commencement exercises. He said the group wants to break away from the "protest" type of Chicano graduation ceremonies held here in 1968-1970.

The ceremony, held at the Guadalupe Church, 2020 E. San Antonio St., also included music and a skit by a community group, Teatro de la Gente.

Master of ceremonies was Jose Carrasco, a teacher in the SJS Mexican-American graduates studies department.