

# 1968 walkouts honored through lecture

BY STEVEN ADAMO  
Staff Writer

Photos of student-lead protests against poor school conditions was the topic of discussion Friday, at the Vincent Price Art Museum in honor of the 50th anniversary of the 1968 Chicana/o walkouts.

The photographs shared are part of a larger exhibit currently on display at the Chicano Studies Research Center at UCLA, curated by the speaker of the event, Carlos Manuel Haro, Ph.D. and University of California Los Angeles Assistant Director Emeritus.

The exhibit at UCLA has multiple themes including the 1968 walkouts at Theodore Roosevelt High School, the East Los Angeles 13, the struggle to reinstate Sal Castro and the walkouts of 1970.

Haro shared slides that demonstrated how publications like *La Raza* reported the walkouts

differently from the major print and broadcast news outlets at the time.

"They entered school grounds, clubbed students with their batons and they arrested them," Haro said, "Something you didn't see on television either."

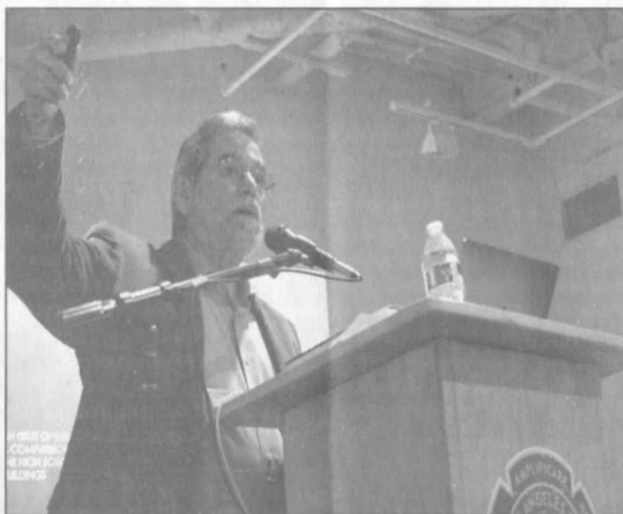
The footage can now be seen in the PBS documentary "Chicano!: the history of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement," which is available on YouTube.com.

The demands of the students was to have bilingual instruction, Mexican-American history courses, an end to corporal punishment and the hiring of Mexican-American teachers and counselors.

Another big criticism from the students, Haro said, was the schools themselves.

"They were building new buildings in other high schools, but our East L.A. schools were not being built," Haro said.

Haro discussed the importance



CN/VICKY NGUYEN

**HONORING**—UCLA Professor Carlos Haro talks about the injustice faced by Chicano students during the 1968 student walkout photo presentation at the Vincent Price Museum on Thursday.

of sharing these materials with the public by quoting Sal Castro, an educator and activist who had a large role in the 1968 walkouts:

"If you don't know your history then your history doesn't exist.

If you don't educate yourself and write your history, then somebody else is going to write it and they're going to get it wrong."

One instance where history got it wrong, Haro said, is during a scene in the 2006 film "Walkout," where Sal Castro is finally released from jail.

"When Sal Castro came out, it's not like in the film where there's thousands of people waiting and cheering for him," Haro said.

"Charlotte [Lerchenmuller], his widow, was there in her Volkswagen to pick him up. Being a leader can be very, very lonely."

Haro personally donated materials he collected, including both mainstream and underground newspapers.

A large portion of materials was donated by former Congressman Edward R. Roybal. Photographer Oscar Castillo was also in the audience.

Castillo's photography was different from other photographers like Devra Weber. Castillo's showed women of the movement in a principle leadership role.

"[The women] were asserting themselves in a very different way than they had in 1968," Haro said,

"Oscar's photography captured that."

The photography exhibit will be on display at the Chicano Research Center at UCLA throughout the summer.

UCLA is also offering a free summer course to ELAC students. UCLA will also be hosting free courses this summer for ELAC students interested in Chicano Studies.