

IMMIGRANT LAW DECRIED AT CAMPUS MARCH

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CHICAGO TRIBUNE

FEBRUARY 17, 1995 | ROMEIOVILLE

Chanting "Proposition 187 must go" and carrying placards, about 40 students, faculty members and concerned citizens marched at Lewis University campus this week to highlight the plight of illegal immigrants in California who would be denied public services.

The march, organized by the school's recently formed Marxist-Humanist Society, on Wednesday was followed by a rally featuring guest speakers opposing the measure. Other campus groups, including the Black Student Union, Latin American Student Association, Amnesty International, Teachers of Tomorrow and Victims Assistance Program supported the march and rally.

The proposition denies illegal immigrants public social services and health care services. It also denies them access to elementary, secondary and post-secondary education. A U.S. District judge has imposed a preliminary injunction blocking California from enforcing most provisions of the measure, approved by voters Nov. 8.

Speaking at the rally, Tom Garlitz, peace and social justice ministry director of the Joliet diocese, commended the efforts of the students. "I commend your foresight in recognizing this issue on our doorsteps," he said. "I pray with you for our success for the poor."

Philosophy instructor Marilyn Nissim-Sabat, who is the faculty mentor of the Marxist-Humanist Society, said the rally began as a way for students to state their "sense of outrage" at the approval of Proposition 187.

"There's an effort to use immigrants as scapegoats," she said. "The rich get richer, and the poor get poorer. And there's a new effort to pin the blame on minorities. We're not going to tolerate it."

Senior Kenneth Haines of Oak Forest said his concern is with other state legislatures that could copy the California measure and the possibility that it could lead to other harsher measures against legal immigrants.

"It will sweep like wildfire throughout state legislatures," he said.

Sister Judy Callahan of St. Teresa's Catholic Church in Kankakee echoed his concerns. She arrived accompanied by several Latin American parishioners. "We want to let people know this is happening and that it's not fair," she said. "All of us are immigrant stock. The immigrants made this country great."

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