

TE

catnapping

for the cat's safe return.
ever fears the cat may have
n used as a sacrifice in a cult

idents say cats — particularly
ive been disappearing for the
Andrea Tullis, 13, said her
disappeared late last year. Its
ball, too.

how if the bearded suspect is
disappearance.

"I think somebody took him,"

— Associated Press

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MURAL

Restorer seeking artist's vision

Continued from A1

weave more contemporary issues into their murals."

Cervantez has been given the task of restoring the faded and cracked paint to its original beauty.

To do that, she has tried to place herself in the frame of mind of the unknown artist who created the original work.

She said she suspects the artist was probably a Latino man who, like many active in the Chicano movement of the mid-1960s, was learning about the murals created by indigenous people living in Latin America before the arrival of Europeans.

"The aesthetic of his mural reflects the politics of his time," Cervantez said on Friday, as she and five local teens painted in the morning sun.

The mural was painted a few years before El Centro moved into its building at 37 E. Del Mar Blvd. in 1968, said Leonora Barron, El Centro's executive director.

"Many of the founders of El Centro who may know who painted the mural have passed away," Barron said. "But we're trying to spread the word about our search. Pasadena is a tight community. Latinos stay in this town forever, and we're hoping

someone will call in."

The project began earlier this summer after El Centro received a \$5,000 grant from the Pasadena Arts Council to repaint the original mural.

The restorers have finished the center's eastern walls and water-blasted the center's southern and western walls, where damage to the mural was especially heavy.

Cervantez retraced the outlines of the original mural on the water-blasted walls, copying the mystery artist's patterns from photographs and adding new patterns that extended the original mural.

Local teen-agers, some of them designated as students at risk of dropping out of school, helped out.

"We're giving people back their history," Cervantez said of the centuries-old Mexican mural-painting tradition. "For many of these kids, this is their initiation into the art world."

Maria Valenzuela, 15, of Pasadena, said she has gained a new respect for artists after working for three weeks on the mural.

"Gangsters will just tag on these walls because they don't realize the work that went into it," she said, as she traced the bottom of Quetzalcoatl's body with a milky yellow paint. "But I'm going to tell them not to do it, because they don't know what people have been through to make this."

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Mural restores vision of ancient god

By Jack Chang

STAFF WRITER

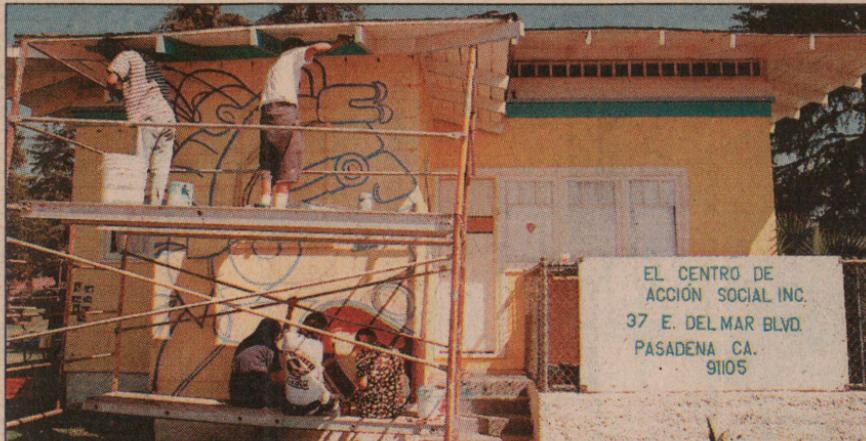
PASADENA — The mural of Quetzalcoatl on the headquarters of El Centro De Accion Social is an object of worship and of mystery.

The worship is in the religions of the Mayan, Toltec and Aztec peoples. Quetzalcoatl, a feathered serpent, was god, king and prophet to the peoples of ancient Mexico and still has followers today.

The mystery is that no one in the Latino social-service organization knows who painted the mural decades ago.

"There's a strong sense of rediscovery in this mural," said Yreina D. Cervantez. "The feelings in this work are closer to what the murals of the Aztec or Mayans would have been. Now, artists

Please turn to MURAL / A10



Staff photo by CINDY DARBY

TEENS WORK to help restore a mural of the pre-Columbian god Quetzalcoatl painted in the late 1960s.

6 P.M.) FAX (818) 962-8849 (24 HOURS A DAY) FOR CIRCULATION: CALL (800) 788-1200

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