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An Interview with Juan Andrade

Las Americas Sin Fronteras

by: Michael O. Collazo

It was the fall of 1969 in Crystal City, Texas, a town affectionately known as "La Crystal." A young Juan Andrade, fresh out of college, started his first day as a school teacher. By his second day, he started teaching civics to his Spanish-dominant Mexican students in their native language. However, Texas law at that time prohibited teachers from teaching in any language other than English. So by the end of only his third day as a school teacher, he was arrested.

What transpired, said Andrade, the current president of the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, became "a significant little footnote in the Civil Rights struggle." Andrade decided to fight the law in court. And although the charges on him were dropped, this case was eventually used to implement bilingual education in Texas schools.

Today, Andrade fights a different kind of struggle: the struggle to register three million new Latino voters by the year 2000. Since 1982, the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, which is the umbrella organization for Latino Vote USA and other regional voter registration projects, believes it has registered over one million new voters and has trained about 25,000 Latino leaders.

In this LATNN.com Interview, Andrade speaks candidly and with his Brownwood, Texas twang - about the growing political power of the Latino community, the increasing attacks on "Latinos issues" like Affirmative Action and bilingual education, and his optimistic outlook for the future.

LATNN.com: Voter registration by Latinos went up [28 percent] in the last 1996 elections. That's up compared to the rest of the population. The general American trend is that voter registration goes down and people do not turn out to vote. However, the voter turnout for Latinos - if I am not mistaken if anything marched in place from the 1992 Presidential elections to 1996?

ANDRADE: No. It increased 19 percent. Effectively, we were the only ethnic or racial group in the country in America that showed a net increase in voter registration and voter turnout in '96 elections.

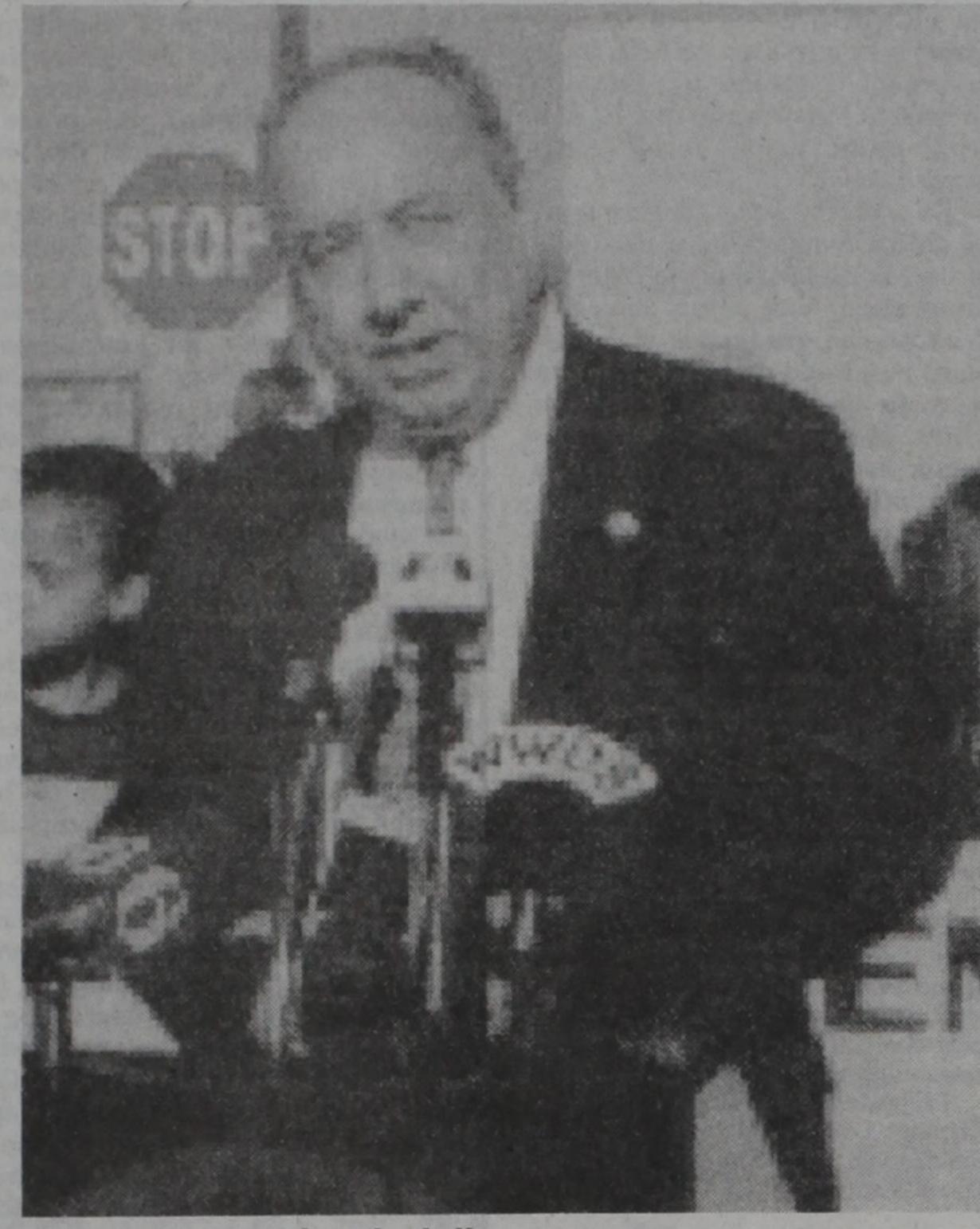
LATNN.com: That's great."They think that we are un-American because we want to speak Spanish. Well, it's in turn un-American to deny me the right to speak Spanish. It's fundamentally un-American to deny me the right to speak whatever I damn-well please."

ANDRADE: Yeah. It is. You know, there were ten million fewer votes cast nationwide in '96, from '92 - a decrease of ten million votes, overall. But Latinos increased by one million. So whatever problems this country is having with apathy and disconnection and whatever how people feel disengaged, alienated, frustrated...that is not happening in the Latino community, at least not overall. Latinos are leading this nation in voter registration and voter turnout. We have not had a single Presidential election since 1976 in which fewer than a half a million Latinos have registered to vote - not one - since 1976. And we've not had an election since 1980 where Latino voter turnout has increased by less than half a million.

LATNN.com: What do you think contributes to what seems to be more of a connection to Latinos than anyone else? Is it the issues that are sort of hotbutton issues - like immigration, like bilingual education - are these one of the key reasons why?

ANDRADE: Well, they finally started turning the power of government

against us. We finally started feeling the wrath of all this hostility and they really started to turn the guns on us. We realized that it was no longer enough to just go along and get along and be happy people and



vote or not vote, what the hell, you know. We found that it was not enough to just reward friends. We discovered that we had to gain the power to punish enemies. And that's a whole different dynamic. Politics is not just about rewarding friends. [It's not only] to have the power to reward friends, but you also have to have the power to punish - punish opponents, punish enemies, adversaries, those that are essentially un-American. Those who are opposed to equal opportunity, people who oppose our civil rights...are essentially un-American. They think that we are un-American because we want to speak Spanish. Well, it's un-American to deny me the right to speak Spanish. It's fundamentally un-American to deny me the right to speak whatever I damn-well please. Don't get on my case about who is more American than whom. If you are so damn American then shut up. If you are so much of an American, you should be more tolerant. That's what freedom is about: it's about tolerance. And when we see this country becoming more and more intolerant, then we realize that our backs are to the wall, that hotbutton issues, divisive issues on which elections are going to turn are Latino issues. These folks are serious about us. These folks are serious about putting us back in our place. By abolishing Affirmative Action, by abolishing bilingual education as Rights Act of '65 - especially the bilingual provisions of the Voting Right act...You know the bilingual provisions are critical because not only do they help Latinos, they help Asians, Na-

language is other than English. It enables them to exercise their right to vote intelligently by the use of bilingual ballots. Well, some people don't like the way we vote. So instead of changing our minds to vote for in Philadelphia, New York, Chithem, they say well we'll just cago, Detroit, Los Angeles, take their rights away. That's Houston, Dallas and Miami, bull. So when we saw that everything that we had worked for sands of people not registered to over the last 30 years at risk of vote. In Chicago, we have being lost, it changed the whole 100,000 citizens of voting age dynamic. It had created a whole different climate than I have ever seen. I had not seen a climate like this since in 1964.

tive Americans - anybody whose

LATNN.com: What is the room for improvement for Latino voting in the United States? What are the "rooms for improvement," not only popula- way to go. We are still about 60 tions within us, such as the el- percent registered in this counderly of what have you, but also are there certain trouble areas that you see that the [Latino] population is not being heard enough through the vote?

ANDRADE: We still have millions that are not registered to vote. Millions. In fact, that's why we are launching the LA-TINO VOTE 2000 campaign.

LATNN.com: Tell me a little bit about that.

ANDRADE: It's the most ambitious campaign ever undertaken in the political history of Latinos in the United States. It's a national campaign, a 36 month campaign, from October of 1997 to October of the year 2000 to increase Latino voter registration by three million. It's never been done before, but, you know, we learned from the last election. We set a goal of a million. People, you know, the cynics and the skeptics, and the pessimists thought 'you guys are crazy. You'll never register a million.' Well, we didn't register a million, we registered 1.5 million. So we figured, hey, if we do one-point-five, we can prob-

ably do three million. When we go into the Presidential election, we hope to comprise of ten percent of the total electorate. Ten percent is an awfully powerful force to go into this next election with over nine million, nearly ten million Latinos, to vote. That will put the fear of God into some people. It will sure make some of these closet bigots and some who have come out to think twice about their agenda. Ask Bob Dole. Bob Dole is no bigot, but he adopted some of the positions of the extreme Right on

Affirmative Action, on bilingual education. He came out in favor of English only, that kind they are proposing to do, by es- of nonsense. It cost him dearly tablishing English as the official in the Latino community. Bob language as they are proposing Dornan in California, in Orange to do, by abolishing the Voting County - the last bastion of Republicanism [in that state] -Loretta Sanchez took him down. So these politicos who want to serve in Congress or as governors or even as President, they're going to have to learn that they can't just grab an issue that plays well in the Right wing conservative community and think they can get elected on that. They need to understand that it is political suicide.

In cities across America, like there are still hundreds of thounot registered to vote, even though voter registration has increased by over 80 percent since we have worked there. It has increased in cities like here in Philadelphia and it continues to increase in cities across this country. We still have a long try. We're probably looking at today at, at least, five million voters or more who are of voting age that could register. We still have a lot to overcome within our own community. Some of the barriers - we even have psy-

chological barriers. A lot of our

folks still think that there are requirements that they can't meet, even though they are eligible to vote. Those who are eligible to vote don't know why they should vote. They'll ask, 'what's in it for me?' [There's] nothing wrong with asking, but we have to be prepared to answer the question.

LATNN.com: Let me play devil's advocate here. Within our community, is it as if we are our own worst enemy? Not only because of the cultural barriers which you spoke about, but in cities and areas where there's a large community of diverse nationalistic background, such as New York where there is a large Puerto Rican community, a large Dominican community, things like this, the political gains within our community, does [nationalism] sometimes hurt ourselves, in terms of our nationalism preventing us from having a unity, which prevents us from creating this large Latino identity which I am assuming you are pushing, at least in

the political realm? ANDRADE: Locally we may hurt ourselves more than nationally. Latinos tend to be very provincial, very parochial and very nationalistic. We are trying to undo some of that. I am not sure who is ahead. I have always said that I am Latino first and Mexicano second. "I don't know if Latinos will gain control of either political party, but I am convinced that Latinos will gain control of this country."

LATNN.com: However, the majority - I would think - of the population would not see it as that. It would sort of be the reverse, that I am, say, Cuban-American first and Latino sec-

ANDRADE: Studies have borne that out, that there are a lot of us who see ourselves more in terms of our own cultural identity than we do as Latinos. But, I like to believe that it's changing because ultimately I think that has to prevail. I don't think we are going to make it by putting ourselves first. Well. look, Mexicanos are two-thirds of the whole Latino population. That's enough to muscle your own agenda and screw everybody else. Let Puerto Ricans and Dominicans and Cubans and everybody else bicker out over all of their differences and if they want to fight each other, go ahead. Mexicanos can have their own way because they account for two-thirds anyway. That's not good. It's not good for Mexicanos to think that. And that would not be good for us nationally. And I say that as a Mexicano. That is not in our national interest. We have to put our own national identity second in deference to our greater good, and that's the larger Latino community. It does hinder us where it does work that way. In cities like Chicago, for example, where we have a large Latino population that is very mixed and it's much like the United States where Mexicanos are about two-thirds and Puerto Ricans are less than a fifth and we have a large Central American population - Guatemantecos, Salvadoreños -more like you will find in Washington, D.C. We have polled and researched Latino voting patterns and we tend to be all over the place in primaries, where we kind of put our

self-interest first, but then in general elections in November we tend to coalesce more because that's where the greater good kind of rises to the top and we know that overall this is bet-

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News Briefs

Clinton Attacks Anti-Bilingual Initiative

Acknowledging that bilingual education can be "intellectual purgatory" for some schoolchildren, President Clinton nonetheless argued forcefully against a California initiative to dismantle such

Clinton, in his first public comments on the initiative, called it "the wrong answer." But, he said he understood some parents' concerns that their children are allowed to languish in bilingual programs for so long that they become a crutch and a hindrance to learning English.

"We need to do right by these kids and doing right means giving them what they need, but not keeping them trapped in some sort of intellectual purgatory where they'll get bored and drop out of school and won't go forward."

Californians vote June 2 on Proposition 227, a ballot measure that would replace a multiplicity of bilingual education programs in the state -- where schools officially recognize 55 different languages -- with a one-year course of instruction taught mostly in English.

Clinton said his administration was developing instead a national model that would ensure no child needed to be in bilingual programs for more than three years.

Proposition 227, authored by Silicon Valley millionaire and unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate Ron Unz, would require children with limited English-speaking ability to be taught "overwhelmingly" in English for a year before being moved into regular classrooms. Supporters say the current system takes too long and produces children who never become proficient in Eng-

Statewide polls show about 60 percent of voters support proposition 227, including about half the Hispanic voters polled.

Fed Surplus Projected at \$50B

The Congressional Budget Office is preparing to boost its latest estimate of the 1998 surplus to about \$50 billion.

The figure would be well above the \$18 billion surplus CBO said last month was possible, and would be sure to accelerate the demands on Capitol Hill for higher spending and deeper tax cuts. A 1998 surplus would be the government's first since its \$3 billion surplus in 1969.

Clinton has demanded that Congress not use surpluses for tax cuts or extra spending until lawmakers decide how to prepare Social Security for the retirement of baby boomers beginning in a decade.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., and House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich, R-Ohio, have said they would like to use the surplus to reduce the \$5.5 trillion national debt. They would also like to distribute part of it to Americans so they can establish investment accounts to buttress their retirement income.

But many conservatives want to use the surplus to pay for a new round of tax cuts, and members of both parties are searching for ways to pay for a \$217 billion, six-year highway bill. As Kasich prepares a \$1.7 trillion budget for 1999 to present to his committee, he is certain to face pressure from both camps to dip into the surplus.

Hungry Kids More Prone to E.coli Infection

According to th April issue of Infection and Immunity, children who are malnourished may be more susceptible to the E.coli infec-

tion This discovery follows a recent outbreak of E.coli which claimed the lives of several Japanese children. Many of the children were found to have unbalanced diets prior to infection.

At the Nara Medical University in Japan, young mice were infected with low levels of E.coli. One group of mice was fed a balanced diet, while the other was placed on a protein and caloriereduced diet for two weeks prior to the experiment. Over 75% of the malnourished mice died within 10 days of infection, while all of the well-fed mice recovered.

Researchers say children and elderly are susceptible to E.coli because of non-development or diminution of the intestine, which is even more likely in malnourished children.

Strong Economy Bypasses

The percentage of Southern children living in poverty is about the same as it was in 1969, even though most states in the region have robust economies and budget surpluses, the Children's Defense Fund, said Monday.

"Equally disturbing is the fact that the rest of the nation is catching up with the South," said Marian Wright Edelman, presi-

dent of the defense fund, a Washington-based nonprofit child advocacy group. In 1996, the West matched the South in the percentage of poor children -- 22.9 percent -- the first time another region equaled the South in child poverty, the group said in a report issued at

the beginning of a two-day strategy meeting. The defense fund placed the poverty line at \$12,516 for a family of three and \$16,036 for a family of four. The organization said that in 1996, 5.5 million children living in the 16-state South, including Washington, D.C., were poor and

week for a family of three. In 1969, 22.3 percent of children in families in the South were poor. In 1996, 22.9 percent of all Southern children -- including those in foster care, living on their own, or with a non-relative

2.6 million lived in extreme poverty, with incomes of about \$120 a

adult -- were living in poverty. The Midwest had the lowest percentage of impoverished children among the four regions, 11.5 percent, followed by the North-

east with 19.2 percent. Since 1969, the South has seen a slight rise in the percentage of poor white children -- 13 percent to 16 percent -- and a decline in the percentage of poor black children from 49 percent to 40 per-

cent. Nationally, 20.5 percent of children, or almost 14.5 million, were classified as poor in 1996. That's up from 14 percent in 1969.

The defense fund and other child advocacy groups are gearing up for a new push for more federal and state help to reduce child poverty. They want a commitment from Congress for \$20 billion in the next five years for early childhood education, child care and other such programs.

"The majority of these children live in working families, so ending welfare as we know it, which has been the political cry in this country, will not help them," Edelman said.

The children can be helped, she said, if their families can get

decent jobs, health care and child care. The defense fund found 84 of the 100 counties with the highest percentages of children in poverty are in the South. At the top of

the list is Owsley County, Ky., where 65 percent of children lived below the federal poverty level in 1993, the latest year available for county figures. Shannon County, S.D., was the only non-Southern county

among to 10 worst counties, coming in at No. 7, with a child poverty rate of 58.7 percent.

U.S. Help To Solve Bishop's Murder

a news conference.

Guatemala City, Apr 28 (EFE).- The Guatemalan government accepted an offer on to send logistics and crime ex-States to aid in the investiga- the investigation, he said. tion of the murder of Bishop Juan Gerardi, Interior Minister

Rodolfo Mendoza said. The U.S. government offered its assistance on Monday, and Guatemala officially accepted in a letter sent to U.S. Ambassador Donald Planty, Mendoza said in

The United States is expected said.

Tuesday made by the United perts to join in the planning of The U.S. experts are due to arrive in the next few hours in

Guatemala City, while the government's Security Cabinet will meet once more on Tuesday to review any leads gathered in the investigation over the last 24 hours, the Interior minister

Guatemalan authorities have information leading them to two suspects, whose features are similar to those on a computer-

ized police sketch made with the aid of a teenager who reportedly witnessed the murder onSunday, although no arrests have been made so far.

La Pregunta De Octavio Paz Forma La Mision De Mi Carrera

Por Miguel Pérez

La primera vez que leí "El Laberinto de la Soledad", me sentí transformado por lo que parecía ser una revelación.

Yo estaba en el último curso de la escuela superior, hace 24 años, convencido ya de que dedicaría mi vida al periodismo. Pero, como un faro, el libro de Octavio Paz me ayudó a ver mi futuro bajo una luz diferente, y me hizo refinar mi misión.

Si puedo hacerlo -- me dije a mí mismo -- voy a escribir sobre los latinos de la América del Norte.

En esta semana, al saber que Paz había muerto, busqué por mis repisas de libros y hallé su libro, que todavía tenía las muchas señales que yo había hecho en él, todavía brillando como un faro poderoso, aunque fué publicado originalmente en 1950, el año de mi nacimiento. Fué revisado y ampliado en Sorprendentemente, encontré dentro del libro el recibo de la compra, de la librería en la Universidad Internacional de la Florida, fechado en mayo 13 de 1974. Esos fueron los \$2.95 que yo haya gastado mejor alguna

"Recuerdo que cada vez que me inclinaba sobre la vida norteamericana, deseoso de encontrarle sentido, me encontraba con mi imagen interrogante", escribió Paz, mientras explicaba su búsqueda de su propia identidad mexicana mientras vivía en los Estados Unidos. "Esa imagen, destacada sobre el fondo reluciente de los Estados Unidos, fué la primera y quizá la más profunda de las respuestas que dió ese país a mis pregun-

conocido -- un análisis controvertido y a menudo asombroso de México y de la personalidad mexicana -- me sentí lleno de admiración por las comparaciones que hacía Paz entre las sociedades de los Estados Unidos y de México, desafiando a las diferencias en todo, desde nuestro punto de vista sobre la muerte hasta las maravillas de la vida. Y

por sus descripciones elocuentes de las actitudes contradictorias entre los "norteamericanos" y los mexicanos, que me parecían que eran aplicables a todos los

"Ellos son crédulos, nosotros creyentes; aman los cuentos de hadas y las historias policíacas, nosotros los mitos y las leyendas", escribió él. "Los mexicanos mienten por fantasía, por desesperación, o para superar su vida sórdida; ellos no mienten, pero sustituyen la verdad verdadera, que es siempre desagradable, por una verdad social".

"Nos emborrachamos para confesarnos; ellos para olvidarse", agregó él. "Los mexicanos son desconfiados; ellos abiertos. Nosotros somos tristes y sarcásticos y ellos alegres y humorísticos. Los norteamericanos quieren comprender; nosotros queremos

contemplar" El hizo notar que, mientras que los mexicanos disfrutan de sus heridas, los norteamericanos disfrutan de sus inventos. "Creen en la higiene, en la salud, en el trabajo, en la felicidad, pero tal vez no conocen la verdadera alegría, que es una embriaguez y un torbellino. En el alarido de la noche de fiesta nuestra voz estalla en luces y vida y muerte se confunden; su vitalidad se petrifica en una

sonrisa: niega la vejez y la

muerte, pero inmoviliza la vida". Esta es la clase de escritos que hizo de paz una de las mayores figuras literarias de habla hispana del siglo XX, y el ganador del Premio Nobel de Literatura en 1990. El era poeta, ensayista, dramaturgo, editor, diplomático y filósofo. Sus pensamientos, su pasión y sus prolíficos escritos Mientras leía su ensayo mejor sobre la política, la historia, el arte y los asuntos culturales enriquecieron a millones de vidas. Cuando él murió a la edad de 84 años después de una larga lucha contra el cáncer, el mundo sufrió una pérdida irreparable.

Al leer su libro, me impresionó su descripción de la atmósfera mexicana de Los Angeles: "Esta mexicanidad--gusto por los adornos, descuido y fausto, negligen-

na. Todo en él es impulso que se son blancos. niega a sí mismo, nudo de contradicciones, enigma".

decir (sobre el resto de nosotros, cuando visitamos a los Estados Unidos);"

El dar respuesta a esa pregunta llegó a ser -- y todavía es -- la

misión de mi carrera. Durante años, desde que fuí inspirado por primera vez por sus escritos, aprendí también a admirar su valor -- especialmente su disposición para pedir una mayor medida de democracia en su patria, gobernada durante 69 años por el mismo partido políti-

Como cubano-americano, admiré su postura en contra del totalitarismo socialista. Aunque hizo impopular con rio entre los cursos de periodismo y de comunicación colectiva, y aquéllos de otras disciplinas" -es un regreso a los mandatos tradicionales. Hasta 1996, a través de sus propios cursos, se esperaba que el propio periodismo ayudara a preparar a los estudiantes para su papel cívico -mantener informados a sus lectores.

La desviación podría ser un reconocimiento de la "blancura" de los catedráticos de periodismo. Un estudio de la membresía en 1996, al cual respondió sola-

cia, pasión y reserva-- flota en el mente el 56 por ciento, indica aire", escribió él. "Y digo que que sólo el 11 por ciento de los "flotá, porque no se mezcla ni se que pagan cuotas de asociación a funde con el otro mundo, el mu- la AEJMC no son blancos. Sólo ndo norteamericano, hecho de el 5.4 por ciento de los miembros precisión y eficacia". del profesorado de la AEJMC Me sentí impresionado por la son afroamericanos; 2.5 por ciendescripción hecha por Paz, valer- to asiático-americanos; 1.7 por osa y no tan favorable, de los ciento latinos y 0.3 por ciento 'pachucos" (miembros de pandil- aborígenes norteamericanos. De las) mexicanos en el sur de Cali- ahí se sigue que la cantidad de fornia. "El pachuco no quiere personas minoritarias en los provolver a su origen mexicano", fesorados de periodismo es exescribió él. "Tampoco...desea traordinariamente pequeña -- el fundirse a la vida norteamerica- 89 por ciento de los profesores

Pero los estudios muestran que los no blancos tienen proba-Y me sentí confundido por su bilidades mucho mayores de reresumen: "Si esto occure con sponder a los cuestionarios depersonas que hace mucho tiempo mográficos. Es lógico asumir que anbandonaron su patria, que la membresía no blanca de la apenas hablan el idioma de sus AEJMC disminuye mucho más antepasados y para quienes esas que el 11 por ciento cuando se secretas raíces que atan al hom- les cuenta a todos. No es sorbre con su cultura se han secado prendente que este estudio haya casi por completo, ¿qué se puede informado también de una experiencia importante con la discriminación, tanto racial como genérica.

Durante 30 años, la enseñanza del periodismo fué a paso lento detrás de la industria hacia la integración. Las cifras demográficas de sus graduados elaboraron el resultado de la ASNE para la meta de Paridad en el Año 2,000. Más gravemente, la academia ha ayudado a edificar un ambiente actual que no sólo descarta al enlace entre una industria de las comunicaciones diversa y una democracia dinámica, sino que halla que no es un interés público apremiante. Dada su historia anterior, esto luce como un plano para la exclusión.

(Mercedes Lynn de Uriarte, que fué antes editora auxiliar del Los Angeles Times, enseña periodismo y Estudios Latino-Americanos en la Universidad de Texas, recinto de Austin, donde ella fundó la publicación estudiantil "Tejas". Sus artículos en "Quill" (La Pluma) y su capítulo en "Women Transforming Communications" (Las Mujeres Transformando a las Comunicaciones", tratan de asuntos referentes a los medios informativos.)

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Octavio Paz's Question Forms The Mission Of My Career

By Miguel Perez

The first time I read "The Labyrinth of Solitude," I was transformed by what seemed like

a revelation. I was a senior in college, 24 years ago, already convinced that I would devote my life to journalism. But like a beacon, Octavio Paz's book helped me see my future in a different light and made me refine my mission.

If I can help it -- I told myself -- I'm going to write about North America's Latinos.

This week, upon learning that Paz had died, I searched through my bookshelves and found his book, still bearing the many markings I had made on it, still shining like a powerful beacon, although it was originally published in 1950, the year of my birth. The book was revised and expanded in 1959. Amazingly, inside the book I found the purchase receipt from the bookstore at Florida International University dated May 13, 1974. That was the best \$2.95 I ever

spent. "I remember that whenever I attempted to examine North American life, anxious to discover its meaning, I encountered my own questioning image," Paz wrote as he explained his search for his own Mexican identity while living in the United States. "The image, seen against the glittering background of the United States, was the first and perhaps the profoundest answer which that country gave to my

questions." As I read his best-known essay -- a controversial and often startling analysis of Mexico and the Mexican personality -- I was awed by Paz's comparisons between U.S. and Mexican society, challenging the differences in everything form our view of death to the wonders of life. And by his eloquent descriptions of the contradictory attitudes between (ITALS) norteamericanos (UNITALS) and Mexicans, which to me seemed to apply to all Latinos.

"The North Americans are credulous and we are believers; they love fairy tales and detective stories and we love myths and legends," he wrote. "The Mexican tells lies because he delights in fantasy, or because he is desperate, or because he wants to rise above the sordid facts of his life; the North American does not tell lies, but he substitutes social truth for the real truth, which is always disagreeable.

"We get drunk in order to confess; they get drunk in order to forget," he added. "We are suspicious and they are trusting. We are sorrowful and sar-

castic and they are happy and full of jokes. North Americans want to understand and we went to contemplate."

He noted that while Mexicans enjoy their wounds, North Americans enjoy their inventions. They believe in hygiene, health, work, and contentment, but perhaps they have never experienced true joy, which is an intoxication, a whirlwind. In the hubbub of a fiesta night our voices explode into brilliant lights, and life and death mingle together, while their vitality becomes a fixed smile that denies old age and death but that changes life to motionless

This is the kind of writing that made Paz one of the Spanish-speaking world's greatest literary figures of the 20th century and the winner of the Nobel Prize for literature. He was a poet, essayist, playwright, editor, diplomat and philosopher. His thoughts, passion and prolific writings on politics, history, art and cultural issues enriched millions of lives. When he died at the age of 84 after a long battle with cancer, the world suffered an irreparable loss.

Reading his book, I was struck by his description of Los An-

geles' Mexican atmosphere: "Delight in decorations, carelessness and pomp, negligence and reserve floats is the air," he wrote. "I say 'floats' because it never mixes or united with the other world, the North American world based on precision and efficiency."

I was impressed by Paz's courageous and not-so-favorable description of Mexican "pachucos" (gang members) in Southern California. "The pachuco does not want to become a Mexican again," wrote. "At the same time he does not want to blend into the life of North America. His rote being is sheer negative impulse, a tangle of contradictions, an enigma."

And I was awed by his summation when he accepted the Nobel Prize: "If this is what happens to persons who have long since left their homeland, who can hardly speak the language of their forebears, and whose secret roots, those that connect a man to his culture, have almost withered away, what is there to say about the rest of us when we visit the United States?"

Answering the question became -- still is -- the mission of my career.

Over the years since I was

first inspired by his writings, I also learned to admire his guts -especially his willingness to call for greater democracy in his homeland, ruled for 69 years by the same political party.

As a Cuban American, I admired his stand against socialist totalitarianism. Although it made him unpopular with many left-wing Latin American intellectuals, Paz led a personal crusade against the lack of freedom in the communist world. and warned against the threat of Cuban intervention in Latin

As a critic, I admired his unapologetic posture.

"I had broken with the predominant esthetic, moral and political ideas and was instantly attacked by many people who were all too sure of their dogmas and prejudices," he noted. "Now I see those quarrels as a blessing: if a writer is accepted, he'll soon be rejected and forgotten. I didn't set out to be a troublesome writer, but if that's what I've been, I am totally unrepentant."

(Miguel Perez is a columnist with the Bergen Record in Bergen, N.J.) Copyright 1998, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Mexico To Rest Of The World: "Stay Out Of Our Businss"

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mexico's recent expulsions of Americans can be seen asjust a countermeasure to the U.S. Immigration service's expulsion of Mexicans. But seen in context, these actions combined with newrestrictions on foreign journalists, indicate a serious message to theworld. PNS Correspondent Julie Reynolds has written from Mexico fornearly a decade. BY JULIE REYNOLDS, PACIFIC NEWS SERVICE

When Mexican authorities rousted expatriates who had been running businesses in Puerto Vallarta for years, my friends and I laughed about it - Mexico's revenge against the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). After all, North Americans have as much disregard for regulations as anyone scrambling under a bo der fence, so it's natural that every now and then, Mexican authorities get fed up and flip an irate gesture northward.

I worked illegally in Mexico in the 1980s. I could have obtained a work permit, but nobody ever asked me for one, so I never bothered. Evenreporters for big U.S. dailies rarely get journalist visas for brief assignments in Mexico. But the recent expulsions of foreign human rights workers and restrictions on journalists are not just gestures and not just against the United States. They are against the world.

Mexico is attempting to "cleanse" certain regions of international presence. Those regions happen to be the places the world is most interested in. Places where -- many believe -- Mexican president Zedillo's government is preparing for an all-out siege, if not war. Mexico began ousting human rights workers in earnest after December's massacre of 45 villagers in Acteal in the state of Chiapas. In all, over 200 foreigners have been expelled from Chiapas in the last two years. Mexico says that the outsiders, by participating in observation groups and "peace camps," violate Mexico's constitution, which forbids foreign involvement in the country's politics.

"In Chiapas, you get a lot of people coming in as tourists. A sort of romantic trip," says Eloy Aguilar, head of the Foreign Correspondents Association in Mexico. He thinks the officials "were within their rights. You can't come here on a tourist visa and then try to be an international observer. What bothers me much more is the visa situation for journalists." This is a reference to the fact that, since February, Mexico has slapped stringent curbs on foreign reporters. Any journalists who wants to enter or stay in Mexico face new, lengthy delays for visas.

Aguilar protested, then sent a memo alerting the Foreign Correspondents Association to the new restrictions, "and, oh, everybody got mad," he says. One swift response came from Alejandro Carrillo of Mexico's Interior Ministry who stated, "It is completely incorrect that restrictions or new requirements have been established for visas for foreign correspondents."

Mexican officials continue to deny that curbs were placed on foreign reporters. But documents on file at a Mexican Consulate in California confirm that heavy restrictions were in effect until late March when, according to one consular worker, "We received new instructions. It's all because of the Boston Globe story." (On March 24, the Globe ran a story complaining about the new rules.) In fact, it was very hard to get a visa in March. I know: I tried.

Although my Northern California paper has been reporting on Mexico for over seven years, I was told that I would have to submit a list of each city I planned to visit, every person I planned to interview, get a letter of support from a major Mexican publication and write a narrative describing exactly what I planned to cover. In addition, I was to pay \$72 and wait four to five weeks for approval from Mexico City. Then the Globe story broke, and most of the requirements vanished. When I applied for a visa this month, I was cheerily told there would "be no problem." Then I received a call telling me, sorry, but I must submit a list of all cities I'll be working in -- one of the restrictions that Carrillo denied exists. While no explanation has surfaced for restricting journalists' plen-

ty of justification has been offered for the surge in expulsions. Foreign Minister Rosario Green puts it in no-nonsense terms, saying the expulsions were "acts in defense of national sovereignty." Mexico, perhaps too late, would like to conceal its problems from a prying world. Rosario Green uses the term "intervention" to

characterize the foreigners' activities because it is a powerful word, the word used by Lazaro Cardenas, the national hero who expelled U.S. oil companies. There is some irony in the fact the Zedillo government is using this language to expel human rights workers while welcoming international investment. In Mexico, many journalists defend the foreign observers and

press - sensing that an even more painful era looms if the world ceases to take an interest in the affairs of a troubled corner of their nation. "Yes, Mexico can assert itself," says Eloy Aguilar. "The country hasevery right to expel foreigners and say they can't be there. I think thequestion is whether this is worth it. We have to ask: what is the cost?"

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the Gutierrez City Counicl District I Campaign, I thank all of the voters that participated in the election as well as those that supported our campaign with their financial contributions. We could not have done it without

Also congratulations to Councilman Hernandez on his election efforts. I sincerely hope that your supporters and mine unite in the many efforts to solve community problems especially those of our youth. Let me also say that our campaign stands ready to assist Councilman Hernandez in taking care of the concerns and interest of District I. In closing, God Bless all of you Respectfully,

Frank Gutierrez

Constructing Retreat: A Blueprint For Exclusion

By Mercedes Lynn de Uriarte

What more ironic way to mark the 30th anniversary of surprisingly, studies document the Kerner Commission's call for that these populations are eithintegrated newsrooms than by er overlooked or negatively sterabandoning that goal? Thus ac- eotyped by media. celerates the era of retreat.

Appeals for the District of Col- Journalists found that of 12,000 umbia Circuit voided govern- news stories on evening netment requirements that elec- work programs, only 121 dealt tronic media, which use public with Latinos, and two-thirds of airwaves, reflect the publics those presented them as problem they serve.

Federal Communications Com- Raza found that "Latinos are mission affirmative action pro- less visible in prime-time telegram, meant to eradicate racial vision today than they were in discrimination, did not serve a the 1950s." compelling public interest.

intent, the FCC now joins the sylvania's Annenberg School of American Society of Newspaper Journalism, says that Hispanics Editors, which a few weeks ear- are probably the most underlier found untenable its goal of represented population; only 1 parity by the year 2000. Instead, percent of all television proits leadership announced that gramming is aimed at Latinos. ASNE would be more realistic After years of low-gear proand seek to "increase represen- gress, journalism educators, tation of journalists of color to publishers and other communi-20 percent industry-wide by cation representatives to the

of all journalists are other than Communication threw matters white: 5.3 percent are African into reverse. In September 1996,

percent Asian American, and 0.4 percent American Indian. Not

Just two years ago, the Na-Last month the U.S. Court of tional Association of Hispanic elements of society. A 1995 stu-The justices ruled that the dy by the National Council of La

George Gerbner, Dean Emeri-Pushed away from its equity tus of the University of Penn-

Accrediting Council on Educa-Today, fewer than 12 percent tion in Journalism and Mass American, 3.4 percent Latino, 2 the ACEJMC "re-thought" its 1984 standard calling for recruitment, retention and education of non-whites and women. Originally created to end white dominance newsroom (today at 80 percent for electronic and 88 percent for print), the revision dropped all reference to women and people of color, asking journalism departments only to make a written statement expressing their commitment to diversity and inclusivity.

That decision did not please members of the Association for Education in Journalism and Communication (ACEJMC), the largest organization of journalism and mass communication educators in the nation. After its executive board protested, a new standard was adopted in May 1997, restoring the requirement.

Though that retains concern for genetic diversity, it neither addresses intellectual diversity -- the most scarce diversity in mainstream media -- nor prepares future journalists to cover our rapidly changing country. Prior to 1996, Standard 12, as it is labeled, called on journalism educators to "help prepare students to understand, cover, com-

municate with and relate to a multicultural, multiracial and otherwise diverse society." Curriculum was to reflect these initiatives.

That requirement has now

been eliminated. Instead, responsibility sifts away from journalism professors. Standards 3, which with curriculum, now states that teaching students "to communicate in a diverse and democratic society... calls for a balance between courses in journalism and mass communication and those in other disciplines" -- a return to traditional mandates. Until 1996, across its own courses, journalism itself was expected to help prepare students for their civic role -maintaining an informed constituency.

The deflection could be an acknowledgment of journalism faculty whiteness. A 1996 membership survey, to which only 56 percent responded, indicates that only 11 percent of AEJMC dues-payers are non-white. Only 5.4 percent of non-white journalism faculty members are African American, 2.5 percent Asian American, 1.7 percent Latino, and 0.3 percent American Indi-

But studies show that nonwhites are much more likely to answer demographic questionnaires. It is logical to assume that non-white AEJMC membership plummets even lower than 11 percent when everyone is counted. Not surprisingly, this survey also reported significant experience with both racial and gender discrimination.

For 30 years, journalism education baby-stepped behind the industry toward integration. The demographics of its graduates built the ASNE outcome of the Parity 2000 goal. More seriously, the academy has helped construct a current environment that not only disregards the link between a diverse communications industry and a dynamic democracy, but finds it not a compelling public interest. Given past history, this seems a blueprint for exclusion.

(Mercedes Lynn de Uriarte, a former assistant editor at the Los Angeles Times, teaches journalism and Latin American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, where she founded the student publication Tejas. Her articles in Quill and her chapter in "Women Transforming Communications" discuss media issues.)

A Book To Pass On To My Grandsons

By Raymond Rodriguez

seldom feel a sense of loss when a world figure dies, but when Mexico's literary voice and conscience Octavio Paz succumbed to cancer last month at age 84, it was different. Mexico is noted for its muralists who dignify entire walls with their artistry. Octavio Paz did the same thing with words. He delighted in creating concrete as well as abstract visions with bold and penetrating words.

It was while taking a class in comparative literature that I first discovered him. His writing enhanced my education and influenced my thinking beyond anything I could ever imagine. Once I started reading "The Labyrinth of Solitude, Life and Thought in Mexico," I couldn't put it down; yet, it took me forever to finish. I had to ingest and savor it.

As soon as I read of his death, I took his classic work down from the bookshelf. The contents reveal his thoughts on such diverse topics as the pachuco, colonialism and the Mexican intelligentsia. The price was still on the book. I had purchased this treasure trove of knowledge, comprised of nine essays, for the unbelievable price of \$1.95.

My volume's cover is illustrated by a simple maze. The design is illustrative of his writing. What is Octavio Paz really saying? Each time you reread a sentence, paragraph or chapter, you come away with entirely new concepts. The meaning of Paz's prose and poetry isn't revealed in one sitting. In essence, it is an ongoing discovery and learning process. No other book reveals so much about the overdue. Earlier, he had re-Mexican psyche.

First published in Mexico in 1950, it, like all classics, is as erature. timely today as it was then. Perhaps even more so. No one who reads it remains indifferent. Even his critics render Paz homage and recognize that he changed not only Mexican, but Latin American literature forev-



Few writers have had such an impact on their time. He explored the hidden and often-denied contradictions that contribute to the unique Mexican character, its weaknesses as well as its strengths. His intent was neither to praise nor to condemn, but rather to expose the reality that lies beneath the

It was this masterful talent that won him a Nobel Prize in 1990, a tribute which many of his colleagues thought long ceived the Cervantes award, the most prestigious in Spanish lit-

Obviously, "Labyrinth" has been one of my prized books for a long time. Someday, I hope to pass it on to my grandsons. Hopefully, it will challenge and inspire them as it has me.

Yes, it is sad to note the pass-

ing of this literary giant, but there is solace in the fact that Paz's thoughts, insights and critical analyses remain for fu-

ture generations to ponder. His intellect is immortal. In truth, he may become an even more influential force as the true worth of his work is attested to by time. A prolific writer, essayist and poet, Paz strikes a responsive chord among Mexican and Latino readers, for his is an often macabre style they enjoy.

Reading Labyrinth is akin to holding up a three-dimensional, smoky mirror and looking at the shadows of the past, present and future simultaneously. Like all his writings, it challenges us to look at ourselves in ways that may not be flattering, while understanding and appreciating who we are. This I believe is the gift that Octavio Paz has given to all of us.

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Preparando La Retirada: Un Plano Para La Exclusion

Por Mercedes Lynn de Uriarte

¿Qué modo más irónico hay de señalar el trigésimo aniversario del pedido de la Comisión Warner sobre integrar las redacciones que el abandonar ese objetivo? Así se acelera la época de la

retirada. El mes pasado, el Tribunal Federal de Apelaciones para el Circuito del Distrito de Columbia invalidó los requisitos gubernamentales de que los medios informativos electrónicos, que usan las ondas etéreas públicas, reflejen los segmentos del público a los que prestan servicios.

Los magistrados dictaminaron que el programa de acción afirmativa de la Comisión Federal de Comunicaciones (FCC en discriminación racial, no servía a un interés público apremiante.

Alejada de su intención de equidad, la FCC se une ahora a la Sociedad Estadounidense de gencia anunció que la ASNE diversidad y la inclusividad. sería más realista y procuraría tria para el año 2,010".

ciento de todos los periodistas cutiva protestó, se adoptó una son otra cosa que blancos: El 5.3 norma nueva en mayo de 1997, por ciento son afroamericanos; el que restablecía dicho requisito. 3.4 por ciento latinos; el 2 por ciento asiático-americanos, y el terés por la diversidad genética, 0.4 por ciento aborígenes nor- ni se enfoca sobre la diversidad teamericanos. No es sorpren- intelectual -- la diversidad más dente, entonces, que los estu- escasa en los medios informadios documenten que estos seg- tivos de la corriente principal -mentos de la población, o bien resultan pasados por alto, o sean víctimas de estereotipos negativos por parte de los medios informativos.

Hace sólo dos años, la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos (NAHJ en inglés) halló que de 12,000 relatos de noticias en los programas nocturnos de las redes televisoras, sólo 121 trataban de latinos, y los dos

los hispanos son el segmento más sub-representado de la población; sólo el 1 por ciento de toda la programación televisada se destina a los latinos.

Después de años de adelanto a baja velocidad, los educadores y publicistas del periodismo, y otros representantes de las comunicaciones ante el Consejo de Acreditación sobre la Enseñanza del Periodismo y las Comunicaciones Colectivas (ACEJMC en inglés) pusieron los asuntos en marcha atrás. En septiembre de 1996, el ACEJMC "volvió a considerar" su norma de 1984 que pedía el reclutamiento, la retención y la instrucción de personas no blancas y mujeres. Creado originalmente para poner fin al al 80 por ciento para los medios electrónicos y al 88 por ciento para los impresos), la revisión eliminó toda referencia a las Editores de Periódicos (ASNE en mujeres y las personas de color, inglés), que unas pocas semanas pidiendo a los departamentos de antes halló que su meta de pari- periodismo solamente que hicierdad hacia el año 2,000 era insos- an una declaración por escrito tenible. En vez de eso, su diri- manifestando su dedicación a la

Esta decisión no satisfizo a los "aumentar la representación de miembros de la ACEJMC, la los periodistas de color hasta el mayor de las organizaciones de 20 por ciento de toda la indus- educadores en periodismo y comunicaciones colectivas de la na-Hoy, menos que el 12 por ción. Después que su junta eje-

Aunque eso mantiene el in-

Lawn

Service

Mow, edge, fertilize.

ni prepara a los futuros periodistas para informar a nuestr país, que cambia rápidamente. Antes de 1996, la Norma 12, como está designada, pedía a los educadores de periodismo que "ayudaran a preparar a los estudiantes para comprender, informar, comunicarse con, y relacionarse con una sociedad multicultural, multi-racial y de otros modos diversa". El plan de estudios habría de reflejar estas iniciativas.

Ese requisito ha sido eliminado ahora. En vez de eso, la responsabilidad queda separada de los profesores de periodismo. La Norma 3, que con el plan de estudios ahora declara que el enseñar a los estudiantes "a cominglés), destinado a erradicar la dominio de los varones blancos unicarse en una sociedad diversa en las redacciones (que está hoy y democrática ... pide un equilibmuchos intelectuales latinoamericanos de izquierda, Paz realizó una cruzada personal en contra de la falta de libertad en la parte del mundo sojuzgada por los comunistas, y advirtió contra la intervención del gobierno de Cuba en la América Latina.

> Como crítico, admiré su postura que no daba excusas ni disculpas.

Cuando aceptó su Premio Nóbel de Literatura el señaló que había roto con las ideas estéticas, morales y políticas predominantes, y fuí atacado instantáneamente por muchas personas que estaban demasiado seguras de sus dogmas y prejuicios. Luego reconoció esas críticas como bendiciónes; cuando un escritor es aceptado fácilmente, pronto es rechazado y olvidado. No me propuse ser un escritor problemático, pero eso es lo que he sido. No estoy arrepentido de nada.

Un Libro Para Dejarselo A Mis Nietos

Por Raymond Rodríguez

Rara vez tengo una sensación de pérdida cuando muere una figura mundial, pero cuando la voz y la conciencia literaria de México, Octavio Paz, sucumbió al cáncer el mes pasado a la edad de 84 años, eso fué distinto.

México es conocido por sus muralistas, que dignifican paredes enteras con su arte. Octavio Paz hizo lo mismo con las palabras. El se deleitaba en crear visiones, tanto concretas como abstractas, con palabras audaces y penetrantes.

Fué mientras tomaba una clase de literatura comparativa que lo descubrí por primera vez. Sus escritos realzaron mi enseñanza e inflyeron sobre mi pensamiento, más allá de cualquier cosa que pudiera haber imaginado alguna vez. Una vez que empecé a leer "El Laberinto de la Soledad", "La Vida y el Pensamiento en México", no pude dejarlos de lado; empero, me llevó mucho tiempo para terminarlos. Tuve que ingerirlos y saborear-

Tan pronto como leí de su muerte, bajé de la repisa su trabajo clásico. El contenido revela sus pensamientos sobre temas tan diversos como el "pachuco", colonialismo "inteligencia" mexicana.

El precio estaba aún en el libro. Yo había comprado este tesoro de conocimiento, formado por nueve ensayos, por el precio increíble de \$1.95.

La portada de mi volumen está ilustrada por un simple laberinto. El diseño es ilustrativo de su escrito. ¿Qué está diciendo realmente Octavio Paz?

Cada vez que se vuelve a leer una frase, un párrafo o un capítulo, uno encuentra conceptos enteramente nuevos. El significado de la prosa y la poesía de Paz no queda revelado en una sesión de lectura. En esencia, es un trámite continuo de descubrimiento y aprendizaje.

La obra, publicada en México en 1950, como todos los clásicos, es tan eterna hoy como lo fué entonces. Aún sus críticos rinden homenaje a Paz y reconocen que él no sólo cambió a la literatura mexicana, sino también a la de América Latina para siempre.

Pocos escritores han tenido un efecto tal sobre sus épocas. El exploró las contradicciones ocultas y a menudo denegadas que aportan a la naturaleza mexicana singular, sus debilidades así como sus fortalezas. Su intención no era ni elogiar ni censurar, sino antes bien revelar la realidad que yace bajo la superfi-

Fué este talento magistral el que le ganó un Premio Nobel en 1990, un tributo que muchos de sus colegas creyeron que debió haber recibido mucho antes. Con anterioridad, él había recibido el Galardón Cervantes, el más prestigioso de la literatura espa-

Evidentemente, el "Laberinto" ha sido uno de mis libros atesorados durante mucho tiempo. Algún día espero dejárselo a mis nietos. Espero que el mismo los retará e inspirará a ellos como lo ha hecho conmigo.

Sí; es triste advertir la desaparición de este gigante literario, pero hay consuelo en el hecho de que los pensamientos, las perspectivas y los análisis críticos de Paz quedan para que las generaciones futuras los ponderen.

Su intelecto es inmortal. En verdad, él puede llegar a ser una fuerza todavía más influyente a medida que el tiempo atestigue el verdadero valor de su obra. Escritor, ensayista y poeta prolífico, Paz golpea una cuerda reactiva entre los lectores mexicanos y latinos, porque el suyo es un estilo a menudo macabro del que ellos disfrutan.

Leer el "Laberinto" es afin a sostener un espejo tri- dimensional nublado y mirar a las sombras del pasado, del presente y del futuro simultáneamente. Como todos sus escritos, nos reta a mirarnos a nosotros mismos de modos que pueden no ser halagadores, mientras comprendemos y apreciamos quiénes somos. Esto, según creo, es el regalo que Octavio Paz nos ha dado a todos nosotros.

(Raymond Rodríguez de Long Beach, California, es catedrático universitario jubilado.)

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PEOPLE

El Nuevo Acertijo Idiomatico:

¿Quien Aprende Mas Rapidamente, Los Padres O Los Hijos?

Por Domenico Maceri

"La mejor época para aprender un idioma es cuando uno es joven".

No puedo recordar cuántas veces oí manifestar esa creencia por parte de los estudiantes "más viejos" de las clases de español de mi escuela comunitaria superior, a medida que ellos trataban de justificar sus luchas con esa asignatura. Es el mismo argumento que hacen las personas cuando se oponen a la enseñanza bilingue: Hay que atiborrar todo el inglés que se pueda dentro de los chicos inmigrantes mientras sean jóvenes y todavía les resulte "fácil" el aprender un idioma.

Mis estudiantes y los opositores de la enseñanza bilingue tienen razón sólo en parte. Los niños tienen algunas ventajas sobre los adultos para aprender un idioma.

Pero también tienen desven-

Los niños que comienzan el estudio de un idioma antes de la pubertad pueden arreglárselas para adquirir un acento nativo. Los adultos mantendrán casi siempre alguna clase de acento.

Mi hermano mayor, que empezó a aprender inglés a la edad de 22 años, tiene un fuerte acento italiano. Yo empecé cuando tenía 15 años de edad, y mi acento es ligero. Mi hermano menor, que comenzó cuando tenía 11 años, tiene acento de Nueva Jersey.

Las desventajas de los niños, al comparárseles con las de los adultos, tienen que ver con las experiencias de sus vidas. Mientras más joven sea el niño, las experiencias serán menos. Y las experiencias significan también experiencias idiomáticas, por lo menos en un idioma, lo cual hace que sea más fácil el aprender otro.

De modo que los adultos necesitan aprender solamente las palabras del nuevo idioma, es decir, los símbolos, pero no el contenido. Ellos saben trabajar con matemáticas simples, conocen la geografía y tienen alguna clase de conocimiento cultural basado en su enseñanza.

Mientras más enseñanza haya recibido una persona, por lo general, más fácil le resultará el aprender un idioma nuevo.

Los niños inmigrantes de cinco años que están empezando su estudio del inglés no tienen sencillamente que aprender los nombres de los colores en el nuevo idioma. Ellos necesitan solamente aprender las significaciones de los nombres. Eso es bastante que aprender.

¿Quién aprende los colores más rápidamente, la niña inmigrante del kindergarten o su padre, en su clase de inglés como segundo idioma?

¿Quién aprenderá con mayor cas sencillas en inglés, el padre

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inmigrante o su hijo de escuela primaria?

Sin duda, será el padre quien aprenda primero.

El idioma no es sólo vocabu-

lario. Exige también un conocimiento de la gramática. Los niños aprenderán estas reglas mediante el poder de la observación. Después de escuchar muchos ejemplos y darse cuenta, con el tiempo, de que si se agrega la terminación "ed" al infinitivo de un verbo, éste se convierte en el tiempo pasado (o

generalización. Esta es solamente una de los cientos de reglas de la gramática inglesa. El método inductivo que usan los niños lleva mucho tiem-

pretérito), ellos absorberán la

Los adultos pueden aprender esas reglas mucho más rápidamente porque pueden usar la lógica para comprenderlas. Es fácil para las personas de habla hispana el aprender la formación

del tiempo pasado, porque pue- que mucho más) que sus padres. den comprender el concepto y seguir el argumento lógico. El emplearse con los adultos, es mucho más rápido.

Asumiendo la misma exposición al idioma, ¿quién sabrá más inglés al final del año, el padre o tiempo. uno de sus hijos?

El padre puede hablar con acento y su deletreo puede no ser perfecto, pero su capacidad para decir lo que quiera decir será mucho mayor.

¿Quién sabrá más inglés seis años después?

En algunos aspectos, el padre, hasta donde el idioma refleje una refinación de conceptos y experiencias de la vida.

Sin embargo, a largo plazo, los niños tienen probabilidades de sobrepasar a sus padres, asumiendo que continúen en la escuela y lleguen a estar por lo menos tan instruídos (esperamos

La enseñanza bilingue reconoce que, debido a que los niños enfoque deductivo, que puede aprenden inglés lentamente y debido a que ellos también necesitan aprender matemáticas, ciencias, geografía y otros asuntos, ellos necesitan bastante

La enseñanza bilingue, aunque no es perfecta, trata de dar ese tiempo a los niños. Su objetivo no es convertir a los niños inmigrantes en personas bilingues, aunque eso sería en verdad deseable y beneficioso para nuestro país. La meta de la enseñanza bilingue es enseñar al niño por completo, no sólo enseñarle inglés.

(Domenico Maceri enseña idiomas extranjeros en la Universidad Allan Hancock, de Santa María, California.)

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New Language Riddle: Who Learns Fastest Parents or Child?

By Domenico Maceri

"The best time to learn a language is when you're young."

I can't remember how many times I heard that belief expressed by "older" students in my community college Spanish classes as they tried to justify their struggle with the subject. It's the same argument people make when they oppose bilingual education: you've got to cram all the English you can into immigrant kids while they're young and it's still "easy" for them to learn a lan-

My students and those opponents of bilingual education are partially right. Children do have some advantages over adults in learning a language. But they also have disadvantages.

Children starting the study of a language before puberty can manage to acquire a native accent. Adults will almost always keep some kind of an accent.

My older brother, who started learning English at age 22, has a heavy Italian accent. I started when I was 15 and have a slight accent. My younger brother, who started when he was 11, has a New Jersey accent.

Children's disadvantages compared to adults have to do with their life experiences. The younger the child, the fewer the experiences. And experiences mean also linguistic experiences in at least one language, which makes it easier to learn another.

Thus adults need to learn just the words of the new language; that is, the symbols but not the content. They know how to do rapidez a efectuar las matemáti- simple math, they know geography, and have some kind of cul-

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tural knowledge based on their education.

The more education a person has, in general, the easier it will be for him or her to learn a new language.

Five-year-old immigrant children who are beginning their study of English do not simply have to learn the names of the colors in the new language. They also need to learn the meaning of the names. That's a lot to learn. Who learns the colors faster, the immigrant kindergartner or her father in his English-as-a-second-language class? Who will learn faster to do simple math in English, the immigrant father or his elementary school son?

Without a doubt, it will be the father who learns first. Language is not just vocabulary. It also requires a knowledge of grammar. Children will learn these rules through the power of observation. After hearing lots of examples and eventually noticing that if you add an "ed" to a verb it makes it a past tense, they will internalize the generalization. This is only one of the hundreds of rules of English grammar. The inductive method used by children takes a long time. Adults can learn those rules a lot faster because they can use logic to understand them. It's easy for Spanishspeaking people to learn the formation of the past tense because they can understand the concept and can follow the logical

argument. The deductive approach which can be used with adults is a lot faster.

Assuming the same exposure to the language, who will know more English at the end of the year, the father or one of his kids? The father may speak with an accent and his spelling may not be perfect, but his ability to say what he wants to say will be far greater.

Who will know more English six years later? In some ways, the father, insofar as language reflects a sophistication of concepts and life experiences. However, in the long run, the children will quite likely surpass their father, assuming they stay in school and become at least as educated (hopefully more so) than their father.

Bilingual education recognizes that because children learn English slowly and because they also need to learn math, science, geography and other subjects, they need plenty of time.

Bilingual education, though not perfect, tries to give that time to children. Its goal is not to turn immigrant children into bilingual individuals, although that would certainly be desirable and beneficial for our country. Bilingual education's goal is to educate the entire child, not just teach him or her English.

(Domenico Maceri teaches foreign languages at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, Calif.)

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Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (TDPRS) announces the release of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for contracted Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) Services. Because of federal funding restrictions, these contracts may be awarded only to non-profit entities. These services are purchased to prepare adolescents in TDPRS conservatorship for adulthood by providing training and supportive services to enhance their independent living skills. The services are being procured in two catchment areas of TDPRS Region 01, to begin September 1, 1998. RFP packets will be available beginning on Tuesday, May 12, 1998, by contacting Kaye Kuss, TDPRS Contract manager, at 806/742-9170. an offeror's conference will be held Tuesday, May 19, 1998, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at Unger Library, 825 Austin (basement), Plainview.

Panel Sets Hearing on Child Labor

A Senate subcommittee will hold a hearing next month on a suspected increase in abusive child labor in the United States, Sen. Tom Harkin said Monday.

The Senate Labor and Human Resources subcommittee on employment scheduled a hearing June 11, said Harkin, a senior Democrat on the full committee.

"Child labor abuses are not confined to developing nations," the Iowa senator said. "Most Americans would be shocked to see that some children in this country are spending more time in factories and fields than schools and playgrounds."

More than 290,000 children -- two-thirds of them 15 or younger -- were employed illegally in the United States at some point in 1996, according to a five-part Associated Press series published this winter.

Last month, the Labor Department found 36 working illegally in Texas for nine companies. Some were as young as 6 years old, Harkin's office said.

"It disturbs me that tens of thousands of American children are being exploited by being forced to work illegally, and in some cases in hazardous conditions," said Harkin, who requested the hearing. He said he planned to introduce legislation that would increase minimum and maximum penalties for violators of child labor laws.

Student Loan Bill Could Face Veto

A House bill that aims to avert a crisis in the federally guaranteed student loan program faces a possible veto even though the measure enjoys bipartisan support.

The White House Office of Management and Budget criticized. the bill as giving "excess profits" to lenders. It also objected to a provision withdrawing federal support for a national board that tests and certifies master teachers.

The administration warned as well against an amendment to be offered by Rep. Frank Riggs, R-Calif., that would cut off federal support to public colleges or universities with admissions policies that use affirmative action.

The administration further complained that the bill would increase spending by more than \$2 billion over five years without immediately finding enough offsetting cuts.

Democrats overwhelmingly supported the bill in the Education and Workforce Committee. The measure would increase maximum student aid through Pell Grants from \$3,000 to \$4,500 for 1999-2000, then add \$200 a year for a maximum of \$5,300 for the 2003-2004 academic year.

It would create a loan forgiveness program for student borrowers who went into teaching in poor districts, and one for graduates in early childhood education who worked in a licensed child care facility. It also would adopt President Clinton's proposal to help disadvantaged elementary and secondary students graduate from high school.

But a key issue was a proposal to keep lenders in the program by paying them subsidies aimed at holding down the interest rate charged to students. Lenders had threatened to leave the program because a scheduled change in the formula for calculating interest would give lenders too small a return to justify making the loans.

The change, scheduled for July 1, had been required in the 1993 version of the higher education bill, when it was expected that the mix of guaranteed and direct loans from the government would be different. The budget office said, however, "the administration cannot ac-

cept the bill's provisions that would provide lenders with excessive profits and require taxpayers to finance those profits through an additional \$2.7 billion subsidy to lenders over five years." The administration had agreed that the program faced a crisis

but had proposed a solution that would have cut lender earnings. It has been leaning toward using an auction approach to set rates -- an approach supported by a number of Republicans. OMB also defended the National Board for Professional Teach-

ing Standards, which sets national standards for teaching excellence. Clinton has raised federal support for the board. But the bill would end an \$18 million federal subsidy for the

board and divert the funds to new Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants for states to recruit and train teachers, with a focus on poor urban and rural areas.

Study: Pregant Women Need **HIV Test Education**

The April issue of Obstetrics and Gynecology reports that more pregnant women would allow themselves to be tested for HIV if they were aware of the potential to reduce the HIV transmission of the child.

Researchers collected data from 247 pregnant patients which surveyed knowledge of HIV and perceived attitudes towards testing for it. While 72 percent of the women were tested for HIV, only 24 percent were aware that treatment could reduce the transmission of HIV to their child. Knowledge that the danger of HIV transmission could be reduced was the only factor in the women agreeing to the test.

Based on their findings, the researchers concluded routine HIV testing should occur, and patient education on vertical transmission reduction should take place to improve attitudes toward test-

I Know ... & ... You Know Your Read It First In EL EDITOR

Recognized When you choose James Procell, M.D., and Corina Procell, M.D., as your

Recognized Jim Shah, 1996-1997 Presi-

dent and Research Promotion Chairman of the West Texas Chapter, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) recieved the Presidential Award of Excellence for significant improvements in membership, attendance, research promotion, education, chapter programs and technology awarded by the 38th Annual Conference of Region VIII. Jesse Bates of the W. Texas Chapter was recognized for the best Student Activities program and Bob Carow was reconized as

best historian for region VIII. This was a combined meeting of Region VIII and International chapter officers

held in Tulsa, Oklahoma April 23-25, 1998. Oklahoma's Governor Keating and ASHRAE Society President Donald Holte and President Elect George Jackins were

present at the meeting. It was also announced that Jim will be awarded the WIL-

LIAM J. COLLINS, Jr. PROMOTION RESEARCH AWARD at the Annual International Meeting to be held in June 1998 in Toronto, Canada.



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James Procell, M.D.

Michael Jordan Still King

By Steve Marantz

Their season opened in Boston, against a young Celtics team that had listened to 80-year-old Red Auerbach. "David Stern's name is on the basketball," Auerbach had said. "Not Michael Jordan's."

That evening, Celtics TV analyst Tom Heinsohn made sure his audience knew who Jordan is not. "He's not God," Heinsohn said. "Everybody treats him like a messiah or something. He isn't."

If it seems odd, at this point, for so many to be confused about Michael Jordan's identity, it's only because Jordan makes it confusing. He does not own the Bulls, and he isn't general manager, but as sure as they lost their opener to the Celtics and as sure as they drifted through the first two months of the season, he is the guy who built this team, for better or worse.

Shortly after the Bulls defeated the Jazz in the NBA Finals last spring, Jordan said, "We deserve a chance (to win a sixth title)." Much of what has followed is a consequence of Jordan's desire, ambition and pow-

Phil Jackson is coach, Scottie Pippen is still a part of the team, albeit disgruntled, and Dennis Rodman is back in Chicago, thanks to Jordan.

The power to shape a basketball team, not just any team, but the defending NBA champions, winners of five titles in seven years, is impressive power, indeed. This is one reason Jordan, 34, is The Sporting News' Most Powerful Person in Sports for 1997.

Here's another: Jim Jannard, chairman and president of Oakley, Inc., welcomed a new director, Bill Schmidt, onto his board this week. California-based Oakley manufactures high-tech sunglasses at a state-of-the-art Orange County factory. Schmidt is executive vice president of Quaker Oats-Gatorade, creator of the successful "Be Like Mike" ad campaign in which Gatorade and the basketball superstar beckon thirsty consumers. Jannard and Schmidt were introduced by Jordan, an Oakley director who is developing an inside game-soaring high above boardrooms-to complement his outside shot as a marketing superstar.

The cross-pollination of Oakley and Gatorade, Januard and Schmidt, is a reflection of Jordan's power outside the game, just as his shaping of the Bulls reflects it within.

He becomes the first No. 1 who started as an athlete before veering into business and media. Previous No. 1s-Laurence Tisch (1990), David Stern (1991), Phil Knight (1992), Ted Turner (1993), Rupert Murdoch (1994 and 1995) and Dick Ebersol (1996)-started in business, law and media before veering into sports. In 1997 we learned that Turner wouldn't mind veering into a boxing ring with Murdoch, Knight leads with his chin on labor issues and Stern and Ebersol are running a threelegged race deep in clover. All No. 1s (save Tisch, who is retired) levitate ubiquitously over the high-flying entertainmentmedia-sports industry.

Among No. 1s, Knight, Turner and Murdoch are billionaires (and Stern and Ebersol make billion-dollar deals). Jordan is not No. 1 because he has a chance to become the world's first athlete-billionaire, but because he has the requisite drive and brains. It has been a breathtaking ride up for Jordan, the grandson of a sharecropper who couldn't afford a bicycle until he was 16. Signs are promising he can book hang time in the nether world of moguls.

His place in popular culture continues to ascend. Two global celebrities-Princess Diana and Mother Teresa-died in 1997. That leaves Fidel, Mandela, Ali and Michael on a short list of those who need only one name for instant recognition.

When Jordan accompanied the Bulls to the McDonald's Championship in Paris in October, his full-length photo ran on the front page of the newspaper France-Soir with a headline: "The Idol of Young People Is in began: Paris." "Michael Jordan is in Paris. That's better than the Pope. It's God in person." At the same time, a Paris department store displayed a white Michael Jordan mannequin, indicative of a basic truth: Jordan hype is as phenomenal as the reality.

He agrees. "I don't feel powerful," Jordan says. "I never view myself as powerful enough to make decisions or influence business. It's just that, for whatever reason, the public and corporate America have accepted my personali-

What's the point of being

TSN's Most Powerful Person if not to feel powerful, Jordan is asked. He chuckles. "Every time I step on the court I consider myself powerful," he says. "People are watching every little move I make. I am in control ... from a skills standpoint."

No argument on that. Jordan's power starts with his decisive and spectacular hoop supremacy. In his last five full NBA seasons he has brought five championships to Chicago. No active athlete in any team sport remotely approaches Jordan's dominance.

"Michael's mind-set, skill, intelligence, athletic courage, grace ... the way he sees the big picture, his genius in the athletic terrain ... all of this sets him apart," NBC broadcaster Bob Costas says.

Other reasons underlie his No. 1 ranking, having to do with sex appeal, expanding business network and force of personali-

In the case of the Bulls, Jordan threatened to retire if Jackson were not rehired and Pippen not retained. Owner Jerry Reinsdorf and general manager Jerry Krause did not risk calling his

expressed my opinion-I wouldn't call it an ultimatum," Jordan says.

"If this happens, this is what I do. If it doesn't, this is what I

view that as power. But I hold true to what I believe and what lies in my heart. I was willing to go that route (retirement). I didn't say it as an idle threat, because I believed it.

It's up to them to believe me. If they do, that's maybe power-

Jackson got a \$5.8 million deal. Pippen is on the last year of a contract that will pay him \$2.2 million, woefully low by NBA talent standards. The Bulls could not offer him more in part because they had no room under the salary cap. Nonetheless, Jordan persuaded Pippen to stay on, while compelling Reinsdorf and Krause not to trade him, though they expected his unhappiness. Once they kept Pippen, they had to take the next step and sign Rodman, despite sensing his decline, because Jordan and Jackson valued his toughness. A key big man from the '97 playoffs, Brian Williams, was lost because of the

As the Bulls limp toward January, Pippen still is sidelined because of foot surgery, and he demands to be traded. Rodman plays lethargically.

Jackson's zen is on the blink. Only Jordan, averaging a league-leading 26.8 points, stands between the club and humilia-

In business, as with the Bulls, he has the power to be who he is, to call his shots, to control his image. A bold display of Jordan's power occurred this year when two companies he represents, Nike and Oakley, collided over use of his image. Jordan has been with Nike since 1984; he earns \$15 million to \$20 million a year from the \$9 billion behemoth. He has been with Oakley since 1995; he earns about \$500,000 a year plus stock equity from the \$220 million upstart.

An Oakley print ad featured Jordan wearing Oakley sunglasses as well as an Oakley be-

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They chose. Some people may ret. Nike sued Oakley, claiming

its contract with Jordan requires he wear Nike apparel in all of his ads. Jordan says he wore the Oakley beret because he believed at the time his deal with Nike encompassed only athletic equipment.

Nike, of course, is run by a former No. 1, Knight, while Jannard, a billionaire, thinks and acts like one. A few years ago Knight and Jannard were friends; Jannard considered selling his company to Knight. Jannard tried to persuade Knight to go 50-50 on Jannard's footwear design, requiring domestic labor and technology, but Knight declined. A rift developed.

Subsequently, in 1996, Knight led Nike into the eyewear market, provoking a suit from Jannard last July. Nike returned fire early in August by suing over the Jordan beret ad. Later in August, Jannard announced plans to manufacture domestically athletic footwearthe design Knight rejected a few years ago.

In order to spare Jordan a conflict of interest, Januard is creating a separate footwear

board of directors from which Jordan is excluded. But Jordan is caught in the cross-fire between these two companies-and two mentors-even as Nike helps him launch his own line of apparel and footwear, the "Jordan brand," and even as Jordan teams Gatorade's Bill Schmidt with Januard to advise on Oakley's marketing. The fact that Jordan maintains a relationship with both warring companies, opposites in manufacturing and marketing philosophy, is evidence of his power.

Jordan says he tries not to choose sides: "My obligation is to Nike because it was my first corporation. I have an interest in Oakley because of endorsement opportunities and opportunity to create a stylish product. When it starts getting into a gray area I step back. I try not to be put in a predicament to choose."

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Upward Bounder's

Cinco De Mayo

Essay Wins Scholarship



Upward Bound student Alma las armas adequadas, ellos si-Arias, a high school senior from Olton, was named

the most recent winner ofthe Annual Hispanic Student Camilo Martinez Essay Scholarship. The award earned her a \$400 scholarship prize as top recipient. This year's applicants were asked to submit an essay responding to the question, "What Does Cinco

De Mayo mean to You? "

Ms. Arias indicated that a review of Cinco De Mayo Editions" of El Editor Newspaper to help her to gain additional historical and cultural perspectives regarding the special holiday commemorating Mexico's heroic battle against the 1862 French in the Mexican city of Puebla.

In her winning essay (translated from Spanish), Alma wrote, "El Cinco De Mayo has taught me that regardless of one's social class, race, origin, gender or disability, one

must work hard and look toward the future in order to make one's dreams a reality.

Alma's scholarship winning essay was submitted in Spanish, which provided a new twist to this year's competition. Scholarship Committee member, Andrew Garza said, "We really liked what Alma had to say about the importance of Hispanics in the United States celebrating Cinco De Mayo. I like the fact that she made that connection."

Alma is the daughter of Ramon and Leandra Arias of Olton. She is interested in becoming a nurse some day. She says sees nursing as a unique opportunity to help others.

Por Alma Arias

La celebracion del cinco de mayo es un evento espedacular y memorable. Este día representa una fecha en la que la gente demuestra un gran orgullo de ser mejicanos o hispanos. Todo el mundo se reune para celebrar la victoria de la batalla de Puebla que ocurrío un cinco de mayo. Es increíble como pudieron los héroes de nuestros antepasados tener tanta fé y determinación para luchar por su país. Aunque el ejercito mexicano no estaba preparado porque no tería

guieron con la batalla para luchar por su patria. A ellos no les importó el hecho de que tenían que luchar contra un ejécito que tenia 2,000 hombres más que su propio ejécito. Ante la realidad, los mejicanos decidieron luchar.

Cuando me pongo a reflecionar, la batalla del cinco de mayo me motiva para alcanzar mis metas. Una de mis métas es estudiar enfermería para poder romper las barreras que existen cuando las personas hispanas acuden a médicos u hospitales y no saben hablar inglés. Siendo bilingue, yo podré servir de interprete para esas personas.

La victoria del cinco de mayo me inspira porque, como los mejicanos, yo voy a tener que comenzar desde abajo al no tener los recursos económicos necesarios para poder estudiar. Mis padres siempre me han aconsejado que nada es tan grande o imposible para no tratar de al-

canzarlo. Lo que es importante el es nivel de esfuerzo que uno ponga en las cosas. Es por eso, que el cinco de mayo me identifica con mi situación. Los soldados que pelearon tuvieron mucho empeño en ganar la batalla. Yo tambien voy a empeñarme y hacer todo el esfuerzo posible para alcanzar mis metas. Los soldados mejicanos tuvier-

on que sobrepasar varios obstác-/ ulos antes de ganar. Yo voy a tener que superar varios obstáculos también. El primero es de graduarme de la escuela preparatoria. El segundo es el de tener exito en la universidad. Esto va a ser un poco dificil para la primera de mí. ya que soy la primera de mi familia que asiste a la universidad. Yo estoy segura de que con determinación, valor, y orgullo, yo puedo alcanzar mi meta. Si de vez en cuando me falta inspiración únicamente necesito pensar en la victoria de la batalla de Puebla que me ha enseñado los siguiente: No importa de que clase social, color, raza, origen y sexo seas. Incluso teniendo una incapacidad, tenemos que seguir adelante para. hacer nuestros sueños realidad con dignidad.

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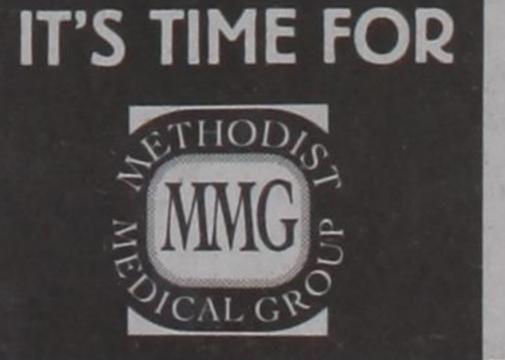
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tino en una película de Holly-

wood", dice Jennice Fuentes,

crítica cinematográfica de "El

Tiempo Latino", un periódico

"Todos estos publicistas de Hol-

lywood han estado hablando so-

bre "el Zorró durante meses",

agrega ella, refiriéndose a la

próxima película de gran presu-

puesto que tendrá como estrella

ula importante con un reparto

predominantemente latino una

vez cada dos años. La última fué

"Selena", que relató la vida de

la estrella musical tejana asesi-

nada. A esa película le fué bien

en las taquillas, pero no se

aproximó a la situación de

impulsó a la carrera de actuación

de Jennifer López, no rompió el

ciclo de pocos latinos en las pe-

Eso no significa que los lati-

Aunque

"revienta-manzanas".

Hollywood produce una pelíc-

a Antonio Banderas.

Film Festivals Stir Latinos Juices, But Big Screens Are Barren

By Louis Aguilar

CHICAGO -- For two weeks this spring, a predominantly Latino crowd jammed the lobby of the Water Tower Theaters along this city's Magnificent Mile. The scenario played out in the multiplex in an area famous for chic shops. As the crowds awaited a precious product indeed -movies with Latinos.

The occasion was the 14th annual Chicago Latino Film Festival, which concluded May 1. Showcasing more than 100 films made in the United States and abroad, the event served as an example of how Latino culture has already become integral to the fabric of major U.S. cities. Yet Hollywood, Madison Avenue and other media continue to under-represent the impact of the country's soon-to-be largest nonwhite population group.

The Latino trends happening in Chicago are being played throughout the nation. More than 30,000 people -- another record-breaking year -- came to see movies clearly not aimed at 14-year-olds, which is the target audience of most Hollywood

In short, they were intelligent movies dealing with such themes as urban angst, political chaos and sexual prowess.

Many patrons -- nearly twothirds of whom were Latino -used the festival as a launching pad to dive headlong into the city's vast Latino cultural and night-life offerings. Some went to flashy salsa and merengue dance clubs. Others took tango lessons at Argentine restaurants. Or they caught a rock-enespanol act at the alternative rock clubs.

Still others went to nortena joints full of Mexican immigrants wearing big cowboy hats and huge belt buckles just like their favorite narcocorrido star. Some just chilled at a tapas bar, the Puerto Rican bookstore, or the Mexican/Indian cafe complete with the standard image of Che Guevara on the red brick wall. The list could continue to include Brazilian samba, Spanish flamenco, Andean music...

So many screenings sold out at the festival that organizers added four extra nights to the originally planned 10 days. About a dozen Latino film festivals now flourish in the United States, including ones in Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Detroit and other cities not traditionally associated with large Hispanic populations.

Yet, Latinos have not gained

From Page One

ter for Latinos so let's go this way and you see three-fourths of Latinos voting for a certain candidate. And you don't see in some cities like in Chicago the kind of in-fighting that is more prevalent in other communities. And your right about your example in New York, you know, the in-fighting between Dominicanos and Puertorriqueños. Hell, in LA, it's worse than that. It's Mexicanos fighting against Mexicanos.

LATNN.com: How does that work? Is it sort of like the Mexicanos who have been there a lot longer are fighting against the

ones just got there? ANDRADE: There's two dynamics: there's simply opposing camps and then there's the newer Mexicanos who are a third player in this thing. That's why we don't have a Mexicano mayor in L.A. is because of the opposing forces within the Mexicano community. You know, one side just won't back the other. One side will try to cut a better deal with the other guy who may ultimately win instead of trying to let one of our own. Eventually, things will change as the leadership changes, the leadership grows and expands...which is why we put a lot of emphasis on leadership development. I am convinced that today's leaders are not going to get us to the mountaintop. We are not going to get where we need to be as a community with the current leadership. That is not a broad condemnation of our leadership. What I am saying is that there are not enough of us, nor are there enough visionaries among our Latino leaders today. We are still very parochial, very provincial which is a phase we have to go through, probably. Whites are [similar] that way. In Chicago, for example, the Irish, they comprise of less than ten percent of the population and the bulk of our public officials, at the expense of other whites. So, I am sure that not all whites are in love with the Irish. Now, when it comes an election voting for a Black mayor or a white mayor, the in-fighting among the white ethnic groups stops, and they will vote for the white guy. They kind of overcome their differences. And we Latinos are much the same way. We have our own family feuds but



any ground in Hollywood-produced films and television despite the increase of work due to cable networks and more movie screens being built nationwide.

Latino representation in the film industry is about 4 percent in front of the camera and even less behind the scenes, according to the trade magazine Latin Heat. Employment of actors increased 16 percent for all members from 1995 to 1996, the latest figures available, according to the Screen Actors Guild. But work for Latinos did not change, the Guild says.

"I can't think of the last time I saw a Latino lead in a Hollymovie," says Jennice Fuentes, film critic for El Tiempo Latino, a Spanish-language newspaper in Washington, D.C. "All these Hollywood publicists have been talking about Zorro for months," she adds, referring to the upcoming big-budget film starring Antonio Banderas.

Hollywood produces a major film with a predominantly Latino cast about once every two years. The last was "Selena," which chronicled the life of the slain Tejana music star. The movie fared well at the box office but did not approach blockbuster status. While it boosted the acting career of Jennifer Lopez, it did not break the cycle of few Latinos on film.

That doesn't mean Latinos stay away from the movies. On average, Hispanics spend 33 percent more at the box office than any other ethnic or racial group.

They also lead the way in concession purchases, averaging more than \$2 per person, according to Latin Heat. Concession sales make up a big chunk of the profits for movie theaters.

A current art-house favorite is "Men with Guns," a film made by independent film legend John Sayles. A political mystery, the film was shot in Mexico and its dialogue is Spanish and Indian dialect. The film has been generally praised by critics. It will make less than a million dollars at the U.S. box office, Sayles

"Hollywood has never been about an accurate reflection of America," says Sayles, who is not Latino. "Hollywood follows advertising and newspapers. Those forms of media are not very diverse. The best I would hope from Hollywood and other traditional media is not to have them perpetuate stereotypes."

Lately, the Latino "celebrity" debate has centered on Dinky, the Chihuahua in Taco Bell's TV commercials. Latinos have led it, lining up both pro and

That we can find no other current media image to discuss speaks volumes.

(Louis Aguilar is co-director of the annual Cruzando Fronteras Film Festival, to be held in Washington, D.C., June 18-21. He writes a weekly column for the Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service.)

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when it comes to the greater good, well, we will vote in more as a block. I am hoping that it is only a stage that we have to go through. I, for one, am banking on our youth, that our youth will have a more sophisticated view of the world, and will be more global than provincial, that will lead the Latino movement into the next century, with a greater vision than we were able to create. It's a vision than I have, but I am not in the majority.

LATNN.com: In your heart, do you think that is very optimistic from you, but maybe not

realistic?

ANDRADE: It's realistic. A lot of things are going to happen, in my view. This is what I'm talking about now, I am convinced it's realistic because it's just the beginning. I think it is going to get better. I think that in the lifetime of my grandchildren - I have two

grandchildren now - the society that they will live, they will go into Mexico and Costa Rica and Honduras and Nicaraga and Panama and El

Salvador and South America and the Dominican Republic and Cuba and Puerto Rico just like you and I travel between New York and Connecticut and Chicago, you know. It's going to be las Americas sin fronteras.

Right now our fronteras are very much engraved in our own minds. That's why we are very parochial. That's why we are very nationalistic, because we have sort of grown up with these mental fronteras that make it difficult for us to think beyond those borders.

LATNN.com: Well, politically, look at the current situation with the immigration rulings where nations are completely out yet certain ethnic groups are in because of their political situations nationally sort of has proliferated that nationalism, where Nicaraguans get [in], yet Guatemalans and El Salvadorians do not.* It's sort of being played on within the community, possibly, by politics, by the overall political trend in terms of playing on this anti-immigration sentiment. What is your opinion of that whole situation?

* The Central American Deportation Act, or 245(i), would give varying deportation relief to Salvadoran, Guatemalan and Nicaraguan nationals.

ANDRADE: I think I see it for what it is, that it does create

tension. But on other the hand, look at the other side of the 245(i) issue that the biggest proponent of extending this are the Puerto Rican members of Congress. Luis Gutierrez, for instance, is the champion for immigrants, for Mexicanos. He's a stronger voice for immigration for Mexicanos - in fairness to Mexicanos - than the Mexicano members of Congress. So, OK, you have a Cuban screwing Mexicans, in favor of Nicaraguans, but on the other hand you see a Puerto Rican carrying the flag for the Mexicans. So, these are just things that are going to plague us in the short term but eventually it will work our way through that. We will work our way through that as other things begin to happen.

In the next 25 years, we are going to have like 50,000 Latino elected officials, today we have 5,000. Our youth are going to take charge and really just turn the landscape upside-down and it's going to flourish where the election of Latinos to city councils, and school boards and county commissions and the legislature and the Congress and just as we are going to grow in population and just as we are going to grow financially and just as we are going to grow politically, this new generation of Latino leaders is going to get us to that point. Before you are my age, we are going to have 100 members of Congress who are

Latinos, who will look back at this debate over 245(i) and say, 'gee, what was wrong with those people,' you know. They will see it for what is was, una pendejada. It was a manipulation played on us to create dissension and tension and divisiveness. I think eventually, what will prevail is that we will learn as we go through all of these experiences is that differences don't necessarily constituted divisiveness and differences don't necessarily lead to disunity. We can overcome these differences. We can have these differences without disunity. I think that we learn that more and more and our youth are brighter than we are. So that will make more sense to our youth that we can have our differences without being disunited. Today's leaders think that your differences preclude you from being united, which shows our short-sightedness. That's evidence of our shortsightedness, our lack of vision.

Los Festivales Cinematograficos Agitan Los Jugos Latinos, Pero Las Pantallas Grandes Estan Yermas hispano de Washington, DC.

Por Louis Aguilar

CHICAGO -- Durante dos semanas en esta primavera, una multitua precominantemente latina congestionó el vestíbulo de rock. los Teatros Water Tower a lo largo de la "Milla Magnífica" de esta ciudad. Ese escenario se ha desarrollado en el "multiplex" situado en una zona famosa por sus tiendas elegantes. Eso se debió a que la multitud aguardaba un producto en verdad precioso -- películas con latinos.

La oportunidad fué el Décimo-Cuarto Festival Cinematográfico Latino de Chicago, que concluyó el 1x de mayo. Destacando a más de 100 películas hechas en los Estados Unidos y el extranjero, el acontecimiento sirvió como un ejemplo de cómo la cultura latina ya ha llegado a ser esencial para el tejido de las ciudades importantes de los Estados Unidos. Sin embargo, Hollywood, la Ave-

ciones de "tango" en los restaurantes argentinos. O bien fueron a un acto de "rock en español" en los clubs alternos de

Otros más fueron a los estab-

lecimientos "norteños", llenos de inmigrantes mexicanos que llevaban grandes sombreros de vaqueros y hebillas de cinturón enormes, iguales a los de sus estrellas favoritas de "narco-corrido". Algunos sólo se enfriaron en un bar de "tapas", en la librería puertorriqueña o en el café mexicano-indígena completo con la figura normal de Che Guevara sobre la pared de ladrillos rojos. La lista podría continuar para incluir a la "samba" brasileña, al "flamenco" español y a la música andina...

Tantas películas tuvieron llenos completos en el festival que los organizadores agregaron cuatro noches adicionales de estre-



Fotos: Cortesfa del Chicago Latino Cinema

nida Madison y otros medios de comunicación siguen representando defectuosamente el efecto del grupo de población no blanco que será pronto el mayor del

Las tendencias latinas que suceden en Chicago están siendo desarrolladas por toda la nación. Más de 30,000 personas -- otro año que fijó marcas -- vinieron a ver películas que no estaban dirigidas claramente a los chicos de 14 años, que forman la audiencia a que se enfocan la mayoría de las producciones de Hollywood.

En resumen, fueron películas inteligentes que trataban de temas tales como el desasosiego urbano, el caos político y la destreza sexual.

Muchos clientes -- casi los dos tercios de los cuales eran latinos -- usaron al festival como plataforma de lanzamiento para lanzarse de cabeza en las ofertas culturales y de vida nocturna latinas amplias de la ciudad. Algunos fueron a los clubs de baile "salsa" de llamativos

"merengue". Otros tomaron lec-

nos a los 10 días planeados originalmente. Una docena de festivales cinematográficos latinos florecen ahora en los Estados Unidos, incluyendo a los de Atlanta, Washington, DC., Detroit y otras ciudades no asociadas tradicionalmente con grandes poblaciones hispanas.

Mientras tanto, los latinos no han ganado ningún terreno en las películas producidas por Hollywood ni en la televisión, a pesar del aumento de trabajo debido a las redes de cable y a la construcción de más pantallas de cine en todo el país.

La representación latina en la industria cinematográfica es del 4 por ciento frente a las cámaras aún menos detrás de bastidores, según la revista del ramo "Latin Heat". El empleo de actores aumentó en un 16 por ciento para todos los miembros desde 1995 hasta 1996, las cifras más recientes disponibles, según el Gremio de Actores de la Pantalla. Pero el trabajo para los latinos no cambió, dice el Gremio. "No puedo recordar la última

nos se alejen de las películas. En promedio, los hispanos gastan un 33 por ciento más en las taquillas que cualquier otro grupo racial o étnico. También van en primer lugar en las compras de concesiones, promediando más de \$2 por persona, según dice "Latin Heat". Las ventas de las concesiones forman una gran proporción de las ganancias de los cinematógrafos. Una película favorita actual de

las casas del arte es "Men with Guns", una película hecha por la leyenda cinematográfica independiente de John Sayles. Es un misterio político, y la cinta fué filmada en México, con diálogo en español y dialecto indígena. La película ha sido bien elogiada generalmente por los críticos. Pero Sayles dice que producirá menos de un millón de dólares en las taquillas de los Estados Unidos.

"Hollywood nunca ha sido un reflejo exacto de los Estados Unidos", dice Sayles, que no es latino. "Hollywood sigue a la publicidad y a los periódicos. Como ustedes saben, esas formas de medios informativos no son muy diversos. Lo mejor que yo esperaría de Hollywood y otros medios tradicionales es no hacer que ellos perpetúen a los estereotipos".

Ultimamente, el debate de la "celebridad" latina se ha centrado sobre Dinky, el Chihuahua de los anuncios televisados de Taco Bell. Los latinos lo han dirigido, alinéandose tanto a favor como en contra.

El que no podamos encontrar otra imagen actual en los medios informativos de que tratar, equivale a volúmenes.

(Louis Aguilar es co-director del Festival Cinematográfico anual "Cruzando Fronteras", que tendrá lugar en Washington, DC. entre el 18 y el 21 de junio. El redacta igualmente una columna semanal para el Servicio de Noticias Knight Ridder/Tribune). Propiedad literaria registrada por

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