CAS: Oberlin’s New Frontier

by Nicolas Statelin

The much discussed initiative for the creation of Comparative American Studies (CAS) Program is currently gaining momentum as relnati academy committees prepare to formally authorize or delay its introduction at Oberlin College. This article introduces the conceptual framework of CAS, and examines the relationships between key groups each of whom have differing perspectives and stakes in its development.

What is CAS?

Comparative American Studies is a critical inter-disciplinary approach to the diverse narratives of American history and the situations faced by contemporary American society. The proposed CAS major enables the student to explore complex, naming African American, Asian Pacific Americans, Latins/os, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender), and Women. It employs a comparative framework of analysis to explore the relationships between these groups, whose experiences have been misrepresented in dominant academic discourse. A student majoring in CAS would be required to focus on two or more of these groups. According to professor Steven Volk, chair of the History Department and Latin American Studies Committee, and a member of the Educational Plans and Policies Committee (EPCC), the major is designed to introduce Comparative American Studies and provide a theoretical and empirical capstone, while drawing course content from across the curriculum. Elaborating on the theoretical aspects, Volk explained that CAS views across issues of race, ethnicity, gender, class, and sexuality in American history and contemporary society through the interaction of various disciplines. Professor James Millette, chair of the Dept. of African American Studies and member of the CAS committee, emphasized the innovative nature of this CAS.

Mexican Politics

By Viviana Westbrook

A year and a half ago, during the summer, Mexico held its national elections. For the first time in over seventy years, the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) failed to win. Instead of the PRI candidate winning like they usually do, Vicente Fox, from the Partido Accion Nacional (PAN), emerged from the elections victorious. A lot of praise was given to the old president, Ernesto Zedillo, who allowed the transition of power to occur smoothly. Zedillo, member of the PRI and unpopular for a variety of reasons including the deepening recession and slashing taxes to try and balance the economy. However, after the elections in the year 2000, his popularity was immensely increased. As the former president, he was responsible for Fox's victory. Regardless of the fact that evidence of corruption may surface against Zedillo (as it has done in the past, like in Carlos Salinas de Gortari's case), it seemed that Zedillo was there to pave the way for a new era for Mexico. Instead of the usual elections in which certain corporations would buy their employees into voting for the candidate they desired, the PRI decided to let the elections try their hardest to ensure success for their member candidates. The PRI’s decision was surprising to the workers. Due to this, the elections were relatively clean, although there was bullying to be seen still, for example in places like Puebla, as some of the members of the PRI won the city state. It came as a shock for the majority of Mexicans that Fox actually won — there had been no real question as to whether the PRI would lose. The people usually favored candidates from other parties, but yet the PRI would always win — an excellent example of this was the 1988 elections when the two main runners were Salinas for the PRI and Cuadrado for Partido Revolucionario Democratico (PRD). There was a lot of disruption about the fact that Salinas won — most people felt that Cuadrado had gained the victory overwhelmingly but they could do nothing. Fortunately, this last election was a great improvement from that one, although many people were not aware of it until later. In fact, Francisco Labastida, the PRI candidate in this last election, and his party had already begun to celebrate their victory prematurely. The TV stations showed that the mariachi band was already at the main headquarters of the PRI and the people there were getting ready to toast. It was an amusing moment when the winner of the presidential election was announced and for once the PRI had not come out on top. The PRI supporters were indignant and numb with the shock that after 71 years, they had lost. It seemed that the balloons, streamers, food, and mariachis were in the wrong place. Expectation ran high now that Fox was to be president in December 2000. His first continued page

In This Issue

News Briefs…2

Venezuela…4

Líderes de latinoamérica…4

Dominican República…5

Language Acquisition…5

Copa Mundial de Fútbol…6

Dominicanas in New York…6

Noticias de Córdoba…7

Cross-Over Stars…11

Sandinista Poetry…12

Juan Antonio Cuadra…14

Recipies…15

Photo Spread…16
News Briefs

by Wilson Skinner

South America:

Bolivia:
A storm struck La Paz, Bolivia leaving 69 people dead and at least 150 injured. The heavy rains hit the city which is located at the lowest point of a natural bowl surrounded by the Andes mountains. Over 122 families needed to be sheltered in the city’s soccer stadium after being left homeless by the storm. Damage was estimated at nearly 60 million dollars. While the city was still evaluating the damages, various European countries pledged disaster relief for the landlocked South American country. (AP)

Colombia:

The precarious cease fire between the Colombian government and the leftist guerrillas known as FARC, which was brokered in 1998 was broken when the government surrounded a FARC encamp and began air raids over the area. The hijacking of a domestic airliner and the subsequent kidnapping of national senator Jorge Hechon by the guerrillas proved to be too much for the government of president Pastrana. The army commenced what is called “operation death” in an attempt to retake terrain ceded to the rebels during the peace talks. (New York Times)

Peru:

Venezuela:
The Venezuelan military official who claimed that president Hugo Chavez was trying to turn the country into a communist state and expand contact with the leftist guerrillas in Colombia has been removed from his position within the military. The investigation commission decided to remove the officer from his post, after his comments were seconded by a captain in the national guard and a rear admiral of the navy. (El Mercurio)

Venezuela’s currency plunged as president Hugo Chavez removed exchange controls. The nation’s currency, the Bolivar, fell by 19 percent closing at 980.50 Bolivars to the dollar compared with 792.50 several days earlier. The move was intended to stem the loss of capital from the country and to restore investor confidence. In addition to abandoning the exchange controls, Chavez has ordered a 7 percent cut in government spending, hoping to ease an 8 billion dollar budget deficit. (AP)

Mexico:
The country’s dominant political party PRI (Partido Revolucionario Institucional), is threatening to launch a counter-attack if an investigation into illegal use of state funds continues. The Fox administration has pointed to the misappropriation of 100 million dollars from Pemex, the state-owned petroleum monopoly for the 2000 campaign of presidential candidate Francisco Labastida. The PRI is considering organizing public protests, while PRI governors have discussed scaring Fox in his official visits to their states. Fox was accused of trying to save his waning popularity by diverting the attention from his administration. (Mexican Solidarity Network)

The Mexican supreme court ordered the federal attorney general to investigate the massacre that occurred on October 2, 1968 in Tlatelolco. Officials at the time claimed that only 28 had been killed, but observers have put the death toll at 300. The investigation into one of Mexico’s worst massacres in recent memory was close in 1998 by former president Zedillo. (Mexican Solidarity Network)

A former general in the Mexican military was freed by president Fox recently after having spent 8 years in prison. Jose Francisco Gallardo, 55 was imprisoned on corruption charges and sentenced to 28 years, which was down graded to time served. He is a rising star in the military until he was arrested in 1993 after he suggested that independent observers investigate human rights violations committed by soldiers. Gallardo is considered by Amnesty International a “prisoner of conscience” and the central point of an Inter-American Commission of Human Rights hearing. He was offered presidential pardons on various occasions, but refused them insisting that he had done nothing wrong and requested to be completely cleared of the crime. Mexico has been under great pressure from human rights groups since the slaying of human rights activists Digna Ochoa in October. (Mexican Solidarity Network)
The possibility of American Lori Berenson receiving a pardon was lessened after the supreme court of Peru upheld a lower court’s decision, sentencing her to 20 years. Berenson is accused of aiding leftist rebels Tupac Amaru. She has been a constant issue for Peru’s government. (New York Times)

Chile:
Chile has asked for the extradition of Cuba in finding members of a radically leftist organization that escaped from a maximum-security prison in 1996. The members of the group Frente Patriótico Manuel Rodríguez escaped to Cuba soon after their escape. The group was formed in the 1980’s in order to fight the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. (El País)

Argentina:
Many of south America’s most important leaders met in Buenos Aires for a summit aimed at addressing the financial crisis faced by Argentina. The presidents of Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Bolivia all met at the residence of the current Argentine president, Néstor Kirchner. Many of the countries are members of MERCOSUR, an economic treaty that allows those member countries trade freely. Through this apparatus the various leaders hope to affect positive change for Argentina. The Argentine government recently announced that they would allow the peso to float freely as of February. (El Mercurio)

Spain:
A municipal police protest in front of the Madrid city hall resulted in a violent conflict. The unauthorized protest began early in the morning when the municipal police arrived to protest a proposed reorganization of the department. The protest was broken up by the national police, but only after a charged confrontation in which 11 municipal and 1 national police officers were wounded. (El País)

Six supposed members of ETA were arrested in Navarra. During the arrest of the 3 men and 3 women, a car bomb was discovered. The police have stated that it appears they were preparing an attack. This follows a year in which ETA has stepped up its campaign of terror after a cease-fire failed. (El País)

FROM THE EDITOR

As was stated in the previous issue, the former editor-in-chief of Voces, Cassandra Ogren has graduated, and has left the newspaper to us, Christina Castellana and Wilson Skinner, the new editors-in-chief. As the new editors-in-chief, we are committed to keeping Voces as a forum and source of information for any and all readers interested in the politics, history, culture, and society of Spain, and Latin America, while at the same time maintaining a bond within the community. In this issue we have focused on many political challenges currently faced by some Latin American countries, many of which are expressed through the eyes of Oberlin students while participating in the respective Winter Term Projects. We have also included articles pertinent to Spain, and its culture. We hope that these articles help to inform and educate the college community.

-Christina Castellana and Wilson Skinner, editors-in-chief

Study in Spain for a semester or for a year with PRESHCO!!!!
(Programa de Estudios Hispánicos en Córdoba)

Application deadline for Fall 2002 (or academic year 2002-2003) is March 8th!!!

For more information contact: sebastiana.faber@oberlin.edu

Oberlin’s bilingual paper
El periódico bilingüe de Oberlin
Año 2, número 3
February 27, 2002
27 de febrero de 2002

Editors in Chief:
Christina Castellana and Wilson Skinner

Layout Staff:
Christina Castellana, Wilson Skinner, Ian Bergman, Alaksio Bolder, Mocha Madsen-Kong, Marthin Schlotterbeck

Coordinator:
Sebastiana Faber

Wilson Skinner
Viviana Westbrook
Gabriel Prieto-Cognolo
Nicolás Stahelin

Faith Richards
Christina Morgan
Aaron Spector
Kim Cook

Anna Roseberry
Cristina Greene
Art Ripley
El cinismo de los líderes latinoamericanos

Por Gabriel Pritó-Coglioli

Lo que fracasó en América Latina no fueron ni la sociedad ni la economía ni la cultura o la raza. No fracasó la gente, ni siquiera las ideas o las utopías. La razón del fracaso está en la política, en los partidos, en los caudillos de todos los signos y en los sistemas de dominación que han hecho del Estado una herramienta de engaño, de disfraz y de espejismos para el progreso.

Hay dos evidencias recientes que ilustran el papel de la política como factor de frustración: la Venezuela de Chávez y la Argentina justicialista. En ambos casos, los caudillos apoderados del Estado han provocado el destrozo de la sociedad y la economía. En los dos, la democracia se convirtió en escusa para el ejercicio del populismo y en escenario para sus más disparatados ensayos. Chávez trabaja, entre trabajadores y discursos de radioexito, en la destrucción de la sociedad venezolana. Menem y sus amigos se dieron más de lo que arruinaron los más novedosos inventos en materia económica y para hacer de uno de los países más ricos del mundo uno desacralizado por su situación social y económica.

Cuando fallan todos los sistemas económicos, cuando no hay más recursos que los más absurdos, los métodos monetarios, tales como el de Domingo Cavallo, no pueden desarrollarse. Si no se rectifica, se trata de mantener el golpe en el poder para arruinar la vida de la gente, quiere decir que el gobierno se ha negado a comer la quema para aliviar la situación de la gente, para que el país no decaiga. Pero el golpe fracasó y Chávez fue condenado a la cárcel. Sin embargo, en 1998 Chávez ganó las elecciones gracias a un discurso político que logró convencer a todas las diferentes clases sociales del país que era necesario un cambio, o incluso una revolución. Chávez prometió castigar a los miembros corruptos del gobierno anterior, del partido de la Acción Democrática (AD).

Después de ser elegido, su discurso se ha canalizado principalmente hacia la política según la historia reciente, es el gran enemigo de la gente. Allí se engañan los intereses de grupo, se engañan los países para que se queden en el poder para dominar a la gente; se ocultan las esferas de poder que se ocultan para adormecer el sentimiento de que el país está en ese estado como un latigo para someter, como mano para engañar, como estafa política de lo que queda en Argentina y lo que se pinta tras el disfraz de payaso de Chávez. Esa es la huelga de la última aventura populista del Ecuador.

Pero, indiferentes y soberbios, los dirigentes hacen gala de un cinismo que demuestra el vacío de lo que se explica que, mientras la Argentina se derrumba, la política. Los partidos han sido asegurarse el poder para seguir haciendo democracia en el mundo y en rendir cuentas. Eso explica que los autores de la liquidación de la vieja Argentina, los inventores de la emisión de deuda pública, los inventores de las crisis presupuestarias realizados sin ser consultados, hayan sido los que más se han beneficiado de Economía del nuevo régimen. ¿Para qué más sirve la política populista?

Venezuela y el deseo del cambio

Por Cristina Greene

Como gran parte de Latinoamérica, Venezuela está pasando por una recesión económica. Con Colombia al lado, y frente al Caribe, su situación económica ha venido empeorando desde hace diez años. En comparación con el resto de los países latinoamericanos, Venezuela se ha mantenido más o menos estable, pero esta situación ya está cambiando. Un factor importante en este proceso ha sido la situación política del país.

El presidente actual, Hugo Chávez, llegó a poder hace tres años con una impresionante mayoría de cerca de 56% de los votos, ha traído muchas tensiones al país. Hacia mucho tiempo que el país estaba harto de gobiernos corruptos y los venezolanos deseaban urgentemente un cambio político. En 1992, Chávez participó en un golpe de estado para derogar al gobierno corrupto e ineptico anterior; pero el golpe fracasó y Chávez fue condenado a la cárcel. Sin embargo, en 1998 Chávez ganó las elecciones gracias a su discurso político, que logró convencer a todas las diferentes clases sociales del país que era necesario un cambio, o incluso una revolución. Chávez prometió castigar a los miembros corruptos del gobierno anterior, del partido de la Acción Democrática (AD).

Después de ser elegido, su discurso se ha canalizado principalmente hacia la economía y la economía. Muchos venezolanos han perdido su trabajo. Hay muy poca oferta de trabajo. Pero también ha habido mucho aumento. Los estudiantes de escuelas en las que las revoluciones se han retirado de Venezuela en el último mes.

En los últimos cuatro meses, muchos venezolanos han perdido su trabajo. Hay una poca oferta de trabajo. Pero también ha habido mucho aumento. Los estudiantes de escuelas en las que las revoluciones se han retirado de Venezuela en el último mes.

Hay un gran miedo, tanto dentro como fuera del país, que Chávez se convierta abiertamente en dictador.

En el exterior, concretamente con los EEUU, se han deteriorado mucho. Después del 11 de septiembre, Chávez no ha mostrado mucho apoyo para los EEUU. Como consecuencia, el gobierno estadounidense ha disminuido las relaciones económicas con Venezuela, cortando significativamente la compra de petróleo. Pero esta ruptura ha llegado a una crisis esencial de los problemas enfrentados por el país, por ejemplo la desigualdad social y económicas de las clases medias y bajas. En los últimos tres años, Chávez ha distanciado aún más de los intereses de la clase alta, una tendencia que ha hecho aumentar la tensión social del país. Por algunos, Chávez ha sido un "dios" que representa un cambio necesario. Para otros, representa una amenaza a la democracia. Ahora, más que nunca, hay un intenso clima de conflicto social entre los chavistas, principalmente de la clase media y baja, y de los anti-chavistas, de la clase más alta.

Esta situación política y social ha acusado a muchas de las corporaciones y compañías internacionales, y a las empresas en general. Por eso, estas se han estado retirando progresivamente de Venezuela. El exodo de los negocios, que en gran parte son el motor de la economía venezolana, ha causado que subiera el desempleo y que se agravara la recesión. Incluso, las relaciones de Chávez con el exterior, concretamente con los EEUU, se han deteriorado mucho. Después del 11 de septiembre, Chávez no ha mostrado mucho apoyo para los EEUU. Como consecuencia, el gobierno estadounidense ha disminuido las relaciones económicas con Venezuela, cortando significativamente la compra de petróleo por el EEUU. Pero esta ruptura ha llegado a una crisis esencial de los problemas enfrentados por el país, por ejemplo la desigualdad social y económicas de las clases medias y bajas.

En los últimos años, Chávez se ha distanciado aún más de los intereses de la clase alta, una tendencia que ha hecho aumentar la tensión social del país. Por algunos, Chávez ha sido un "dios" que representa un cambio necesario. Para otros, representa una amenaza a la democracia. Ahora, más que nunca, hay un intenso clima de conflicto social entre los chavistas, principalmente de la clase media y baja, y de los anti-chavistas, de la clase más alta.

Esta situación política y social ha acusado a muchas de las corporaciones y compañías internacionales, y a las empresas en general. Por eso, estas se han estado retirando progresivamente de Venezuela. El exodo de los negocios, que en gran parte son el motor de la economía venezolana, ha causado que subiera el desempleo y que se agravara la recesión. Incluso, las relaciones de Chávez con el exterior, concretamente con los EEUU, se han deteriorado mucho. Después del 11 de septiembre, Chávez no ha mostrado mucho apoyo para los EEUU. Como consecuencia, el gobierno estadounidense ha disminuido las relaciones económicas con Venezuela, cortando significativamente la compra de petróleo por el EEUU. Pero esta ruptura ha llegado a una crisis esencial de los problemas enfrentados por el país, por ejemplo la desigualdad social y económicas de las clases medias y bajas.

En los últimos años, Chávez se ha distanciado aún más de los intereses de la clase alta, una tendencia que ha hecho aumentar la tensión social del país. Por algunos, Chávez ha sido un "dios" que representa un cambio necesario. Para otros, representa una amenaza a la democracia. Ahora, más que nunca, hay un intenso clima de conflicto social entre los chavistas, principalmente de la clase media y baja, y de los anti-chavistas, de la clase más alta.

Esta situación política y social ha acusado a muchas de las corporaciones y compañías internacionales, y a las empresas en general. Por eso, estas se han estado retirando progresivamente de Venezuela. El exodo de los negocios, que en gran parte son el motor de la economía venezolana, ha causado que subiera el desempleo y que se agravara la recesión. Incluso, las relaciones de Chávez con el exterior, concretamente con los EEUU, se han deteriorado mucho. Después del 11 de septiembre, Chávez no ha mostrado mucho apoyo para los EEUU. Como consecuencia, el gobierno estadounidense ha disminuido las relaciones económicas con Venezuela, cortando significativamente la compra de petróleo por el EEUU. Pero esta ruptura ha llegado a una crisis esencial de los problemas enfrentados por el país, por ejemplo la desigualdad social y económicas de las clases medias y bajas.

En los últimos años, Chávez se ha distanciado aún más de los intereses de la clase alta, una tendencia que ha hecho aumentar la tensión social del país. Por algunos, Chávez ha sido un "dios" que representa un cambios necesarios. Para otros, representa una amenaza a la democracia. Ahora, más que nunca, hay un intenso clima de conflicto social entre los chavistas, principalmente de la clase media y baja, y de los antichavistas, de la clase más alta.
Language Acquisition
The Path to Communication

by Faith Richards

Nobody thinks about the way in which they learned how to speak; their first language is, effectively, the language in which they were born. To remember the trials and tribulations gone through in the acquisition of one's native language is probably related to the fact that people do not really care to speak of it in the time before they learned how to speak. Most people who do not speak a minority language after having already become fluent in their first language, however, can remember the problems they had when they tried to acquire the second language.

It seems that people learn how to speak their first language through mimicry of the noises that adults make when speaking and then being praised when they imitate it. Children attempt at forming words result in the correct pronunciation of the first words learned. The child learns the sounds and objects and concepts come into play. In all languages, children make mistakes in the conjugations of irregular verbs and the formations of irregular pluralizations of words. One example of this in English would be the word "fishes" when the actual plural form of "fish" is "fishes" in Spanish, it is common to use "hacedo" as the past participle of the verb "hacer". In fact, the word should be "hecho".

However, based on my observations in a middle school Spanish classroom and the personal experiences of myself and my friends, who speak multiple languages, it appears that the process of learning a second (or even third) language is completely different from that used to acquire the first language. Students of foreign languages often make mistakes that a native speaker would never make. These mistakes are often grammatical errors and stem from the fact that the student assumes that all languages operate in the same manner as their first language. In some cases, this may not present a problem. For example, students who speak Spanish as their first language may have less trouble learning French grammar than English-speaking students. However, the other two most common languages learned with Spanish are more closely related than French and English.

For the month that I had the opportunity to observe and work with the eighth-grade Spanish students at Lincoln Middle School in Gainesville, Florida, I was able to see a distinct pattern of errors and difficulties forming in their work. Some of the most common mistakes included mismatched articles with nouns, incorrectly conjugated verbs, sentences without verbs, and a poor understanding of the use of written accents. It was clear from their responses when corrected that the majority of the mistakes made stemmed from the students' propensity to assume that Spanish grammar is similar to that of English, the students' first language. In the absence of only one article used before a noun, "the", it was difficult for them to understand that vocabulary in a foreign language is taught in most schools.

These observations are supported by the comments of older students who were questioned about the errors they made when they were learning their second languages. The majority of the students recalled making the same mistakes as the eighth-graders. They also remembered that once they understood the relationship between the grammar of their first and second languages, they were able to grasp their second language much more easily.

It can, therefore, be said that there is a clear distinction between the manner in which students learn their first language and any other languages they learn. It can be observed that if a student is familiar with the grammar of the first language and is then taught the relationship between it and the grammar of a second language, most of the common mistakes can be eliminated.
La Copa Mundial de fútbol 2002

¿Qué prometen las selecciones latinoamericanas?

Por Gabriel Prieto-Coglio

Uno de los espectáculos más fanáticos de los deportes se llevará cabo en este año en Japón y Corea del Sur. La Copa Mundial de Fútbol, la máxima competencia del rey de los deportes Para los latinoamericanos, esta es la oportunidad de mostrar la majestuosidad y belleza de los talentos singulares que poseen. Además, cada uno de los dos continentes rivales, Europa y América, tienen ocho mundiales a su favor y se cree que aquí la cosa se desempeñará. Para esta cita mundialista se han clasificado equipos tradicionales latinoamericanos como Argentina, Brasil, México y Uruguay. No hay muchas sorpresas con países como Paraguay, Costa Rica y, sorpresas en todo sentido.

Argentina es, como siempre, uno de los favoritos para obtener el título. Se adjudicó el premiado trofeo por dos ocasiones, lo que lleva a pensar que esta vez no se tratará de una hazaña. Argentina se clasificó al mundial como primero de Sudamérica, y en todas sus salidas, no sólo perdiendo un partido de 18, contra Brasil. El equipo cuenta con grandes estrellas de valor internacional como Gabriel Batistuta, que milita en la Major League, y Maradona, que también cuenta con diversos jugadores que militan en el extranjero. Además, Rivaldo, que juega en el Barcelona de España, Rivaldo, es un gran apoyo de sus equipos y en especial de Rondal, la estrella goleadora que sustraerá totalmente recuperado para la cita mundialista. Graves jugadores que no se pueden dejar de mencionar en el equipo, que ya ha pasado por cinco entrenadores en los anteriores dos años y donde los dirigentes de la CBF (Confederación Brasileña de Fútbol) se encuentran en juicios por varios casos de corrupción.

México, aunque no se ha adjudicado ningún título todavía, ya ha sido sede de dos Mundial en dos ocasiones y siempre ha tenido grandes jugadores, pero especialmente en esta ocasión el equipo Tricolor tuvo que esperar hasta el año 2002 para dar a conocer su clasificación. La gran estrella del equipo es el delantero Juan Carlos Osorio y junto a él, el guatemalteco Blanco, que se espera será uno de los goleadores del torneo.

Uruguay se encuentra en la misma posición que terminó quinto en la clasificación y logró ganar el boleto al Mundial luego de jugar la repechaje contra Australia. La gran estrella en este equipo es el Chino Cerezo, que juega en el Inter de Milán. Aunque la participación del equipo es a la espera de generar, no puede que llegue a los niveles de los primeros equipos en los que ha competido por dos ocasiones el título.

En esta cita dos sorpresas de las que pueden estar son Paraguay y Costa Rica. Ambos equipos tienen una gran tradición futbolística y cada uno de estos momentos se encuentran en un nivel donde se espera que estos equipos, Paraguay y Costa Rica, lleguen al próximo torneo y en el equipo, el cual milita el excelente pero controversia portero José Luis Chilavert, que en 1999 jugó en el equipo, es un equipo con muchos como un jugador completo, ya que es líder de su equipo. Y en el mismo tiempo que tiene de los goles, tiene un defensor: su defensa. Pero no puede echarle ningún juego. Se espera que estos equipos puedan tener en el próximo torneo, su equipo cuenta con estas estrellas como el delantero Justo Villarroel, el portero Guillermo Cardozo, y se perfila como un candidato curioso a alcanzar la siguiente ronda. De la misma manera Costa Rica se encuentra en una gran situación perfilándose como posible campeón de la Copa Mundial de Fútbol 2002. El equipo milita el gran delantero Hernán Medina que jugó en el Inter de Milán. Aunque espera mucho de este jugador y de toda la selección en el mundial.

Sin embargo, la gran sorpresa del continente es el seleccionado de Ecuador. Luego de una gran eliminatoria, se espera que en la primera ronda en este equipo el mejor jugador del continente, Aránguin, que pasa llevar a este equipo en una formación actuación. Además, cuenta con el apoyo del gran delantero vallenato, que es un gran jugadores en la eliminatorias Agustín Delgado.

En resumen, pues, son los equipos que representarían a todos los latinoamericanos en el mundial. Pero, en la cita mundialista en Corea y Japón. Se espera mucho de todos los equipos y especialmente en los equipos que son los seguidores de sus selecciones visitarán la región y esperan ver los resultados de todos, sobre todo, esperan ver ganar a sus selecciones.
CÓMO DISFRUTAR LA VIDA CORDOBESA

Una ex preshquita revela secretos

por Kimberly Chivel-Cook

Córdoba, una de las ciudades más antiguas de toda Europa, era la capital árabe de al-Andalus durante el imperio musulmán. La influencia árabe todavía se manifiesta por toda la ciudad: se ve en la cultura, en la comida, en la arte y sobre todo en la arquitectura.

Las partes más antiguas de la ciudad se encuentran en el barrio de la Judería, donde supuestamente vivían los judíos durante los siglos anteriores. La Judería está bastante aislada, pues un murón la separa de la ciudad moderna, y rodeada por la calle Carolina. Hay una puerta preciosa que abre al laberinto de calles estrechas de la Judería. Todos los sábados y domingos, los vecinos de Córdoba están en la Facultad de Filosofía y Letras (donde está la Escuela de Derecho de PRESCOC), muchos restaurantes, tiendas de antigüedades y la antigua Mezquita. Las calles son muy estrechas, de barriadas, y hay que tener cuidado cuando pase un coche—a veces es necesario meterse detrás de un portal para que pasen. Sin embargo, el peligro de ser peatonal es pequeño, porque ir en pie le permite a uno apreciar la magnífica arquitectura y las tiendas de los artesanos locales—y quizás comprar algunas joyas típicas de Córdoba.

La excursión más popular de la ciudad es la visita guiada a la Mezquita-Catedral. Los musulmanes en los años 785-86, los católicos, al regresar con el ejército, construyeron una catedral dentro del mismo edificio árabe, inicialmente para preservar la Mezquita, pero los ciudadanos no lo permitieron. Por eso la catedral se ve como de pie dos edificios religiosos (mezquita y catedral) dentro de una sola estructura. La inmensidad de la estructura es una maravilla y la vista desde allí del otro lado del Río Guadalquivir es espectacular (particularmente durante la madrugada).

Si uno se aventurara hacia el norte de la Judería, llegaría al centro comercial de Córdoba. La primera indicación de qué ha llegado es la Plaza de Tenedillas. Con una estatua de bronce de un linete en el centro de la plaza, y fuentes en el suelo, es un sitio donde va mucha gente para dar un paseo, tomar un café o saludar a tus amigos.

Hay un quiosco que vende palomitas de maíz deliciosas y durante la Navidad una porción grande de la plaza se convierte en una pista de patinaje para los niños.

Al cruzar la sección más moderna de Córdoba, la Ciudad Jardín, se pasa por el parque ubicado entre el Paseo de la Victoria y la Avenida de la República de Argentina. Allí, se encuentra un mercadillo al aire libre donde se vende gran variedad de artículos. Muchos de los productos son de Marruecos y todo tiene el mejor precio de toda la ciudad, es decir que las cosas ahí son muy baratas.

A sólo dos manzanas del mercadillo, en la calle Antonio Maura, hay un jardín grande que yo veía todos los días desde la ventana de mi habitación. Tiene muchos palmeras y naranjos, y también muchos tipos de flores y unas diez fuentes.

Muchas familias y parejas dan paseos por ese parque y es un buen sitio para descansar o leer un poco. Al fondo del jardín está la Facultad veterinaria, un edificio antiguo con influencia árabe en los arcos de la arquitectura.

En la calle Marruecos, al otro lado de la calle del jardín, hay un sitio especial. Para la mejor música en la Ciudad Jardín y un ambiente gentil, es necesario ir a Barcoguen. Es un café de Internet durante el día, pero por la noche es un bar muy misterioso y divulgador. Los copas son baratas pero tampoco son caras, y cuando no hay conciertos de Jazz, el dueto, Salvador, se convierte en un DJ de música electrónica. Además, los jueves hay fiestas en las cuales la cerveza es más barata.

Si nada de todo esto ha logrado interesarte todavía, quizá te interese el "botellón," la actividad más popular entre los españoles jóvenes. Es un concepto simple: Primero, vas a una tienda de 24 horas entre las 11 y las 12 de la noche y compras tu whiskey favorito, una botella de Coca-Cola, una bolsa de hielo y un vaso para cada uno de tus amigos. Entonces, eligen una casa (la más popular es la gran Via Parque cerca de la Plaza de Toros), te pones cómodo y las tomas. Así es fácil. Viva España y viva el botellón.

SUFRIR Y REIR EN CÓRDOBA: UN TARDE DE FLAMENCO

Por Anna Roseberry

El flamenco es una de las manifestaciones más singulares del folklore español. Según Antonio Machado Álvarez, el flamenco es el resultado de la fusión de la música de los gitanos con la música popular andaluza; se aplica al cante, baile y toque.

Hay un gran debate en torno al origen del término "flamenco." Según Felipe Pedrell, deriva de los inmigrantes flamencos (es decir, de Flanda, hoy parte de Bélgica) durante el reinado de Carlos I. Otros piensan que proviene de los gitanos procedentes de Handers o que se trata de un término derivado del árabe.Le que tenemos seguro del flamenco es que su origen es inseparable de la geografía andaluza y sus raíces más profundas están en la antigua Bética (Sevilla), pero también en el canto religioso indio y bizantino y en las canciones y bailes populares árabes, gitanos, andaluces y judíos.

Hay múltiples clasificacio- nes del flamenco, pero las dos más conocidas por el mundo son el Cante Grande y el Cante Chico. El Cante Grande es el que abarcaría todas las manifestaciones más antiguas en el tiempo como el Cante Jondo. El Cante Chico es el que comprendería las manifestaciones restantes. Las otras clasificaciones que propone Hipólito Rossy son los Cantes a voz sola, sin guitarra, Cantes libres con guitarra, Cantes de Levante, Cantes musicales con guitarra y el grupo de los Fandangos.

El 24 de noviembre de 2001 el programa de PRESCOC en Córdoba, España, invitó a David Pino y a su guitarrista, Ángel Mata, a tocar y cantar flamenco para los alumnos norteamericanos del programa. La primera canción que tocaron fue "Malamá Malagueña." Antes de empezar, el Sr. Pino nos mostró sus conocimientos del estilo de la malagueña y nos explicó qué significa ser un cante. La canción tuvo una gran fuerza expresiva, no sólo debido a la voz del cantante, sino que también le dio un aire de frivolidad, sin duda alguna a la vida del amor y de la canción. La canción fue un rotundo éxito, no sólo debido a la voz del cantante, sino que también le dio un aire de frivolidad, sin duda alguna a la vida del amor y de la canción. La canción fue un rotundo éxito, no sólo debido a la voz del cantante, sino que también le dio un aire de frivolidad, sin duda alguna a la vida del amor y de la canción.
El fracaso de la Política

continued from page 1

experiencias recientes es la evidencia dolorosa de que la política no le sirve a la gente. Que ha sido instrumento de los vividores públicos, fórmula de enriquecimiento y enorme show que concluye con la liquidación del porvenir de comunidades que ha tenido el inocente pecado de creer demasiado en el Estado y sus políticas, de esperar lealtad de caudillos, de pensar que en los discursos políticos populistas se dice la verdad y que las promesas son en realidad cumplidas. La política según la historia reciente, es el gran enemigo del ciudadano. Allí se engañan los intereses de grupo, se escunden los planes para dominar a la gente; se esconden las expropiaciones de recursos y esperanzas; se doran las píldoras que sirven para adormecer el sentido crítico. La política empleada, como un látigo para someter, como maña para engañar,

como estafa colectiva, es lo que queda en Argentina y lo que se pinta tras el disfraz de precariedad de Chávez. Es la huella de la última aventura populistá de un Ecuador. Pero, indiferentes y soberbios, los dirigentes hacen gala de un cinismo irritante. Ese cinismo es lo que explica que, mientras la Argentina se derrumba, la única preocupación de los partidos haya sido asegurarse del poder para seguir dominando sin pensar en rendir cuentas. Eslo explica que los autores de la liquidación de la economía Argentina, los inventores de la emisión de deuda provincial para financiar presupuestos realizados sin ser consultados, hayan sido el Presidente y el Ministro de Economía del "nuevo régimen". ¿Para qué más sirve la política populista?

Mexican Politics

continued from page 1

speech was a great success. Right before he gave it, Fox had eaten breakfast with some street children in Teptito (what is considered as one of the bigger slums in Mexico City). Fox vowed to accomplish many feats such as attacking corruption, opening up talks with the Zapatistas, improving education, etc. One of the writers for the Mexican newspaper, Reforma, was quoted saying she loved Fox's speech—"es muy experimentador, con mucha vitalidad, muy mexicano." ("It's very hope inspiring, with a lot of vitality, very Mexican"). However, although Fox's speech was met with general approval and enthusiasm, there were worries. In the same article in Reforma, poet Homero Aridjis voiced his concern that they were announcing a situation in which in theory, sounded perfect, which is not possible. Aridjis was not the only one who felt that some people might have been putting too much faith in Fox.

After a year in his new job, Fox is faced with many difficulties. This year and last year, Congress was particularly divided in the number of members from different parties. This created, and continues to create, challenges in passing legislation, to say the least. One of the key questions has been centered around the Zapatistas. When Fox started his new job, he immediately promised to fight corruption as well as focus on the Zapatistas' demands. Fox assumed it would not be a difficult task and really wanted to address many issues with them. In the end, the question of the Zapatistas turned out to be even more complicated than he imagined. Although the Congress cooperated in hearing the Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (EZLN) they failed to pass the reforms that the Zapatistas wished for so controversy still surrounds the plight of the Zapatistas.

Although the world seemed to have high hopes for Mexico after Zedillo was elected, there have been a variety of issues that have been tackled — some not as successfully as others. In Time magazine (7/12/00) it was commented that "Mexico has garnered world wide respect for the elections that swept Vicente Fox Quesada of the National Action Party (PAN) into the presidency." This respect, although lingering on in other countries seems to have diminished in Mexico. At present, Mexico's economy is declining. An excellent example of this is in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Where once apartment buildings were full of tenants, they are now emptying out. Many Mexicans are no longer able to keep paying the ever-increasing rents. Restaurants are rapidly closing. The new Fiscal Reform which raised taxes has contributed to this decline of the economy. In a local paper in Puerto Vallarta called Vallarta Opina, this issue was addressed. In one of its issues (01/22/02) it reported that "En Puerto Vallarta se han Presentado los Mismos Problemas que en Nivel Nacional" basically that in Puerto Vallarta the same problems can be seen that are occurring at the national level. On the 1st of January of this year, a wake was held for a 21 year old girl. This promising young student had been a semester away from becoming a teacher. She had gotten pneumonia and found herself unable to travel. She died an ambulance but because of inefficiencies in the hospital the ambulance took a long time to arrive. Once it did, they did not have enough oxygen for her, so she died. She did not come from a wealthy background - she had to travel a long ways to get to her university every day but she was determined to succeed but instead she did not even get to reach graduation.

Although all of this can be seen in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, eleven hours away in Mexico City the effects of poverty can also be seen. Not even a block away from the shopping mall named Galerías del Circuito there is a bridge under which a torrent of traffic passes daily. For the past few years a family could be seen living under the bridge. They would sell gum and other trinkets at the stop light before the bridge and would offer to clean your windows for their income. They slept on all punctured mattresses that no longer even looked like they had stuffing in them. Their blankets were a bundle of torn and tattered looking rags. Their companions included several tired-looking street dogs. The walls of the bridge around them were a dirty grey for the longest time. Since Fox has arrived the walls have been painted a bright blue color making the bridge itself look cheerful and new. However, the family continues to live under the bridge - their situation no better than it was before.

Mexico is indeed going through a hard time but it is not all bad. In fact, comparatively speaking, it could be worse off. It is no easy task to get Mexico on the road to economic recovery. On the positive side, Fox has started several new programs to get Mexicans more involved with their government. For example, he has a program called "Fox en Vivo, Fox Contigo" (Fox in Person, Fox with You). This radio show is transmitted daily around 2pm for an hour in which people can call in with their question and concerns for Fox who answers them. Also, he is trying his best to eliminate corruption (no easy task) - one of his programs has included a more open system in which people can participate and learn more about the judicial branch more easily. Fox has also made several visits to other countries in hopes to build foreign relations, particularly with the United States.

As can be seen, Mexico is going through many phases. Whether they add up to a more positive or negative outcome is yet to be seen.
The The Process of Curricular Development

Providing insight into the nature of curricular development, assistant professor of history and CAS committee member Pablo Mitchell, said that in the process of assigning different opinions, and what’s exciting about it is being able to bring together different intellectual currents. There have been useful critiques, well-founded critiques, that the CAS committee has been addressing.” Critiques, according to Mitchell and other faculty involved in the process, have been in the context of taking an interesting program and making it as strong as possible.

The most recent development in this matter took place when the department of philosophy and psychology reviewed and discussed at an EPCC meeting, where several members of the department spoke. Professor Steven Volk stated, “The discussion revolved around the way in which classes are taught, teaching to gender, and sexuality as one of the program’s major analytical points of entry, recognizing that the proposal had a basis of the proposal, but was not as consistently presented as the other elements. The feedback was processed into a clearer approach to the issue of class, and a revised version of the proposal is currently with the EPCC.”

Referring to the work of the EPCC, Geitz, associate dean of the college and chaired the meeting, said, “It was a very positive meeting. Everyone’s work now begins to clarify the basic approach of the CAS group toward this curriculum, but what we’re working on now is fine-tuning the details.”

The procedures that remain for CAS to become a working program can be separated into three items. The first hurdle involves formal approval of CAS as a major, while the second requires approval as an academic program. In both cases, EPCC makes the recommendation to the College Faculty Council (CFC), which also participates in the review process of the curriculum. It implicates structural considerations that are beyond the responsibility of EPCC, but a consensus of agreement that both the major and the program would be voted on this semester.

Integrating CAS faculty members of the CAS committee, including Norris, Mitchell, and Millette, feel optimistic about the program’s progress in the college community.

The third item is the requests for feedback on the CAS proposal. The proposal makes two: for one Latin- o Studies and one for LGBT/Queer Studies. EPCC ranks these requests in terms of priority for the curriculum, while CFC, which considers these rankings, makes the actual allocations based on available positions. The prospects for the requested positions are uncertain. Though project funding is a variable that is difficult to predict, and Geitz prefers not to provide an estimate as the matter falls under the responsibility of the dean of the college and chair of CFC Clayton LeBlanc, professor of political science, for comment on the prospects for the requested positions, he did say, “What is clear is that the positions need to be approved by CFC before job searches can begin.” LeBlanc explained that a job search could be a lengthy process, commonly taking over a year to complete, and teaching to begin the following fall semester. This means that if the positions are not approved by CFC this semester or next fall, the teaching may not begin for another two years.

The Two Positions for the Program

The fate of the requested faculty positions has been a major concern for both Geitz and CFC. Speculation has occurred that only one of the two positions will be filled, the EPCC program, a prospect that worries proponents of CAS. Millette pointed out that, in the two requested positions, “Everybody recognizes this as a major concern to allocate positions, the administration is capable, in one way or another, of finding the resources to make those possible,” he added. “What I see is pretty wide agreement around the whole college community, that this council and faculty are concerned that this is something we ought to have. We will probably find ways to make it happen if the budget is very difficult to say for sure,” said Geitz.

The Role of Students in CAS Development

There has been a concern among students that they are not needed or insufficiently involved in the development of CAS. “It’s important to have student input,” Norris first defended, and it’s for the reasons that Han explained that although the CAS movement is unique in that the faculty is driving the student activism are what brought the project to its current status. The role of students was crucial, Han maintains, because of the pressure they placed on the administration to bring the kind of faculty that ended up initiating the CAS project. Likewise, the CAS student core committee has been regularly informed by CAS faculty of the progress taking place, but has not been involved directly into the design of the CAS curriculum.

“Let the history of the program is to keep students informed. There was not an immediate intent to make a student core committee input into this,” said Norris. “I haven’t gotten a lot of critical feedback. They’re interested in what’s going on, they want to know what’s going on. We deal with issues as they come up,” Norris said that currently students have been involved concerning about the extent of their input. CAS student core members acknowledged that students have been playing a passive role so far. Han commented, “Our power is very limited, it is restricted because we don’t know, we can’t go into those meetings. We hear about things after they happen.” The criticism of the role of the class in the CAS curriculum, for example, took place as an exchange between CAS faculty and other students. Ensuring that the burden of the issue only after the discussion had taken place and the revisions had been made, said Norris. Han said that limiting the number of students in the curriculum design to faculty may be the conventional approach, but that there is potential in CAS to challenge these institutional dynamics. Furthermore, according to Han, for students to be involved, this process is to place all trust on the initiative, which may pose some problems. “A lot of students are skeptical about the impact of the classes, their personal student goals and administrative goals have clashed,” said Han, adding that this is a critical stage because the list of mid-level courses picked from the existing curriculum for the CAS program.

Addressing these concerns, Norris said, “Certainly we’re not trying to keep students out of this. But there’s always a certain amount of thinking going on that the curriculum is the faculty’s. But this is not to say that students shouldn’t and haven’t had input in this process. The importance of communication between faculty and students has been effective so far. The junior and CAS student core committee members, offered an item for a free exam. ‘The curriculum partly belongs to the faculty, but it also belongs to us, because we’re the users. If there’s no students, there’s no classes. If students don’t like the classes, they will simply go away. Communication between faculty and students has been effective so far.”

Up to press time, Han is the only member of the core committee that has received these course proposals. Noting that the proposal has not been shared in hard copy with the student core committee, Norris said that currently the proposal is only circulating in EPCC and consultation with other CAS faculty will be necessary in order for the proposal to be passed on to students. Geitz, when questioned about how students could play a role in helping CAS come through, cautioned against student militancy, “I think it’s important to have open but rather reasoned discussions of why we need this, what we would do with it, or why sooner is better than later. I think this sort of thing is always helpful, but I don’t think we need demonstrations,” said Geitz.

Expressing a common feeling among involved students, Westbrook added, “I would love to have given more trust and taken more seriously. In the meantime, the CAS faculty is going through the process of how to voice its concerns more emphatically. ‘I think it’s important for students to work closely with the administration and faculty, that even though this program has been faculty driven, students are really concerned and really want to be part of this movement,’” said Han. She added that...
in taking a more aggressive stance, the student core committee did not wish in any way to alienate faculty or administrators, but rather to engage in a constructive collaboration.

As far as student access to curricular decisions is concerned, according to college seniors and EPPC members Sarah Wheeler and Naomi Sabel, there is another consideration that has been given inadequate attention on campus. This is the fact that of the three positions in EPPC available to students, there are only two currently being filled. It is within the student senate’s role to recruit and appoint candidates for these positions, and both Sabel and Wheeler feel that this responsibility should be given much more attention. They explain that students represent somewhere between a third and a fourth of the total voting power within EPPC. Furthermore, EPPC is a very influential committee, providing the general faculty with advice on a range of issues concerning educational plans and curricular development, such as graduation requirements, the credit/no entry policy, or proposals for new programs. Many faculty members do not have the time to inform themselves thoroughly on each specific proposal, so they often rely on recommendations made by EPPC.

Sabel and Wheeler commented that student manifestations are “kind of ironic” as long as student voting power is not being fulfilled in EPPC. The senate is, however, scheduled to start interviewing candidates for the open position on Monday, Feb. 25.
Campus Opinions about Latino Cross-Over Stars

by Christina Morgan

It seemed to all begin with Ricky Martin's release of his self-titled debut English-language album in 1999. After the success of his single "Livin' La Vida Loca," it seemed as if the floodgates for other Latino cross-over pop stars were opened. Marc Anthony, Enrique Iglesias, and now Columbian-born rock star Shakira, among others, have all-released English-language albums in an attempt to tackle the U.S. music market.

But has the so-called "Latin Explosion" really introduced the American audience to real música Latina? Shakira's Laundry Service was slammed in the November 2001 edition of Rolling Stone as being "lost in translation." A quick glance at the titles of the album's English tracks such as, "Rules" (Cause these are the rules for us), "Ready for the Good Times" (I'm ready for the good times/Now that I'm not alone) and "Fool" (But I can't help it if I'm just a fool/Always having my heart set on you) do leave the Latina-Rock Goddess sounding painfully TRL cliche.

Even with the apparent Latin music explosion in the U.S. market, many Latino musicians complain that they will not receive U.S. airplay unless they record in English. "Si no entiendes, no atiendes; if they don't understand, they don't pay attention," said the legendary queen of salsa Cubana Celia Cruz in an issue of Newsweek. But what do Obie-Latinos think about Latino pop-stars flooding the American music scene? "In some ways, people start thinking that Latinos and Latin Americans are like these pop stars who embody the idea of the "Latin Lover,"" junior Viviana Westbrook said. "They are seen as sexy and helps others exoticize Latino culture.

First-year Daniel Ortiz echoed this concern about Latino pop stars giving off an unrealistic stereotype of Latinos. "For example, Ricky Martin. Latino men are not all about "shake your bon-bon,"" he said.

It is very easy to hear American pop music on the radio throughout Latin America. However, it is not so easy at all to hear Spanish-language music on the radio in the United States. "I don't think they pay enough attention to the musicians that record in Spanish," Junior Gabriel Rentería said. "I don't think that it is fair that American music is listened to all over the world and hardly any of the world's music is listened to here in the U.S., even though there are people from all different parts," he said.

Due to the money factor, many Latino recording-artists might feel the pressure to tap in to the U.S. market by not only releasing songs in English, but also dying their hair blonde or dressing and acting in a certain way.

The big point is not whether they sing in English or not, but rather the nine and ten years he's spent looking at them and buying their music," sophomore Christian Figueroa said. "For example Shakira had a huge audience, she was beautiful, and now she has bleach blonde hair and is dressing like Britney Spears. The image they're selling has consequences."

Even still, not all Latinos who record in English are considered sell-outs. "Marc Anthony still records in Spanish and people like Gloria Estefan and Jon Secada also recorded in English without selling out," Ortiz said. "They are different from Ricky Martin who changed his style when he recorded in English.

Between 1997 and 1999, Latin music sales in the United States increased almost 30 percent — from $490.6 million in 1997 to $626.7 million in 1999, according to the Recording Industry Association of America. Therefore, it is no secret that Latin music has gained popularity in the U.S. Whether or not Latin music will see changes in the way it is marketed remains uncertain.

"It would be nice to see some changes, but I don't know if it will ever happen because ultimately, money is what matters to them," Rentería said. However, Ortiz expressed a more optimistic view. "There is becoming a broader market for Latino music in the U.S. It's not even but it's catching up," he said.
Poetry of the Sandinista Revolution: A Twenty Year Old Tale of Culture and Politics

By Aaron Spector

gave the parrots their

green mountains.

But there were 47 dead.

During the long

war surrounding

Sandinista rule, the

revolutionary
government had to spend

half its budget on

defense in order to

withstand the attacks

supported by the United

States government under

Reagan and Bush. The

government, which could

not even afford to build

schools and health

clinics, still managed to

sponsor an annual poetry

marathon on Dario’s birthday. These gatherings drew hundreds of people

from all walks of life to listen, laugh, and cheer from dawn to dusk in a

little amphitheater in Ciudad Dario, where the famous poet was born.

Why did people come out to a poetry reading during a bloody war

and under terrible economic strain?

Writers Margaret Randall and John Breth linger discuss the idea of

“necessary poetry.” In Nicaragua in the 1970s and 80s, many poets

responded in their writing to what they witnessed happening in their

worlds. Their work naturally took on a political nature, reflecting the

outrage felt by the masses living under the corrupt dictator Somoza.

Many poets were soldiers and held government posts, and vice versa.

In her essay “Poetry Is Not a Luxury,” Andre Lorde echoes the idea that

poetry is necessary in any struggle for freedom. Poetry, she writes,

“forms the quality of light within which we predicate our hopes and

dreams toward survival and change, first made into language, then into

idea, then into more tangible action. Poetry is the way we help give

name to the nameless so it can be thought. The farthest horizons of our

hopes and fears are cobbled by our poems, carved from the rock experiences

of our daily lives.” In Nicaragua, revolutionary poetry not only preceded

revolutionary war, but it carried on through the war, inspiring fighters,

allowing people new modes of expressing themselves, and maturing with

the writers as they grew in the fight for freedom.

Gioconda Belli, poet who

fought in the front lines of the

revolution, speaks to the conflict many

artists felt between making artistic,

physical and political contributions to the

revolution. “In the first place, of

course, it’s up to each individual what

he or she decides to do. And that

depends on great deal on the person’s

unique development and also on his or

her place within the revolutionary

process. Today there are tasks in the

revolution which demand all our

energy. Not as writers, but as organizers. And while it’s true that art,

creativity, has its social function and is important in the revolutionary

context, it’s no less true that there are priorities. In my case, the task

assigned me demands a great deal of creative energy, much dedication

and time; all I have, really. And all this has lead me to decide to try to

make my work the best poem I could write.” Belli occupies a special

place as a woman in the revolution. Here is an excerpt from a long poem

titled “Nicaragua Water Fire.”

Nicaragua, my love my little raped girl

get up now straighten your skirt

walk behind the assassin follow him

THE PARROTS

Ernesto Cardenal

My friend Michel is a commanding officer in Somoto,

near the border with Honduras,

and he told me about finding a shipment of parrots

that were going to be smuggled to the United States

in order for them to learn to speak English.

There were 186 parrots, and 47 had already died in their cages.

And he took them back to the place from where they’d been taken,

and when the truck was getting close to a place called The Plains

near the mountains where those parrots came from.

(tables mountains looked immense behind those plains)

the parrots began to get excited and beat their wings

and press themselves against the walls of their cages.

And when the cages were opened

they all flew like arrows in the same direction to their mountains.

That’s just what the Revolution did with us, I think:

it freed us from cages.

in which we were being carried off to speak English.

It brought us back to the Homeland from which we’d been uprooted.

Comrades in fatigues green as parrots.

Ernesto Cardenal

Gioconda Belli
THE DAY OF MY RELEASE
Felipe Pena

Today the 23rd of August at eight-thirty in the morning
I saw the sun shining
I stopped smelling the stench of shit and piss
No more mosquito bites, no more sleeping on the concrete floor
Today I leave behind the flies and maggots in the pits of La Bartolina
No more bare light bulbs shining in my eyes all night
and the gnats that kept me from sleeping
No longer will the lieutenant tell me I'm unpatriotic
and that I don't deserve even the air I breathe.
I leave behind the guards who tried to kill me
and even you I leave behind, you folks from my hometown,
with your hands lifted over there in the park
waving goodbye with your handkerchiefs.

FOR CHICHA (TONY) FALLEN IN NEUVA GUINEA
Bosco Centeno

You used to say that for you death was
like a beautiful poem
and when you fell your blood soaked the kernels of corn
you kept in the pockets of your uniform
and from your body the seeds sprouted up
and grew into huge and mighty stalks.

Poetry bloomed in Nicaragua after the success of the revolution
landed the Sandinistas in power. The revolutionary government, convinced
that their strength rested in an educated population, started a literacy program
which transformed the country, teaching thousands of campesinos to read and
write in a few years of intensive service. This program was backed up
by another, more radical plan sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, led
by Ernesto Cardenal. A national poetry program
began, with weekly or monthly workshops
taking place in local
Houses of Culture, usually situated in fancy buildings that had once
belonged to members of the Somoza family. The government sponsored
these workshops in the hopes of building up a public for the nation's
poets, and to give uneducated people a chance to enrich their lives
through self-expression and appreciation of poetry. Poet Daisy Zanorra,
who served in the revolutionary government as Vice-Minister of Culture,
said that "the after the literacy campaign the Ministry of Culture encouraged
a special program, a sort of literacy campaign for poetry, for all the
people of Nicaragua, because poetry has always been an important
tradition of our people. We wanted to create a public for poetry and the
possibility for anyone to write poetry."

After the revolution, poetry enjoyed a period of growth.
"Everything became the subject of poetry and poetry became accessible
to everyone," says Doctor Fernando Silva. "The people read poetry, they
wrote, they discussed and they incorporated their life into poetry, as if for
the first time they could breathe fresh air." As people saw their dreams
being realized and their battles being won, new creativity was unleashed
in the excitement. Audre Lorde writes "poetry is not only dream and
vision; it is the skeleton architecture of our lives. It lays the foundations
for a future of change, a bridge across our fears of what has never been
before." According to Cardenal, the influence of the revolution on
Nicaraguan culture was that "it's released that culture, given its freedom!
And this is something that just keeps on growing; it's infinite!"
However, due to a failing economy and internal conflicts, the Ministry of
Culture closed in 1988, two years before the Sandinistas were voted out of
office, under immense pressure by the United States.

The following poems by Felipe Pena and Bosco Centeno are examples
of their more mature work. Pena was imprisoned for about a
year by the National Guard for his involvement with the revolution.
He writes about that experience in "The Day of my Release." The last time
he saw his old teacher Mayra Jimenez, he told her "I've been trying these
days to write a long poem I've got in my head; but I've got to give it
form, coordinate the ideas." He was killed in combat, watching over a
wounded soldier, soon after. "Perhaps we could say the last poem was
enacted rather than written," writes Guillette. Centeno wrote most of his
later poems while living in exile in San Jose, Costa Rica, longing for
the natural beauty and familiar faces of Solentiname, including this tribute
to his friend Chica who died in battle.
El hilo azul de la poesía
Pablo Antonio Cuadra (1912-2002)

Pablo Antonio Cuadra, un conocido poeta nicaragüense, murió el 2 de enero de 2002 en Managua, Nicaragua. Había nacido en la misma ciudad el 4 de noviembre de 1912. Era una de las figuras literarias más influentes y respetadas de Nicaragua en el siglo XX. Ya muy joven se incorporó como fundador al movimiento vanguardista de Nicaragua, en el que, junto con José Coronel Urtecho, mostró especial preocupación por los aspectos políticos, históricos, y culturales de la nación. Fue fundador y director de varias revistas literarias importantes y sirvió como director del periódico nacional La Prensa. El 15 de octubre de 1999 recibió de las manos del presidente de Nicaragua, Arnoldo Alemán, el Premio Nacional de Humanidades, que consistía en cinco mil dólares, por sus aportes al rescate de la "nicaraguanidad" y porque la literatura es parte sustantiva de las humanidades. "Me siento muy honrado," dijo Cuadra después de haber recibido el premio. "Yo, que formo parte de la década de la Vanguardia, tomo este premio como una antorcha para pasársela a la siguiente generación como la antorcha que recorrió Centroamérica durante las fiestas de septiembre. Mantengamos el hilo azul de la poesía." Cuadra mereció este honor debido a la valentía que mostró a lo largo de su vida. Escribió Poemas Nicaragüenses en 1934, cuando el ejército norteamericano llegó a Nicaragua con el fin de meter a Augusto César Sandino, el jefe de los rebeldes nacionalistas. Además, fue uno de los intelectuales que más se opusieron a la dictadura de la familia Somoza que gobernó el país hasta 1979. En 1965, Cuadra fue encarcelado por oponerse al régimen, y su periódico, La Prensa, fue censurado por el gobierno. Su oposición al gobierno la manifestó hasta su muerte. En octubre de 1998, en el Palacio Nacional de la Cultura de Caracas se presentó una recopilación de su poesía religiosa, titulada El libro de las horas. En esa ocasión el autor declaró a la prensa: "América sólo puede encontrar y realizar a plenitud su propia identidad si logra realizar la síntesis entre cultura y fe." El autor destacó que "aquí se habla de una poesía que tiene, además, otra propiedad espiritual y es que sus palabras no sólo nacieron de la inventiva poética del autor, sino de una zona misteriosa que es todavía menos propiedad del poeta como es la fe" y que "no sólo no soy yo el autor, sino que tuve que vencer la voluntad de ser y de manifestarse de mí yo, para que mi poesía se nutriera de ese poder y de ese amor que es el sentimiento religioso; lenguaje de este libro que, repito, no es mío sino en la medida en que tuve que alejarme de mí y navegar hacia el misterio." Otro homenaje que recibió Cuadra fue celebrado el 4 de diciembre de 2001, como parte de las actividades conmemorativas del 32 aniversario del Teatro Nacional Rubén Darío. El espectáculo consistió en una velada poética que contó con la participación de muchos poetas jóvenes. No obstante, Cuadra ya estaba entonces muy enfermo y no pudo asistir a la celebración. Falleció el miércoles 2 de enero de 2002 en su casa del reparto Las Colinas, a causa de un paro respiratorio tras prolongada enfermedad, y fue sepultado al día siguiente en la ciudad de Granada.
Empanadas de Ráfia Blanca

Filling #1

2 lb ground beef
2 med onions, chopped & blend
2 green peppers, chopped & blend
4 cloves garlic, large, chopped & blend.
3/4 cup pitted olives, chopped separate
1/2 cup raisins, chopped
3 eggs, hardboiled, sliced thinly
1 egg white, beaten
tsp cayenne pepper
tsp cumin
1/2 tsp paprika
4-6 cans "Hungry Jack" standard ready made (refrigerated) biscuit

Cook vegetables and beef separately using minimum olive oil. Combine beef & veg, salt, pepper, cayenne pepper, cumin, paprika, olives, & raisins. When cooked, add eggs and refrigerate until set (not runny).

Using ready-made biscuits, roll each biscuit until 3/4" dia. Brush edge (circumference) w/egg, spoon mixture into middle and close, seal w/fork.

Filling #2

2 tbs soft butter
1 lb fresh mushrooms, chopped
1 small onion, chopped
3 tbs white wine
3 tbs sour cream

Melt butter in 10" skillet, add mushrooms and onion, saute until soft but not brown. Add wine and cook for 1 minute. Remove from heat and cool completely.

Using ready-made biscuits, roll each biscuit until 3/4" dia. Brush edge (circumference) w/egg, spoon mixture into middle and close, seal w/fork.

To cook:
1) Preheat oven to 400F, place empanadas on greased cookie sheet, brush w/egg, bake for 10-15 minutes (until light brown).

OR
2) Deepfat fry until light brown.

Gazpacho

INGREDIENTES

1 1/2 kg de tomates
3 pimientos rojos
2 pepinos
2 dientes de ajo
1 cucharadita de comino
1 cucharadita de vinagre de jerez
150 g de pan blanco
1 dl de aceite
aguas y sal

PARA LA GUARNICION

1 cebolla y 1 tomate
1 pepino
1 pimiento rojo
1 rebanada de pan blanco

PREPARACION

Limpia y trocea las hortalizas y meterlas en un recipiente con los cominos, c vinagre, el aceite y el pan; cubrir con agua, sazonar y dejarlo reposar unas horas. Triturar todo con una batidora y colarlo, añadiendo más agua si es necesario; probar de sal. Servir bien frío con la guarnición troceada finamente.

Las cantidades de la receta pueden variar según el gusto de cada uno, pero hay que tener especial cuidado con el ajo, el pepino o el vinagre, pues en exceso pueden estropear el gazpacho.