México Sigue la Lucha Contra la Injusticia Militar

Por Laura Kent-Monning

Desde la rebelión de los Zapatistas de Chiapas, México en enero de 1994, el mundo ha prestado más atención a las violaciones de los derechos humanos en el estado de Chiapas, y sobre todo a la opresión de las poblaciones indígenas allí. Como dice Carlos Montemayor en su libro "Chiapas: La rebelión indígena de México", "Ambas perspectivas, la de la cultura indígena y la de la historia de los movimientos armados en México, concurren el 1 de enero de 1994 en el abrilamiento de EZLN en Chiapas...Y acaso por ello su evolución ha enriquecido muchos de los aspectos sociales de México". Sin embargo, aunque después de la rebelión en Chiapas hay más conciencia y más acción para apoyar a los indígenas, cabe preguntarse hasta qué punto la administración de Vicente Fox realmente ha enriquecido esos aspectos sociales en México.

Hoy, el Ejército mexicano sigue cometiendo injusticias por todo el país, y la mayoría de las violaciones de los derechos humanos ocurren en los estados sur-pacíficos de Oaxaca, Chiapas y Guerrero. Mientras que Chiapas recibe la mayor parte de la atención de los periódicos, de la televisión y del gobierno, también existen casos de injusticias perpetrados contra grupos indígenas en los estados de Oaxaca y Guerrero que reciben casi ninguna atención. Sin embargo, ambos estados tienen una presencia paramilitar muy fuerte, y se puede decir que hay una guerra constante de baja intensidad ("low-scale warfare"), muchas veces acompañada de violaciones de los derechos humanos. Aunque la administración del presidente Vicente Fox ha prometido prestar más atención a la causa de los derechos humanos, muchas organizaciones internacionales han criticado a su administración por su...Continued on page 7

Current US/Colombia Relations

By Jackie Donning

On April 22, 2002, Colombian President Andrés Pastrana caught a flight from Bogota to Washington D.C., but unlike many Oberlin students, he did not make the trip to protest the war on terrorism. On the contrary, President Pastrana's journey to Washington is part of a campaign to coax the wary U.S. Congress into increasing U.S. involvement in Colombia.

Since January 2000, the United States has spent close to $2 billion in foreign aid to Colombia. On paper, this aid has been limited to counterdrug operations. The majority of the money (79%) has gone to the Colombian military and law enforcement agencies. The aid has thus far included restrictions preventing U.S. personnel and helicopters from entering direct combat with members of Colombia's two large guerrilla groups, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN). Both groups appear on the U.S.'s list of terrorist organizations.

Following the Superbowl Sunday airing of two highly controversial advertisements linking the consumption of street drugs with supporting terrorism, President George W. Bush announced his intention to expand U.S. involvement in Colombia. With the addition of at least $439 million more dollars, U.S. aid would no longer be restricted to fighting drugs. In fact, if Congress passes Bush's proposal, all past, Continued on page 7

Colors of Rhythm Lights up Finney Chapel

By Wilson Skinner

Finney chapel on the evening of March 14th was not its normal Sunday self. The good-sized audience attending the performance of Colors of Rhythm was very vocal, especially those in the rows towards the front. The show was sponsored by a number of groups on campus and provided an opportunity for minority and under-represented groups on campus to express themselves in a festive atmosphere. From a quick glance at the program the diversity of the acts is apparent. These included dances reflecting the many waves of immigrants to the Philippines, a piece which was aptly titled "waves". The piece entitled "Shreisi Shahker Ullashey" presents a poem by the national poet of Bangladesh composed, evoking those who died in the Bengali language struggle in 1954, in a unique form of dance-poetry. One of the most crowd pleasing acts was that entitled "Shake It Up", which combined aspects of modern hip-hop and Ethiopian traditional dance. The dance troupe combined their choreographed routine with a fair amount of improvisation, which had the crowd on their feet cheering.

After a quick intermission there was still more dancing to come, the MCs tried to pull off a variety show style routine, but only some jokes were well received and other came up a little short, but their short acts did manage to keep people's energy up. The first act of the second half was a salsa improv by Jorge Sanchez and Katherine Fernandez. The atmosphere was set by two couples sitting at tables in partially by candles giving the stage the feel of a restaurant or café. The dancers were dressed very stylishly, but many were astonished that Katherine was able to move so gracefully in such high heels. The piece Continued on page 9

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Spain:
Amnesty International has accused Spain of widespread mistreatment of foreigners. Spain, which currently holds the European presidency, is the first European country to receive a report of this type from Amnesty. There have been numerous reports of beatings and sexual abuse of poor immigrants. Racial profiling is also cited as being prevalent and tolerated by the authorities. The report focused on 320 cases between 1995 and 2002. (New York Times)

Venezuela:
Hugo Chavez was back in power two days after his ouster. The coup was brought about by high ranking military officials and prominent business leaders. Massive protests erupted in the capital, Caracas, as supporters and detractors of Chavez filled the streets. Despite the coup he still remains very popular with the poor and certain sectors of the military. (New York Times)

Pedro Carmona has said in a phone interview with El País that he never received help from either Spain or the United States. He has been under house arrest since he was displaced from the presidency he held for one day. (El País)

Peru:
Outside Lima an Incan mass grave was discovered, which thus far has yielded as many as 2,200 individuals. As many as 15,000 people were estimated to have been buried there. The site called Puruchuco-Huapocrones is located at the foot of desert foothills at the eastern edge of metropolitan Lima. The burial most likely took place around the year 1540. (Washington Post)

Brazil:
The Simpsons, one of Fox networks and America's most popular shows has alienated itself from Brazilians. An episode aired on March 31 had the family visiting Rio De Janeiro, where Bart became addicted to a racy children's show "teleboobies." Homer is kidnapped by a taxi driver and Lisa goes looking for a poor child she sponsored from Springfield. Though not broadcast in Brazil, the show was seen by Brazilians living abroad and also picked up by the media. (Washington Post)

Puerto Rico:
The Puerto Rican legislature announced that April 19 will be the day of solidarity and brotherhood with the island of Vieques. The small island off the eastern shore of the main island of Puerto Rico. Vieques has been used for several decades for live ammunitions training by the United States navy. The campaign to stop the bombing has increased dramatically in recent years and President Bush promised that the navy would be out of Vieques by spring 2003. (El Nuevo Diá)

Argentina:
In the province of San Juan dozens of civil servants blocked ministers and other government officials from entering government buildings. Additionally hospitals and other public properties were occupied. (El Nuevo Diá)

United States:
Last Thursday, the United States passed a new law aimed at improving security along the national borders as well as

include any mention of the much awaited 245I amendment, which would have allowed these foreigners to apply for official documented status without leaving the country. The law was approved by a vote of 97 to 1. (Univision.com)

Cuba:
Ex-president of the United States, Jimmy Carter, recently announced that he will be taking a trip to Cuba from May 12-17. A spokesman for the ex-president has said that Carter does not have any specific political agenda in mind, but does indeed hope that his presence will help the future relations between Washington and Havana. (Univision.com)

Panama:
The Truth Commission (Comisión de la Verdad), which was created last year in Panama to investigate the disappearance of 110 people between 1968 and 1989, has recently given a 700 page report to current President Mireya Moscoso, in which they have documented various crimes committed by the government in power during that period. In other words, they have concluded that the military was to blame for these disappearances. (Univision.com)

Guatemala:
Last Tuesday, former Guatemalan president (1993-1996) Raimundo de León Carpio passed away in Miami. His son has experienced severe complications as a result of his diabetes. He was 60 years old.

Nicaragua:
Honduras:
La Interpol and the Honduran Police have begun a massive search for ex-Honduran Executive Director in Jordan, Faiz Elmadi Khuri, who has been accused of selling Honduran passports and residency cards to various people suspected of having connections with Al-Qaeda. The federal agents became suspicious when several passports were reported as being lost. (Univision.com)

Last Sunday was the 100-day anniversary of Nicaraguan President, Enrique Bolanos's term. Many people have criticized him because he has not successfully developed plans to reduce poverty. However, others have praised him for his fight against corruption. (Univision.com)
Upcoming Labor Rally

By Micah Maidenberg

On May 1st, thousands of people from all parts of the US will converge in Washington, D.C. to lobby Congress for a general amnesty for undocumented workers in the US and full labor rights for all workers. According to Beatriz Maya, a union organizer for the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) who spoke at Oberlin on April 19th, the May Day mobilization is especially important in light of the recent Supreme Court decision to limit immigrant rights—denying immigrant workers the right to organize a union, preventing them from voting and becoming citizens, and providing easy deportation procedures for employers.

More and more workers in the US are immigrants. Maya said. Concentrated in low wage industries that make up an ever-greater percentage of the job market, immigrant workers must contend with low wages, non-payment of wages, sexual and physical harassment, and no possibility of collective bargaining to improve job conditions. Maya said.

York and Washington, pro-amnesty marches happened in Washington DC, Los Angeles, Chicago, and other cities. Maya said, and US labor movement has embraced amnesty legislation and full rights for undocumented workers. Since the attacks, the climate in Washington for progressive immigration reform has deteriorated. The May 1st Lobby Day aims to put amnesty back on the agenda.

FLOC is holding buses to Washington on May 1st, and is inviting students to attend. The buses will be leaving from Toledo on April 30th at night and return late night on May 1. If you would like to go, email Beatriz Maya at bmay@floc.com.

VOCES

Aló Presidente
Una Obra de Teatro Original
(An Original Play)

Saturday:
4 de mayo - May 4th
4pm
Cat in the Cream

Monday:
6 de mayo - May 6th
9pm
Cat in the Cream

Escrito por Gabriel Alvarado - (Written by)

Dirigido por Gabriel Alvarado, Emile Bokaer - (Directed by)

Producido por Raphael Sznajder-

Aguirre - (Produced by)
Pura Vida is Your Guide to The Good Life

by Alexis Stoller

If you travel anywhere in Costa Rica, you will undoubtedly encounter the phrase “pura vida.” Often used as a form of hello, goodbye, and thank you, its literal translation, “pure life” has an inherent meaning that is far more expressive. The origin of this phrase is unusual; in 1956, after the premiere of the Mexican film, “Pura Vida!” a small number of the population adopted this saying, and by the early 70’s, the majority of Ticos were using it on a daily basis as a kind of unofficial national motto. Nowadays, this phrase has come to embody the Costa Rican mentality and lifestyle—it emphasizes simplicity, the importance of family, and a respect and appreciation for the everyday gift of life. The innate positivism and gratitude in this idiom reflects the type of culture and beauty of the Tico nature, and is used as a universal acknowledgement in almost all conversations.

This past winter term, while living on my godmother’s cattle farm in the central region of Guanacaste, I had the opportunity to work with many Ticos, who, with ease, were respectfully living the essential “pura vida” lifestyle. The employee that I became closest to was Jeanette, a widow and Tican mother of two. On a few other occasions, I had some short conversations with Oldman, a single Tico man with a number of girlfriends, and Tomás, a married and charming elderly grandfather. In the short time I was with these individuals, I learned a great deal about their perspective about life and about their sustained attitude of calmness and undaunted character.

Jeanette, although faced with multiple obstacles growing up, proved to be one of the most humble and soft-hearted Ticos I met. Jeanette is a cook and maid; she is a short and plump woman, and sings when she prepares all the meals. She keeps a tidy and plain living space, talks to the parrots, and giggles while she feeds the spider monkeys that come down to the kitchen window for breakfast treats every morning. Every weekend she commutes back to Heredia (a suburb of San José), three hours away from her work in order to spend time with her children and mother. As a teenager, Jeanette came from a poor family, and has supported herself independently by working for foreign households since she was sixteen. She has no formal education and was not able to finish any type of secondary schooling because of her need to work full-time. Shortly after turning twenty, she got married, and over the next two years, gave birth to her children, Elena and Luis. The more I got to know her, the more I gained an understanding of her amazing patience and perseverance. Jeanette is constantly sacrificing financially and emotionally because of her separation from her relatives, yet she knows that no one else will take responsibility for their well-being. When I learned of the low cost of living in Costa Rica, I also found that most foreigners tend to under pay their employees to a point of extortion. Jeanette told me that her monthly salary is approximately sixty-thousand Colones, or about $175. Regardless of how low expenses are, living under forty-four dollars a week and simultaneously supporting three other family members is a duty and challenge that few could take on. When Jeanette inquired about how much she would make in the US working minimum wage, I was embarrassed to reveal the amount, and how much of a struggle it is to live in the States on the same wage.

While stirring cake batter, she said with true innocence, “for the rest of my life, I will be working in a house; I hope that someday I will be able to live all the time in one of my own.” At the moment Jeanette is sacrificing being with her children and family in order to support them all, however, it was her childlike persona and, ironically, her mature responsibility that gave me compelling and sensitive insight into the definition of “pura vida.”

For the rest of my life, I will be working in a house; I hope that someday I will be able to live all the time in one of my own.

Few people are on a search for the essence to learn what makes one achieve a pure life. Costa Rica, for some, has proven to be a haven for this quest. While visiting with my godmother Christina, I realized how popular not only a vacation, but relocation spot Costa Rica is for foreigners. Ticos have learned to make a profit off of “pura vida” in a way that is uniquely honest because the country itself offers innumerable body and mind rejuvenating surroundings. Most of the non-Ticos I met were elderly Americans that were seeking to retire and spend their last years relaxing in the tropics. Comically, I learned that a number of the elderly single, divorced, or widowed men also take pursuit in young Tican ladies. Some of them have girlfriends an average twenty-five years younger, however, most of these relationships are of convenience and established so that the woman can better support her family (or children). Younger people have relinquished their homes in the States because of their interests in the outdoors and the low-pressure lifestyle. Among the foreign population, the more Americans that are exposed to the Costa Rican “pura vida” are enlightened by its benefits.

Of course, the advantage that no one is required to pay taxes on their
annual income nor for life or car insurance also reinforces minimal stress levels, however, generally the pace of Tico life is as fast and demanding as one wants to live day to day. Even though over the last ten years the cost of land has almost doubled (sometimes even tripled along the coastlines), its price, relative to American standards, is still extremely affordable. Property taxes are almost non-existent which also promotes the purchasing of land in any of the Costa Rican provinces.

Canadians and Germans can also be found in great numbers. While eating lunch with Tomas and Oldman, they both commented on the number of expatriates that have been “hiding in the hills” since World War II. Oldman jokingly spoke of three older Germans that he used to work for who used to shield their faces or run away when any of their friends wanted to take pictures with them. “Needless to say,” in slow words, he said to me, “they didn’t have one photo of themselves, their families, or friends in their house.” With wide eyes and laugh he finished, “I’m sure they all had a past, but they treated me well.” Unsurprisingly, Costa Rica can be a great place if you’re concerned about taking cover in the jungle highlands to attain peace and quiet for reflection... Some of the most frequent tourists, however, are people from as far as Australia and many other countries in Europe and Asia who are constantly being drawn to the natural beauty, recreational activities and safety of Costa Rica. Overall, because the cost of living is so low, and accommodations are inexpensive, many first time visitors invest in property. At dinner with Christina and a number of her American and European friends, they all stated that upon their first time to Costa Rica they knew they were going to commit to living there. Bill and Evelyn, a married couple from New York explained, “once we had a taste of this area (the surrounding and quaint town of Tilarán), we knew that we wanted to wake up every morning with a view of Lake Arenal and the mountains.

The air feels so pure, and life is so easy and comfortable.”

In turn, the Tico economy is exceedingly dependent on rich foreigners and the business of tourism. New and expensive hotels are constantly being built in and around the capital San José, and various private resorts are under construction on the Pacific coast.

Lake Arenal, located in the central highlands, is known around the world for its superb windsurfing conditions as well as hang gliding, rock climbing and sulfur spring swimming. The entire country offers a collective forty national parks, wildlife and biological reserves, which have attracted many visitors and researchers involved in biological and geological sciences. An astounding ten volcanoes exist within this country’s borders, two of which (Volcán Poás and Volcán Arenal), are still active on a daily basis. Spas offering volcanic mud treatments and baths rake in exorbitant amounts of foreign money promising renewed skin and reenergized bodies. If any of you remember the home of Jurassic Park’s great fantasy dinosaurs, this Pacific paradise, also called Coco Island, is Costa Rican, the only Pacific island that gets enough rain to support a rain forest, the largest unhabited island, and arguably, one of the most beautiful in the world. Unfortunately, most people who venture the three hundred miles plus boat trip to Coco Island are professional divers usually on scuba safaris (since camping there is not allowed). Abroad, the delights of Costa Rica are romanticized, highlighting purity of life and nature, tropical greenery and exotic climate, however, Costa Rica has begun to thrive on this image, utilizing the human need for adventure and leisure.

“Pura Vida” is my favorite Tico expression, the grace behind its approach to life is appealing and special. It’s easy and effortless to complain about our stressful college lives here at Oberlin, but, its also important to have perspective on how lucky and privileged we are as students. While away and immersed in a culture that to most Americans seems primitive and old-world, I gained a greater respect for the Costa Rican lifestyle and all its gifts. I owe much gratitude to Jeannette, Oldman and Tomas for showing how simple, beautiful and pure life can be.
MATANZA EN EL CHARCO

Por Laura Kent-Monning

El Asesinato

El Charco, situado en la municipalidad de Ayutla de los Libres en el estado de Guerrero, México, es una comunidad rural y pobre donde vive gente mixteca. El 7 de junio de 1998, un grupo de soldados mexicanos entró a una escuela en El Charco y mató a once e hirió a cinco residentes de la comunidad indígena. En el momento en que entraron los soldados en la escuela, se acababa de celebrar una reunión organizada por miembros del Ejército Popular Revolucionario (EPR), una organización guerrillera. Sesenta personas habían asistido a la reunión, procedentes de diferentes pueblos, y la mayoría se había quedado a dormir en la escuela después de que terminara la reunión porque había empezado a llover.

Después de la medianoche, todos se despertaron por los ruidos de los soldados gritando, "¡Salgan, perros!" Los soldados les dijeron que matarían a todos si no salieran de la escuela. Todos tuvieron miedo y, por eso, se quedaron dentro; cuarenta minutos después, los soldados empezaron a disparar contra las paredes de la escuela. Cuando amaneció, los indígenas salieron de la escuela y fueron forzados a acostarse en el suelo mientras los soldados los maltrataban con malas palabras. Después de unos minutos, los soldados empezaron a disparar a la gente inocente. Mataron a once personas e hirieron a cinco. Los indígenas que sobrevivieron la matanza informaron a representantes de la organización Human Rights Watch que los que fueron matados estaban sentados o acostados en el suelo, sin armas de ningún tipo.

La Detención

Cuando, finalmente, los soldados pararon de disparar, algunos miembros de la comunidad fueron forzados a viajar, como prisioneros, por helicóptero a un hospital militar en Acapulco. En este hospital los prisioneros no recibieron comida ni tratamiento para sus heridas.

La investigación de la conducta militar

Desde el mismo día de la matanza, el Ejército tomó control de la documentación de lo ocurrido en El Charco. Como afirma un informe de Human Rights Watch, "Mexican law does not authorize the army to investigate civilian crimes. However, the federal judge who convicted several of the detainees pointed out that military authorities are authorized to investigate the conduct of military personnel and in the process may collect evidence that can be used in the civilian courts." Un grupo militar, la Procuraduría General de Justicia Militar (PGJM), se encargó de la investigación y, según algunos testigos indígenas, la PGJM eliminó las pruebas cruciales antes de que las autoridades civiles pudieran investigar el caso.

Evaluación

En abril de 2001, miembros de The National Lawyers Guild y de La Raza Central Legal (San Francisco) formaron una delegación, organizada por Global Exchange. Este grupo viajó a Guerrero, México para documentar violaciones de los derechos humanos contra la población indígena. Un miembro de la delegación, Bill Monning, es abogado y profesor de negociación internacional. Monning, quien enseña en Monterey Institute for International Studies en Monterey, California, conoció a muchos miembros de la comunidad de El Charco e hizo entrevistas con algunos sobrevivientes de la matanza. Monning quiso compartir algunas reflexiones de su viaje a Guerrero y, específicamente, sobre la matanza en El Charco: "The delegation was united in its conclusions that a broad and systemic violation of human rights has occurred, and continues to occur, in Guerrero. Members of indigenous communities appear to be the targets of indiscriminate intimidation, interrogation, detention, torture, and killings. Using the pretext of the "narcotraficking" and/or the search for illegal weapons and guerrillas, local police and military personnel display no respect for fundamental civil liberties, due process, or human rights. And, while these violations and criminal acts are well documented and reported, they are carried out with impunity—those responsible are not brought to justice."

Acción

Aunque el sistema militar en México sigue siendo corrupto, hay acciones que pueden ayudar en la lucha para transformarlo. Las delegaciones internacionales para documentar los abusos son muy importantes, y pueden ayudar a proporcionar pruebas para los tribunales internacionales. Además, es sumamente importante que mantengamos la comunicación con las comunidades indígenas—para su protección y su supervivencia.
presidencia de Zedillo (1994-2000) hubo una proliferación de acciones militares y, también, un aumento de la presencia del Ejército en estados rurales como Oaxaca, Guerrero y Chiapas. La administración gastó mucho dinero en la implementación de su plan militar para combatir el narcotráfico.

Human Rights Watch, una organización internacional, publicó un informe en que se documentan muchas violaciones de los derechos humanos en los estados de Chiapas y Guerrero. En este informe, escrito por Daniel Wilkinson, se dice que la mayor parte de los abusos que han sido denunciados vienen de ciudadanos que han sido maltratados por soldados que están participando en acciones en contra del narcotráfico.

Ahora, después del asesinato de abogada Digna Ochoa y Plácido, la justicia en Guerrero, Chiapas y Oaxaca ha sido más veloz en la persecución de los responsables.

El diario El Universal, un medio de comunicación importante en México, publicó un artículo en el que se denuncia la corrupción en el gobierno de Zedillo. El periódico acusó al presidente de haber lavado dinero en el extranjero y de haber utilizado el dinero público para fines personales.

La protesta estudiantil en Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, fue reprimida con violencia por la policía federal. Los estudiantes estaban realizando un paro laboral para exigir una mejor educación.

En México, a pesar de los graves problemas sociales y económicos, el gobierno continuó con su policy de promover la inversión extranjera en el país. Las empresas extranjeras invirtieron en la minería, la energía y el sector de servicios.

La situación en Oaxaca, Guerrero, Chiapas y otras regiones del sur de México fue particularmente violenta debido a la lucha por el control de la droga. Las fuerzas militares y policiales del gobierno mexicano se enfrentaron a los grupos armados en las regiones rurales.

El gobierno mexicano también enfrentó críticas por su política migratoria. La migración de trabajadores y personas buscando un mejor futuro ha sido un problema crítico en México.

En resumen, el gobierno de Zedillo enfrentó desafíos significativos durante su mandato, y la situación en México sigue siendo compleja y multifacética.

Position Available: Community Organizer: National Farm Worker Ministry
Location: Bakersfield, CA

Job Description: Educate and activate leaders and members of area rural congregations, communities and organizations to support farm workers as they organize through the United Farm Workers (UFW) for union representation, legislative initiatives and community improvement. Work will include both local organizing in the Bakersfield/Delano area, and area-wide organizing with some outreach to religious leaders in both Fresno and Los Angeles. Job Requirements: Community organizing experience; Good communication skills; ability to speak both English and Spanish and to write proficiently in English. Comfortable with public speaking. Ability to relate to clergy and other individuals of various faith backgrounds. Computer literate; ability to process word processing required. Flexible schedule; some night and weekend work required. Ability to drive and to travel within California; must have a car. Self-starter — able to work independently and as part of a group. Staff person will be the only NFWM staff in California at present, but will work closely with UFW staff. Staff person will be reporting to and in frequent communication with NFWM Executive Director; will attend at least one national staff meeting, and one national board meeting per year.

Emily Brotherton
Office Administrator
National Farm Worker Ministry
438 N. Skinker Blvd. – St. Louis, MO 63130
314-726-6470 fax: 314-726-6427

Colombia, continued from page 1 present and future aid to Colombia will be available for fighting “terrorist activities and threats to [Colombia’s] national security.”

Despite allegations that 90% of the cocaine in the U.S. and 80% of the heroin on the East Coast comes from Colombia, the war on drugs has never grown particularly popular. By sweeping Colombia under the war on terrorism umbrella, President Bush and Panetta hope to convince the American public and Congress to permit deeper U.S. involvement. They certainly found a vocal supporter in Ohio Senator Mike DeWine. Fortunately, at least some members of Congress, such as Oberlin’s representative Sherrrd Brown, remain skeptical of being drawn further into the country’s more than forty-year-old civil war.

White House’s sudden rhetorical shift from counter-narcotics to counter-terrorism, known in Colombia as the AUC. Ironically, the paramilitary forces were finally added to the U.S.’s list of terrorist organizations on September 10th of this past year, despite the well-established fact that they receive significant aid and training from the U.S.-funded Colombian military.

Whether the goal of U.S. involvement in Colombia is the eradication of drugs, the protection of oil interests or the defeat of revolutionary insurgent forces, one thing is certain: future plans for U.S. involvement in Colombia are beginning to sound dangerously similar to U.S. actions in El Salvador in the 1980s.

All concerned Oberlin students are encouraged to call their member of Congress at 202-224-3121 and attend a peaceful rally at Senator DeWine’s office in Columbus, OH on April 30th. Contact the Oberlin Peace Activists League at logan@oberlin.edu.

The illegal paramilitary forces, known in Colombia as the AUC. The group has been described as one of the most dangerous in the world.

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New hires (1): Patrick O'Connor

Professor Patrick O'Connor, currently at the University of Chicago, will be joining the department starting this Fall to teach classes in Latin American literature, culture, and film. With Prof. O'Connor's arrival the department's core faculty expands from three and a half to four and a half tenured or tenure-track positions. During the next academic year, Prof. O'Connor will teach three sections of language (Spanish 202) and two completely new courses: "Islands of History: Twentieth Century Cuban and Puerto Rican Literature" (Fall) (you might want to add a short note on the content from the current course supplement) and "Visions of Mexican Women" (Spring), which will deal with icons of Colonial women; stories by Mexican women of the Revolution; the artwork of the women of Mexico's 1930s and '40s; the film star in the Golden Age of Mexican Cinema; indigeneity, feminism, and political activism in the '60s and '70s, as well as contemporary fiction and film.

Prof. O'Connor holds a BA from Cornell University and an MA and Ph.D. from Yale University. He has published widely on Latin American literature. His main research interests are twentieth-century Latin American narrative, Latin American film, and culture, Baroque and Neo-Baroque; and literary theory, cultural studies, gender studies. He is currently finishing a book entitled Paper Dolls and Spider Women: Latin American Fiction and the Narratives of the Perverse, in which he closely reads a series of major authors of the twentieth-century Latin American literary canon in search of "narratives of the perverse" (machismo, masochism, homosexuality, fetishism, and transvestism).

New hires (2): Narciso Hidalgo

Also new this Fall will be Professor Narciso Hidalgo, the department's Medieval-Post Doc. Fellow for the coming two years. Professor Hidalgo, who was born and raised in Cuba but lived in Spain for a long time as well, will be teaching two courses per year. Next year, he is in charge of the Survey of Latin American Literature (Fall) and a freshman colloquium on New Latin American Film (Spring). Professor Hidalgo pursued studies in art at the University of Havana and studied film at the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia di Roma in 1985. As a journalist and film critic, he covered numerous film festivals in Europe and the United States, while also serving as cultural and film editor for Noticiero de las Americas in Spain. Professor Hidalgo received his Masters from Washington University in 1992 and his Ph.D. in Hispanic Literature and Culture from Indiana University in 1999. His particular areas of research interest and publication cover Afro-Cuban discourse, Caribbean cultural studies, and film studies. Dr. Hidalgo has taught at Webster University, Washington University, the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia, and Indiana University. He currently is Assistant Professor at the University of South Carolina at Aiken, where he teaches Latin American culture and civilization, and intermediate and advanced Spanish.

Senior Maggie Wickenden Wins P.P. Rogers Prize

Senior Maggie Wickenden, who has completed an honors thesis in the Department of Hispanic Studies, entitled "Conflict and Creativity: Linguist and Musical Creativity in the Caribbean Islands," is this year's recipient of the P.P. Rogers prize. The P.P. Rogers prize, named after one of Oberlin's most distinguished scholars of Hispanic Studies, was instituted in the 1980s to recognize outstanding graduating Hispanic Studies majors. The prize carried with it a monetary sum.

Prof. László Scholz Wins Translation Prizes

Prof. László Scholz, who teaches one semester a year at Oberlin and the other at the University of Budapest, was recently awarded two prestigious national prizes in Hungary in recognition of his life-long dedication to translating Spanish and Latin American literature, and particularly his recent translation into Hungarian of selected works by Jorge Luis Borges.

105 Years of Hispanic Studies: Colloquium Brings Back Former Spanish Professors

On May 4, the Department of Hispanic Studies will celebrate its second colloquium this semester under the title "Reunión en un nuevo siglo: 105 años de Hispanic Studies at Oberlin." Two former professors and an alumnus will return to campus to celebrate both Hispanic Studies' successful first year as a separate department, and the long tradition of Hispanic Studies at Oberlin—the first Spanish class was taught in 1897. The speakers include Prof. Fernando Arrojo, who will read a short story about the Camino de Santiago; Prof. Harriet Turner, who will talk about the influence of Clarín's novel La regenta on today's city of Oviedo (Spain); and Prof. Douglass Rogers '51, son of former professor P.P. Rogers. Douglass Rogers will speak about his father's trip to Spain in the summer of 1937, in the midst of the Spanish Civil War. The colloquium is held at the Casa Hispánica, open to the public, and will be followed by a reception.

Casa Hispánica Opens New Salón de Actas

The May 4 Colloquium will also be the first event to be held in the new Salón de actas of the Casa Hispánica. This room, adjacent to the House's lounge, used to serve as dining room and was later turned into a common lab. Starring next Fall, it will be used for all major events, including film showings, lectures, concerts, art exhibits and dances.

Oberlin Acquires Unique Collection of Audiovisual Material

In collaboration with Mudd Library, the Department of Hispanic Studies has recently acquired an outstanding collection of audiovisual material in Spanish from Prof. Antonio Román of Villanova University, who will be retiring next year. Prof. Román's collection consists of more than a hundred books on Spanish and Latin-American film, including a dozen film scripts: almost seven hundred recorded films and documentaries and more than a hundred original Spanish and Latin-American films on video. We are grateful to Professor Vicente Perez de Leon and the Mudd Library Staff, particularly Eric Carpenter, for making this possible.
was an improv and sometimes it showed through, because the dancers were not always in unison, that said, those moments when they were out of unison were the exception. The dancer’s individual skill showed through, as both were allowed considerable time to improv and dance alone. Some of the moves were jaw dropping, and the precision with which they were performed was flooring.

Guantanamera, a poem by José Martí, was transformed into a song, which has been sung by such diverse artists as Pete Seeger and Wyclef Jean. The version performed by Oberlin students was unique and powerful. The piece was accompanied by Jorge Sánchez on bongos and Guille Masson on guitar. The song was sung by Roselee Bowell and Erika Choate-Gutierrez, from whose pocket conspicuously hung a Mexican flag. Then on the right side of the stage stood Vanessa Tobah and Vida Vázquez. Dressed in white dresses, they did not take an important role in the piece until after several verses of the song, they began to recite poetry from memory. While they spoke the song could be heard softly in the background. The poetry recited was wonderfully written and its message very clear. The concept of identity and fatherland came up multiple times, also their disapproval of colonialism. The languages of English and Spanish were portrayed as languages of the colonizers and that their “true” language was poetry. The formation of an identity was presented as a key to breaking the chains of oppression.

The atmosphere in Finney was extremely festive, with the front rows exploding with applause and laughter. The show was a great outlet for the ethnic and cultural groups on campus to show and teach the Oberlin community about their traditions and culture. The energy of the crowd was a good indicator of the enthusiasm felt by Oberlin students for a performance of this type.

Lucha de Esperanza

¿Me vienes a amar?
Tampoco.
¿Me vienes a atormentar?
A acariciarme con el sabor del infierno
Que me quema con la belleza de mi propia pasión.
A hablarle con la melodía dulce de Orfeo
Que oigo como la más triste y perdida canción.
Sombra de esperanza casi muerta
Que se cerne en el aire, esperando
¿Por qué no se va al cementerio?
En pos de quedarse aquí recordando?
Ahora es el hielo de noche fria
En el capullo de una flor
Que para hacerse llanto de rocío
Solamente necesita el sol de tu amor.

Mío, ¿me vienes a atormentar?
No.
¡La fe dice que me vienes a amar!

- Faith Richards

Merengue
Madness Rocks
Spanish House
By Wilson Skinner

On Saturday the 13th of April, Spanish House hosted its annual fiesta, Merengue Madness. The event ran from 10pm until 2am and this year, Sammy de Leon y Su Orquesta provided the music for the entertaining evening. The Cleveland band played a mix of merengue and salsa music. The dancing began in earnest around 11pm, at which point the dance floor quickly filled up. The event attracted a very diverse crowd, including children, professors, and community members. The event cost three dollars with an OCHS and several kegs for those old enough to legally drink.

The area known as the “maze,” in between the Spanish and German houses was the site for the concert. The somewhat sterile environment of the “maze” was not enough to dampen dancer’s spirits or the band’s for that matter. The band put forth an energetic performance and took the stage several times, including a final encore in the early morning.
Meet Art Ripley,

By Wilson Skinner

Art Ripley, Voces most consistent contributor agreed to sit down and talk about how his appreciation for Spanish and Latin American cooking began. First of all the facts: Art Ripley is a Network Administrator for the college. He is no stranger to the college scene, as he has been here in Oberlin for twenty five years. Art’s office is in the often ignored side of A-level, where the computer store and other computer related offices are located. He was trained as an electrical engineer and his Oberlin job appears to be the tamest in his very interesting career, which has included competitive roller skating, working on instrumentation for guided missiles, with big names like Boeing and Goodyear.

Art’s independence and ingenuity seems apparent in every aspect of his comfortable Oberlin home. The speakers he built himself over thirty years ago, still sound like the speakers you might have bought yesterday. His computer as you can imagine from a guy who works as a Network Administrator is highly impressive, resembling a space craft more than a personal computer; and you guessed it, he built it himself. The recumbent bikes in which the rider leans back and pedals against the frame, have become much more noticeable and popular in recent years. Art’s had his for twenty eight years. One quote that I particularly liked and really seemed to express much of Art’s personality was that, “You ought to be self-sufficient”. Tangible proof of those words was all over his house and in his manner of living.

Nearly twenty years ago he met Esmeralda Martínez Tapia, now director of Spanish house (Harvey house). That friendship eventually lead Art to take a Spanish class and attend the Guadalajara winter term program, which is offered each year by the college. That was six years ago, and marked an increased interest in Hispanic and Latino culture and food. Four years ago he spent six weeks staying with friends in Córdoba, Argentina. Then two years ago he spent another six weeks staying with friends and traveling in Spain.

The recipes he submits to Voces are almost entirely ones that he learned from his friends, in Spain and Latin America. After seeing what Art is capable of, no doubt is left in my mind concerning his talents of creation. One day I hope to taste some of the wonderful recipes that I read about in Voces. So if you ever see someone biking around town in an almost horizontal position, there is a good chance that it is Art, so feel free to say “hi” now that you know his name.

Oberlin’s chef!

Paella de Mariscos al estilo Catalán

Aceite de oliva como necesario  
1 cebolla  
1 kg calamares en rodajas  
1 hoja de laurel  
2 kg camarones o cigalas  
4 tomates sin piel, sin semillas  
6 dl arroz o una copa de yogur a persona  
2 dl mejillones  
1/4 kg filetes de rape  
1 kg gambas

Primeramente se hace un sofrito de cebolla a fuego muy lento. Se añade una hoja de laurel. Cuando la cebolla se ponga blanda y marroncita, se añaden los calamares a rodajas y se frien.

Cuando los calamares están fritos, se añade el tomate triturado. En este punto debe poner un poquito de azúcar para matar la acidez del tomate.

Cuando todo está frito, se echa el arroz.

Se da unas vueltas al arroz en la paella y se añade el agua (doble cantidad que arroz). Se deben mantener durante todo este tiempo una cacerola con agua hirviendo para añadir agua a la cazuela si se agota la que echa al arroz.

Cuando falte unos cinco minutos al arroz para estar cocido, se añaden las gambas, los camarones o cigalas y los mejillones. Se deja todo unos cinco o seis minutos más.

La paella debe comenerse recién hecha (caletintia) si no pierde la calidad.

¡Que aproveche!
Ensalada Valenciana

1 6 oz can tuna
4 - 6 leaves green leaf lettuce
1 tomato
5 - 10 ripe olives
4 asparagus spears
2 - 3 mushrooms, sliced
1 sweet onion, small, peeled

Virgin olive oil, Spanish or Italian
Mild red wine vinegar

Wash and clean 4-6 leaves green lettuce, break into small pieces, spread on plate evenly to form a bed. Wash, core and cut into eighths the tomato, set evenly around circumference of plate. Drain tuna, spread chunks on lettuce. Coarsely chop onion, spread over lettuce. Lay asparagus spears evenly radiating from center of plate. Spread ripe olives and sliced mushrooms around the plate. Use oil and vinegar to taste.

La Verdura
O
Sopa Cataluña

No hay ningún secreto para preparar la verdura.

1 pata de cerdo
1 cebolla
coliflor, col, judías verdes, brocoli, etc.

El ingrediente principal es las patatas, a las que generalmente se añade cebolla y otra verdura, como coliflor, col, judías verdes, brocoli, etc. Si utilizamos judías verdes o col, en ocasiones añadimos zanahorias. Pero, es a gusto del consumidor.

Se trocean las patatas, la cebolla y la verdura elegida, cubra con agua y se hierva todo unos 30-40 minutos. ¡Buen provecho!