The Man Behind Ecuador's Face of Art: Oswaldo Gayasamín

Daniel G. Ortiz

While I researched in Ecuador I decided to look for what the people of the country have identified as their art. After one resounding answer, the late great Oswaldo Gayasamín. For those you totally unfamiliar with this man, this supreme artist, this cosmopolitan, and true humanitario, I urge you to familiarize yourself with his work and make ready to be astonished. Oswaldo was born in Guayaquil city. Quito on July 6, 1919, son of a Father Superior and a missionary mother. He graduated from the Quito School of Fine Art and from there began formulating his cutting style which prevails to this day in Latin America. He achieved all National Awards and by 1982 received the Grand Cross of the Order of Spain, he was 33 years old and this was a great honor, which was shortly compounded with the Grand Award of Honor that is the consequence humanity pays for its society of elitism. This is why I now say that looking at some of his paintings and the expression of a semi-distorted figure's face I felt such a connection from focusing on the eyes of the subject, I feel that this was probably a main goal for Gayasamín and through his style he takes the viewers focus and has the ability to draw it to wherever he wants it to be through his subtle exaggerations. Unfortunately this great man is no longer with us, he passed away on March 10, 1999 at age 79. He was at the time working on a compilation of a lifetime entitled "La Capilla del Hombre (The Chapel of Man)," which was just recently finished in November of 2002. This final work of Gayasamín stands as a monument to the life of a man who lived to express himself and the voice of his unheard brothers and sisters in humanity.

Vieta al estatismo en América Latina

por Gabriel Prieto Cogollo

La elección del periodista Lucio Gutiérrez, un coronel de la izquierda; como presidente de Ecuador ha trazado regreso y atentado a los socialistas latinoamericanos. Es comprensible: La izquierda aseguró que con Gutiérrez se crea un nuevo frente de lucha capitaneado por Luis da Silva en Brasil, Hugo Chávez en Venezuela y Fidel Castro en Cuba. Con la oposición de este frente a las reformas liberales, la globalización y el ALCA termina la crisis económica y la Corrupción en el continente.

Se equivocan. Si el cambio que trae los nuevos gobiernos es riguroso consiste en desmantelar las reformas, cerrar las economías, ampliar el proteccionismo, los subvenciones y los déficit, nacionalizar las empresas privadas y volver a la escuera senda del statismo, entonces, no existe motivo de esperanza, pues, el continente se estaría encaminando de nuevo hacia una derrota perdida con autoritarismo, atraso y violencia. Argentina y Venezuela son ejemplos de la desarticulación de las reformas y la regresión al statismo.

Para combatir la crisis y corrupción que se apoderaron de América Latina en la segunda mitad del siglo XX, es necesario profundizar las reformas y promover el libre mercado. Los monopolios estatales se volvieron monopolios privados. Se liquidió el hiperinflación, pero el gasto público continuó creciendo. Las finanzas públicas se equilibraron con la venta de los activos nacionales y el endeudamiento, hasta que la deuda hundió al sistema. En últimas con el retorno al socialismo, nacionalismo y proteccionismo en economías cerradas. Los países pobres que buscan progresar no tienen otra alternativa que el capitalismo democrático, el único sistema que crea las condiciones jurídicas, políticas y económicas favorables al desarrollo. No se conoce de ningún otro sistema que origine el crecimiento y la prosperidad de los países en desarrollo. Los estados de izquierda y derecha fracasaron en todas partes. La democracia socialdemocrática es viable en países ricos. Los socialistas latinoamericanos parecen ciegos. No existe un solo

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AND MORE!
News from the Hispanic World

The Hispanic world has found itself immersed in diverse accounts that concern the region, or in other circumstances, the whole world. This set of issues will reveal some of the most important activities going on in the region.

REGIONAL

In the last meeting of the WTO (World Trade Organization), Latin America had a predominant role in hindering the possibilities for a new agreement. The countries belonging to the G-71 conglomerate, led by Brazil, denied any possibilities of new agreements if the United States and the European Union do not reduce their subsidies on agriculture. There was also heavy dispute regarding the regulations that are imposed on international investment. In consequence, the Peruvian government decided to retire from the group in an attempt to develop a free trade agreement with the United States similar to the ones Chile and Mexico possess.

CUBA

Once again the United States government denounced that the Cuban government is producing biochemical weapons; an allegation that the Cuban government completely denied. All of this occurs in a time when the island has lost support from its partners in Europe after the detention of dissidents. Even Mexico, which has been characterized as one of its strongest allies since the revolution, has had constant struggles with the decisions of Fidel Castro. However, the Brazilian president Luiz Inacio “Lula” da Silva recently visited the island to have a meeting with his personal friend Castro. They discussed matters from ranging from human rights to commercial integration between both nations.

VENEZUELA

Venezuela has constantly been in the news after the massive strike that affected the nation during the past December. The opposition is still fighting to get a referendum that will allow for the impeachment of Hugo Chavez. The opposition has gathered the required signatures for the referendum to take place, however, the electoral tribunal has to verify and place a date for the event. Hugo Chavez has been trying to reignite the economy that has plummeted without a solid petroleum industry. In addition, it has received criticism from the OAS and USA for its recent repossession of transmission equipment from Globovision, a well known television station.

COLOMBIA

The extremely popular president Alvaro Uribe has had positive and negative news during in the last couple of weeks. After a meeting with Collin Power, his government was congratulated on its constant opposition to the guerrilla forces in the country. The report showed that violence as well as drug traffic has drastically reduced in the country during his mandate. In addition, he was promised greater support from Washington to continue eradicating guerrilla forces from the country. However, the ELN recently kidnapped tourists from Israel, Germany, Spain and England. Each of their governments is demanding actions from Uribe, but their rescue could take very long.

ARGENTINA

The newly elected government of Néstor Kirchner has been digging up the past of the so-called “Dirty War.” As a youngster he opposed the dictatorship, and in August, he pasado Congress to terminate two laws that forbid the judgments of military or police officers who were involved in the dictatorship that lasted from 1976 to 1983. In the past week, the detention of the first military and police officers was ordered by a judge and the case of ESMA, one of the highly noticed clandestine detention centers, was opened. Even though these trials may be the first step to justice, experts judge that the last decision will have to be taken by the Supreme Court, which will have to determine if the laws follow the Constitution.

VOICES NEEDS

WRITERS

PHOTOGRAPHERS

LAYOUT

AND MORE...

e-mail us:

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ggriotto @oberlin.edu

Felipe Latorre

Las noticias que escuchamos todos los días se han tornado en una situación monótona. La verdad es que la huelga en la cual participa la gran mayoría de la población venezolana está llegando a su segundo mes sin ninguna indio de su pronta finalización. Todo este ajetreo se debe a la persistencia de un hombre y su afán por mantenerse apagado al poder que siempre quiso tener. Este hombre ya tiene un nombre que resuena macabramente en la mente de los ciudadanos venezolanos y de la población mundial en general, Hugo Chávez. Él ha tomado al mundo por sorpresa desde su ascenso al poder excepto por la destrucción que ha causado en su país. Las peticiones de la oposición son razonables, talvez hasta obligatorias, y van de acuerdo a los derechos de una población. Por otra parte, el gobierno intenta tomar las riendas de todo el país sin dar oportunidad a las negociaciones aferrándose de toda forma al poder. La oposición posee peticiones razonables en una sociedad que es supuestamente democrática. Esta faceta del conflicto está formada por casi toda la población venezolana: esta Fedeclaración que es la unión de las empresas, también se encuentra presente el CTV que es la unión de trabajadores más importante del país, pero estos no son los únicos grupos que se han sumado a la medida de hecho, los trabajadores de PDVSA, la compañía estatal de petróleo que extrae la mayor cantidad de divisas para el país protesta junto a ellos. Ese es el caso que estamos enfrentándonos a Chávez excepto los denominados “chavistas” que conforman un 20% de la sociedad, o en números, unos cinco millones de personas. Ellos piden un referendum en el cual el país decida si quiere que Chávez se quede en el poder o que se destituya. Es una petición totalmente razonable por una sociedad que no encuentra la paz o tranquilidad para poder prosperar.

continued on page 3
VOCES

Already, thousands upon thousands of wildlife have been affected.

Chiaver continued from page 2

Por otra parte el honorable parlamentario Hugo Chávez sólo busca quedarse en poder de cualquier forma. Desde que comenzó la huelga se ha aferido a la constitución de la república al mencionar que solo puede haber un referéndum a la mitad de su término presidencial que recién sucede en agosto. De esta manera ha rechazado cualquier forma de diálogo aun cuando el presidente, de la OEA, Cesar Gaviria, ha puesto su servicio como mediador en diversas ocasiones. Con el control que posee de las fuerzas armadas de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez toma control de PDVSA y de la policía de Caracas. Esta centralizando el poder alrededor suyo y de sus colaboradores. Últimamente está tomando posesión de compañías privadas que se suman al control del Estado. Por ejemplo, la Coca Cola. ¿No parece este situación a la de una dictadura? ¿No estamos frente a una dictadura del continente? La sociedad venezolana no quiere estar en este modo para seguir y no aceptarla, por eso seguirá protestando hasta que la situación cambie.

El futuro de Venezuela en este momento es incierto. Se aproxima el segundo mes de confrontaciones pero nadie desea ceder un milímetro. Las posibilidades de diálogo aún con organismos internacionales como mediadores disimulan de manera drástica. Hugo Chávez es un líder demasiado testarudo y ambicioso de poder que no dejará el poder fácilmente. Las vías democráticas se van reduciendo cada día y la impaciencia de los venezolanos incrementa a medida que el tiempo pasa. Estas dos características en combinación presentan un futuro susto. Hugo Chávez debería aceptar hacer el referéndum pero teme ser desalojado ya que va a una gran masa de venezolanos que lo desprecia. Ha llegado un momento que él desista del poder la situación no va a mejorar, la única solución vendrá cuando Chávez salga del poder para dejar que Venezuela prospere de la democracia y civilizada.
Behind the Church: A Look at a Religious Myth in Ecuador

daniel ortiz

During the times I spent in Quito, Ecuador visiting the cities beautiful center I became immersed in the rich religious cultural history. Being a catholic nation is nothing uncommon to Latin America but the level of devotion exhibited in Ecuador is without a doubt the largest I've found. While walking through the center of the city I found nine churches in the immediate vicinity of the presidential palace, one of which was the old cathedral. These religious monuments actually receive funds from the Catholic Church so that they do not wither away with the rich history of folklore and legend. I was fortunate enough to hear a few of these stories and have two that I would like to share. The legend behind Saint Domingo's church goes that once there was a man who didn't believe in God, or anything for that matter and he lived a self destructive and abusive life. He was regularly seen drinking drunkenly causing havoc in the town until one day he and a rooster crossed paths and the rooster nearly picked him to death but let him live and told him to reform his life or he would surely be picked to death the next time they met. The man was said to have totally changed, and the rooster is supposedly the same rooster that sits atop the old cathedral as a statue. The second story is about a native "Indio" architect that was assigned to build the new church of San Francisco for the bishop. The man was told that he had only one month to complete the huge project so it is said that he sold his soul to the devil for the ability to finish his project by the dead line. As the month came to an end the devil came to collect his soul but to his dismay the architect left the one stone out of the church so that it was officially incomplete and the devil was unable to take his soul, but the bishop was impressed and the church still stands today with one stone missing.

Vuelta al estatismo
continued from page 1

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Vuelta al estatismo
continued from page 1
Pablo Neruda’s Poetry
Translated by: Tehezeeb Moltra

The Son of the Moon

Everything here is living, creating, fulfilling; without acknowledging my patience. And yet, when the position of these rails were set, a hundred years ago, I was never touched by the cold. My drenched heart did not lift (for the rains of the skies of Cautin) even one movement to help to extend the roads of the velocity from which it was borne.

I never put a finger in the race for the public space that my friends threw towards the magnificent Aldebaran.

And of the selfish organisms; that only hear, live and continue (doing so) I suffered countless humiliations; for which no one can keep track of the sobs for the verses for which they cannot cry. With my energy that pours onto the page on the dust, on the stones of the road.

And having traveled so long without breaking the minerals or cutting the wood I feel that I don’t belong to the world which is of those who hammer and hack and raise these buildings. Because of the plaster that created and endured the maintenance of these designs the other hands that were soiled with the dirt and the blood I no longer have the right to proclaim My existence: I was the son of the moon.

The Earth

The lizard’s iridescence, the shell winged with mother-of-pearl, the excessive leaves of the pongee, like the hands of Goliat-And these insects that follow me singing to me and make me continue-

Oh how perverse the watches are that nature has invented in order to compound every minute of my life and confirm it is passing in my binding to its creations: to the spiders, to the swans to the birds and butterflies.

How much I burned with their radiance like the colors of the water.
And I experienced the odor of the black mud, the compost of the roots, I experienced the sad voice of the frog: my fingers were like those of a young puma my look was like that of a sad bumblebee feet of an illustrious elephant testicles of mushrooms my navel with a serious look of an ancient one-eyed horse legs of a persecuted dog and my heart of a beetle.

Yummy Recipes
by: Art Ripley

Fileta de Tilapia

**Spanish:**

Pimienta negra y sal
Batir un huevo y cubrir la fileta de pescado; Cubrir de migas de pan, queso romano, y perejil.
Freír en aceite de olivo hasta marrón.
Pon un poquito de mantecilla arriba del pescado.

**English:**

One egg, beaten, coat filets.
Bread crumbs, Romano cheese, parsley, coat.
Fry in olive oil until brown.
Melt little butter on filet.

Revuelto de Cangrejo y Gambas
En la estilá de Eva

**Spanish:**

Ajo, dos dentes, picados Cinco champiñones picados 12 gambas hechas troceados una lata de carne de cangrejo una lata de alcachofas, troceados le parte verde de las cebollinas, troceadas especias italianas y pimienta negra
Sauté un mitad de ajo, y champiñones, cebol, gambas, y carne de cangrejos
Añadir cebollinas, sazón italiana. Entonces cuando esté huevo, poner en otra paella aceite y saltear alcachofas.
Sazonar. Cuando estén listas las alcachofas, mezcla todo, sazonar de nueve.

**English:**

Amp the onion, and caviar, chopped
5 mushrooms, chopped
12 shrimps, chopped
1 can of crab meat
1 can of artichokes, chopped
Greens of chives, diced
Italian spices

Sauté the onion and champignons, garlic, shrimps, and crab meat.
Add artichokes, Italian spice. Then when the eggs are cooked, put in another pan with oil and fry the artichokes.
Season. When the artichokes are ready, add everything, season with pepper.
Hispanic Community in Seattle: a study of time and place

by Samuel Garcia

Seattle, Washington - Observing the technology, the culture and the commericalism one can imagine why the "Emerald City" is a 'thrive cross-culture.' The Hispanic community has gradually expanded in Washington State, particularly in Southern and Western Seattle. Many of the Hispanics who arrived early in the 20th century were migrant workers traveling from farm to farm as part of their seasonal work rotation. Those who arrived in Washington went on to harvest Washington's main product: apples. There are those who finally settled in Seattle, however many of these were usually poor and hence dwelled in impoverished areas. [Trans.] "Many families were forced to settle down as the migration from farm to farm became difficult to handle." said Rui Caballero, whom I met at Mayu's, a Mexican restaurant in downtown Seattle. Although Seattle is well-known as a metro-cultural hybrid now, segregation was a very dominant force back then and therefore harder to integrate with predominant Scandinavian population. In a short conversation, Mr. Caballero described growing up in the outskirts of Seattle in a very rundown neighborhood as most Hispanics who arrived early to the middle 1900's. Indeed, Hispanics have come along way and have managed to peacefully integrate into some of Seattle's urban and suburban sectors such as South Park, Tukwila, Kent, SeaTac and others.

The majority of migrant Hispanic workers who settled in Seattle were of Mexican descent. According to the latest statistics they now account for 62 per cent of the Hispanic population in Seattle and the Greater Seattle Area, while mostly Cuban, Central Americans and Puerto Ricans comprise the remaining 38 per cent. Indeed, the Mexican community is truly present in certain sectors such as South Park, that many residents now call it "Little Tijuana." Hispanics as a whole comprise 11,000 of Seattle's 47,115 new residents. Much of the influx of migration to Seattle is the result of the last decade, higher than the national average for growth within this group. Presently they account for 5.38 per cent of the total population, which is significantly less in comparison to the national average of 13 percent.

Many Hispanic's who settled in Seattle the earliest found themselves in harsh living conditions. Many of the past settlers eventually became part of Seattle's commerce through, by establishing restaurants and eventually paving the way for others who would do so in the future. Like the early 20th century Hispanics the present-day Hispanics are somewhat better off but not entirely. Although they are the fastest-growing ethnic group in Washington St. and in Seattle, they have a median household income of $32,757. In comparison to whites who have a $47,000 median household income, the income gap has grown by $14,000 according to a Seattle Times analysis. Those Hispanics who have managed to establish businesses in the Seattle area are responsible for the diversity seen across the city. Most of the Hispanic influence on Seattle is a result of the fine cuisine that exists. Most of the influence is Mexican through, since most Hispanic restaurants are predominantly Mexican. There are also Cuban restaurants for those wishing to expand their horizons. Cactus, La Cocina, Habana and Burrito Loco are just a few establishments providing the Seattle metropolitan area with the authentic Latin flavor. Dishes range from tacos de carne to cenie y camaron to arepas frio con pollo guisado. However many authentic dishes has expanded to include American food as well, for example Mexican rice with fried chicken. [Trans.] "They have conjoined American foods with Mexican food to increase to attract more customers," said Diego Portillo, a waiter in La Puerta. So far it seems to be working.

Mexican wine has brought the attention of many Seattleites who dine regularly at these places. Although well known for its Tequila and Corona Beers, Mexican-American restaurant owners and other merchants import Mexican wines from Baja California and Sonora such as rich Mexican chardonnay and Mexican Sauvignon Blanc.

As Seattle is a growing city the Hispanic population is but setting in their new niche thanks to their ancestors, which made it possible by spreading their culture as well.

Up from a population of barely 8,000 in the 1970's, Hispanics have come a long way. In 1990, according to the US Census the Hispanic population swelled to 18,010. By 2000 there were at least 30,000 Hispanics settled there, representing a 62 per cent increase over the last decade.

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**Human Rights Delegation: Winter Tour in Guatemala**

by Marian Schlottberck

During the month of January, ten Oberlin College students, chemistry professor William Fuchshammer, and three Oberlin residents traveled through Guatemala as part of a human rights delegation sponsored by the network of United States Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NSUGA), a group dedicated to supporting indigenous, pacifist, and human rights movements in Guatemala in the United States at a time when human rights abuses were at their highest during the thirty-six year armed internal conflict. After the signing of the Peace Accords in 1996 between the Guatemalan government and guerrilla forces, NSUGA has supported the work of international human rights monitors and has worked to provide guidelines and resources to the communities that are responsible for creating a safe and just place to live. This was our first trip to Latin America and our first time in Guatemala, and we have been working on this trip for a year.

On our trip, we visited different communities in Guatemala, including the community of Santa Elena, which is located in the Peten region. Santa Elena is a community that has been affected by the violence of the civil war and is still recovering from the conflict. We also visited the city of Guatemala City, where we met with different groups of human rights activists and learned about the issues facing the Guatemalan population today.

The local community welcomed us with open arms and showed us the different aspects of life in Guatemala, from the traditional Mayan culture to the modern city life. We were impressed by the hospitality and generosity of the Guatemalans and the dedication of the human rights activists to their cause.

One of the highlights of our trip was visiting the community of Santa Elena, which is located in the Peten region. This community has been affected by the violence of the civil war and is still recovering from the conflict. We were able to meet with the community leaders and learn about the issues facing the community.

The community welcomed us with open arms and showed us the different aspects of life in Guatemala, from the traditional Mayan culture to the modern city life. We were impressed by the hospitality and generosity of the Guatemalans and the dedication of the human rights activists to their cause.

For many of us it was a chance to reevaluate the cynicism present in many activist efforts in the United States. While we were able to see the challenges and difficulties faced by the human rights activists in Guatemala, we were also able to see the determined spirit and resilience of the people of Guatemala. We were inspired by the community leaders and the dedication of the human rights activists to their cause.

We have the opportunity to release three day old baby sea turtles after the conservation tour. The baby turtles are released at the beach near the community, where they will be able to find their way to the ocean. The community leaders have been working on this project for several years, and we were able to see the progress they have made. We were also able to see the beautiful beaches and coastal areas of Guatemala, and we were amazed by the natural beauty of the country.

The big news in community was the arrival of the new road, which was under construction after six years of waiting, as well as the possession of land titles last fall, which will legally protect their land from seizure. and to the oldest church (Church of the town of Saa) on Saturday. On Saturday January 15th, we worked on a rescue mission called Chico Menéndez, which operated local conservation.

The new road and the new road are expected to bring economic opportunities and improve the quality of life for the community.

In conclusion, our trip to Guatemala was a learning experience that allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and difficulties faced by the human rights activists in Guatemala, as well as the determination and resilience of the people of Guatemala. We were inspired by the community leaders and the dedication of the human rights activists to their cause, and we were able to see the progress they have made.

We believe that our trip was a valuable experience that allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of the issues facing Guatemala and the challenges faced by the human rights activists in the country.
**Lina Abend**

**History**

Rice 363

Phone: 8528

Email: lsa.abend@oberlin.edu

At Oberlin since: 2001

Related courses this year: History 212: Spain in the Golden Age, History 227: The Spanish Civil War.

Primary research interests: 19th and 20th-century Spain, cultural history, popular religion

Selected publications: Manuscript on spirituality in 19th and early 20th-century Spain.

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**Bill Norris**

Sociology/Comparative American Studies (progr. director)

King 301 B

Phone: 440 775-8373

E-mail: William.Norris@oberlin.edu

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**Esmeralda Martinez-Tapia**

Hispanic Studies

Peters 411

Phone: 56735

Email: esmeralda.martinez-tapia@oberlin.edu

At Oberlin since: 1972

Related courses this year: Español 102

Primary research interests: I am interested in the Spanish language and the cultures of the Spanish speaking world and Brazil.

Talk to me if you are interested in: La Casa Hispánica, Winter Term in Guadalajara, Mexico

---

**Steve Volk**

History

Rice 309

Phone: x58522

Email: steven.volk@oberlin.edu

At Oberlin since: 1986

Related courses this year: History 109 (Latin America and State and Nation since Independence); History 294 (The United States America Through U.S. Eyes); Hist 365 (Narrating the Nation); LA-Minicourse.

Selection of courses taught relevant to field of Latino-Latin America Wars and Democracy. "Peasants, the State and Revolution in Mexico"

Primary research interests: Nationalism and Imagery, 19th Century

Recent publications include:

- "Judgment Day in Chile," NACLA Report on the Americas 36:1 (Jul)
- "Frida Kahlo Remaps the Nation," Social Identities 6:2 (June 2000)
- "Pinochet's Heirs: The Fractured Chilean Right," NACLA Report

Talk to me if you're interested in: Study away programs in Latin America (which I chair)

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**The Oberlin Network**

**Latin America, Caribbean, La**

In our first issue of the year, we wanted to provide our readers with a directory of faculty and staff who teach and have an academic/personal interest in Hispanic/Latino/a, Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The purpose of this directory is to inform people concerned with these fields about academic resources available for them on campus.

What follows is a brief account of publications, classes taught at Oberlin and academic interest of distinguished faculty across different departments. We would like to thank everyone for participating in this survey, and we invite those with similar interests to get in touch with us so that we can extend this list in later issues.

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**Geoff Pingree**

Cinema Studies and English

Rice 111

Phone: 6585

Email: geoff.pingree@oberlin.edu

At Oberlin since: 2001

Related courses this year: Form, Style, and Meaning in Cinema (CINE 101)

Selection of courses taught relevant to field of Latino-Latin American-Caribbean-Spanish studies: Next year I plan to teach a seminar on questions of cinematic authorship that focuses comparatively on the work of Luis Buñuel and Pedro Almodóvar.

Primary research interests: history and theory of documentary film, Spanish cinema

Selected publications: a recent book on new media; several articles on documentary cinema in Spain.

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Hispanic Studies

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Phone: 440 776 2332

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At Oberlin since: 08-17-03

Related courses this year: Teacher Assistant: Español 102, Español 202

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**Alicia Martinez-Marco**

Hispanic Studies

G 31 Peters Hall

Phone: 775 5590

Email: amarco@oberlin.edu

At Oberlin since: 2000

Related courses this year: Spanish language courses (intermediate and advanced)

Primary research interests: Language and linguistics

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**Rafael Reyes-Ruiz**

Anthropology

Rice 3

Phone: x56658

Email: rreyesru@oberlin.edu

At Oberlin since: 2001

Related courses this year:

Anthropology and Cultural Studies: The Latina/o Case.

Selection of courses taught relevant to field of Latino-Latin American-Caribbean-Spanish studies: Latina/o Communities in the United States (Spring 2003).

Primary research interests: Latina/o America, cultural theory, film.
Caribbean-Spanish studies: All the above courses plus "Dirty Ico," "Gender in Latin American History."
Chilean history, Frida Kahlo, Alexander Walker

y/August 2002), pp. 4-6, 43-44.
merica, the Borders Program (El Paso-Ciudad Juarez), Latin

n, Hispanic, tino/a Studies, and Related Fields
of

Patrick O'Connor
Hispanic Studies
Peters 402
Phone: 5-8922 (773 425-1767)
Email: poconnor@obерlin.edu
At Oberlin since: 2002
Related courses this year: Fantasy and Violence in Argentine Literature, 1930 – 1955.

Primary research interests:
Latin American Literature, primarily 20thc. Novel and Short Story, primarily Rio de la Plata, Mexico, and the Caribbean; literary theory, especially psychoanalytic and queer theory; U.S. Latino literature, esp. gay and women's writing

Most recent publications have been on the Argentine César Aira and gay Chicano novelist John Rechy. I'm also trying to work on post-Boom "neoliberal" Argentine literature and culture.

Nina D. Sanchez
Latino/a Community Coordinator
Multicultural Resource Center
Wilder 208
Phone: 775-5356
Email: nina.sanchez@oberlin.edu
At Oberlin since: 2003
Primary research interests: Latino popular culture, syncretism, cultural hybridity & transculturation, Latinos and the construct of race
Talk to me if you're interested in: Learning more about the resources the MRC has to support your research interests and programming ideas. Also come see me if you have questions about the graduate school experience—currently I am completing my M.A. Thesis in Latin American & Caribbean Studies at the University of Chicago.

Bill Hood
Mildred C. Jay Professor of Art History, 1974
Italian Renaissance, 17th & 18th-century
Italian, Spanish, and French Art History
Allen Art Building 125
Phone: 440 775-8667
E-mail: william.hood@oberlin.edu
Primary research interests: Afro-Cuban Religions, religions of the Americas.

Jalore Schmidt
Religion
King 141 I
Phone: 5-6477
Email: Jalone-Schmidt@oberlin.edu
At Oberlin since: began fall '93
Related courses this year: "Festivals of the Americas," (Fall); "Seminar: Afro-Cuban Religions" (Spring)
Primary research interests: Afro-Latin Religions, religions of the Americas.

Vicente Pérez de León
Hispanic Studies
Peters 403
Phone: 58581
Email: vdleon@oberlin.edu
At Oberlin since: 2000

Primary research interests:
Selected publications:
Cervantes Interludes and Exemplary Novels
Calderón’s Interludes
Evolution of Humor in Spanish Classical Interludes (Lope de Rueda, Cervantes and Calderón)
Viaje a ninguna parte, a film by Fernando Fernán Gómez
Delmira Agustini’s Poetry
Leopoldo Alas Clarín’s La Regenta.
VOCES
Winter Term

Costa Rica continued from page 1

from the year-end festivities long enough to visit the National Theater and the Central Market. Inside the bazaar, I met a young man—Javier Araya Aguirre—who convinced me to buy a box of tea noted for its healing effects from his host, Héctor Héctor Central. Todo en Herbas medicinales y maternidades. After drinking a strong cup of the brew, I left San José and headed North to the Volcano Arenal region feeling invigorated with life.

The long, bumpy ride up the mountain roads took me to a quaint cabin, consisting of a double bed and a small bathroom, nestled in the middle of the serene forest. I spent the night listening to a live symphony performed by birds, crickets, monkeys and creatures whose names elude me. The next day, I woke up earlier than I do for school to make the Cabo Negro (also known as Rio Frío) tour, which took me to the Nicargua National Reserve. The swamp-like mangrove areas is home to a plethora of animals and plants. With the help of a friendly guide with a keen eye, I spotted iguanas, Jesus lizards, a Cayman, long-nosed bats, sloths, white faced spider monkeys, and more birds than I have seen in my entire life.

I spent the next few days exploring Tabacon, a lush area sprinkled with naturally formed pools. The close proximity of Volcano Arenal heats these mineral water year-round, creating a steamy/humid area perfect for abundant plant growth. Wading in and out of these unaffected Jacuzzis, I wandered aimlessly until I reached a sign that read: Peligro—Zona de Alto Riesgo Volcanico—Prohibido El Paso. Nonchalantly brushing off the sign, I continued on a few paces forward to get a better view of the mountain looming in the near distance and gazed in disbelief upon realizing clouds of lava were spattering from her majestic slopes at that very moment. Steading myself on the quivering ground, I dared to take a single photo before making a mad sprint to safety.

After hiking back to my cabin, packed my belongings and went to sleep full of anticipation for the next day, which brought me the "Cloud Forest" of Monteverde. On the way to my new residence, Fincas Volcán, Jorge (the friendly taxi driver) stopped so I could take a picture of a group of Peacocks (long-tailed Ozuna) that had gathered around a bus full of tourists engaged in feeding them Fingles and oranges. After the long ride up North, I arrived on the hotel's grounds just in time to enjoy a typical Costa Rican dinner of fried plantains, rice, beans, avocado salad and a fresh juice concoction.

I set off early next morning and traveled unpaved, curvy road to find the famed Jardín de Mariposas (Butterfly Garden). I thought my escape to Costa Rica would give me a rest from the world of academia but I was mistaken. Heather, my animated guide, enlightened me about the world of moths and butterflies. I learned moths emerge from cocoons, are drab colors, sleep with their wings open and are nocturnal while butterflies come forth from chrysalis; are bright colors, close their wings at night and are diurnal. Turner and Heather are also an anthropologist, she told us a frightening story about a type of fly that plants her eggs in a human where they proceed to hatch and mature. At the look of alarm, she added the locals have discovered one can remove the larvae, which must periodically surface to eat, by placing a raw slab of meat

ever the infested area. As if the idea of maggots living beneath one’s skin wasn’t enough to scare a room full of foreigners into fleeing Costa Rica. Heather told me another shocking story about a malignant bug referred to as the “Azuzam.” This tiny cockroach-like insect creates a sensation similar to a hypodermic needle, when it stings its prey, and then proceeds to feed on the wound. If the wound is immediately washed, the primary is not spread, but if the host scratches the wound (as natural impulse dictates), a deadly protozoan grows in the bloodstream and remains dormant in the body for up to thirty years before attacking the host’s heart.

After pondering these marvels of nature with my guide, we continued to follow Heather through a forest area to an exhibition room with three aviaries. We observed "Leafluttor" ants in an endless parade—these tiny workers carried leaves three times their size! Even more interesting is what we got inside the nest, deep under the ground, where the leaves are processed and fed to a mold-like fungus. The Leaflutters are dependent on the fungus for their nutrition, since they are unable to digest the cellulose in leaves. As the tour comes to an end, Heather hands each of us a construction. Slowly I held the box an arm's length away before daring to remove the lid. To my pleasant surprise, a beautiful butterfly—having just emerged from its chrysalis—flutters into the sunlight. With awe, I catch the small defenseless "migalo alado," fly away.

For the remainder of the week I explore Reserva Biologica—Bosque Nuboso de Monteverde. I move from the secondary forest to the primary (untouched by people and marked by its noticeably denser foliage) forest where the abundance of Icchen bases testaments to the rainforest's purity. When I mention to a local that I am interested in medicinal plants, he leads me to a gnarled looking tree and tells me that the dopamine extracted from the trunk is used to treat patients suffering from Parkinson's disease. I continue to walk with the knowledgeable man and the phenomena of straggler figs and how the choco forest manages to stay green even in the dry season. While telling me how the Quaker community initially founded the reserve, something suddenly evoked his attention and he hesitates. Quietly respecting for his himself at the forest smiles broadly before allowing me to take a look. At first I don't see anything but as the Resplendent Quetzal turns his delicate head, I catch a fleeting glance of the exquisite bird of which I have heard so much. For a brief moment in time I have the unique privilege of beholding this endangered bird’s beauty as but as I think, its elegant green and red feathers are nowhere in sight. Still bewildered, I thank the man profusely before leaving his company. Walking across the USA meter long suspension bridge, my mind keeps wandering back to the Quetzal. Even the slightest sway of branches sparks hope and I stare expectantly into the forest. Since the Quetzal is nowhere to be found, I head to the hummingbird gallery as compensation. The quaint reserve consists of invented bottles of sugar-water (a common nectar imitator) dangling from the branches of trees. Although the hummingbirds were fun to watch, I found most amusing was a mongoose-like animal, who had strung up a wire holding a bottle to stabilize itself, greedily drinking large doses of sugar-water—needless to say, the hummingbirds received a horrible shock and promptly vanished.

A few day later I decided to be adventurous and sign-up for the notorious "Canopy Tour" where people come in contact with the Tarzan inside while soaring above the forest from one tree to another. I was fitted with a helmet, gloves, and waist straps before being hoisted into the air with a team of ten other adrenaline-seeking tourists. When I reached the platform and looked down, I tentatively searched for the Spanish words to express my second thoughts. Two of the other tourists promptly returned and now fell, left pale-faced and bewildered. As one of the left the guided fastened my waist securely and hoisted me up in my best Spanish if there was even the slightest possibility I would not make it. The man smiled and pushed me from the platform. After about 30 seconds, I was flying. Two hours, ten cables (the longest being 225 feet), 98 meters upward climb later, I left Monteverde with a new appreciation for the ground I walked on.

Before heading South, I made a detour to Parque Nacional Rincon de la Vieja. The rural setting and unpaved roads made for a bumpy ride but the views were worth the while. The park is home to waterfalls, trails and birds. I couldn't get over the leaves completely eaten and absolutely petrified, they are notl for the next five hours, I watched the scenery roll by before I reached my new residence—Hotel Parador in Quepos. While the town of Quepos holds no distinct attraction, Manuel Antonio National Park (only 2 km away) is world-renowned. Although the admission fee to the park, the beaches were nothing short of perfect—white-floor-like sand and a crystal clear ocean. I enjoyed snorkeling and hugging the ocean creatures outside the park but the highlight of my trip was to say goodbye to Costa Rica while listening to the soft Pacific waves bathe the golden beach.

As mid-December arrived, I suddenly headed home to be there for early morning flight. I through the Costa Rica through the airplane window and solemnly vowed to return again.
United States, Cuba, and a vibrant relationship

by Leila Macbeth

Through all the trials and tribulations that have been exchanged over the years, one thing is clear: Cuba and the United States are connected by a long history of a vibrant relationship.

Cuba, a country rich in culture and history, has been a source of fascination for many. The Cuban revolution, led by Fidel Castro, took place in 1959, bringing about significant changes in the country's political and economic landscape. Cuba's culture, music, and cuisine have captivated the world, making it a popular destination for tourists and artists alike.

Despite the political tensions between Cuba and the United States, there have been moments of cooperation and cultural exchange. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in understanding and exploring the vibrant Cuban culture, not only in the United States but around the world.

The relationship between Cuba and the United States is complex and multifaceted. It has been marked by periods of strained relations, as well as moments of collaboration and mutual understanding. The challenge lies in finding ways to promote dialogue and cultural exchange while respecting each other's sovereignty and values.

Cuba's rich history and culture offer a unique opportunity for mutual learning and growth. As we continue to navigate the relationship between Cuba and the United States, it is essential to remember the importance of dialogue, respect, and mutual understanding. By fostering a more open and inclusive dialogue, we can contribute to the vibrancy of Cuba's culture and the shared human experience.

Winter Term

Alexis Ponce addresses Oberlin and discusses Plan Colombia

by Mari Schlotterbeck

On November 20th, 2003, the National Security Committee was pleased to host a speaker by Alexis Ponce entitled, "Cuba and the Andean Region: the Regional Connection." Alexis is one of the foremost authorities on the international relations of Cuba and Colombia. Plan Colombia refers to the U.S.-funded aid package to Colombia as part of the "War on Drugs," with the primary beneficiaries of the package being the Colombian and Cuban military, respectively. The name was changed to the Andean Regional Initiative.

During his presentation, Ponce described the role of Cuba in the region and its relationship with the United States. Cuba's history and culture, as well as its political stance, were discussed in detail.

The presentation concluded with a Q&A session, allowing students and faculty to engage with Ponce and ask questions. The event was well-attended, and there was a strong interest in learning more about the complex relationship between Cuba and the United States.

The discussion highlighted the importance of understanding the historical context and the current dynamics of the region. Ponce's insights provided valuable perspectives on the evolving landscape of international relations in the Caribbean and Latin America.
James Millette
American Studies
Rice 212
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Vanice Samson-Macias
Art Department
166A
Phone: 775-8161
E-mail: vanice.samson-macias@oberlin.edu
At Oberlin since: 1993
Primary research interests: I work in the area of sculpture, mixed media, installation, and artists books.
Selected publications: Exhibitions since my arrival at Oberlin College.
Snapshot: A group exhibition of fragments portraying intimate or family photos, Contemporary Museum, Baltimore, Maryland.
Wooster College Museum of Art, An exhibition of drawings and sculptures entitled: North/South/East/West/Center.
White Walls: a journal of language and art. Photographs and writings are featured in issue #41 Crafting History. The piece is titled: The Many Faces of Chief Wahoo and other Lawn Jockey Poems.
Transitional Spaces for the Millennium: The Mathematical Equation of Randomness...a collaboration between the artist and African dance choreographer Amedik Sharpley. Crane Pool Oberlin, Ohio.

Joel Deppman
English/Comparative Literature
Rice 28
Phone: 440 775-8918
E-mail: Joel.Deppman@oberlin.edu
At Oberlin since: 2003
Courses: European Modernism and the World, “1917” Death and the Art of Dying

Barbara Pinedo
Anthropology
King 229C
Phone: 775-8709
E-mail: barbara.pinedo@oberlin.edu
At Oberlin since: Fall 2003
Related courses this year: Anth 210, Indigenous Peoples of Latin America; Humans Rights and Anthropology Primary research interests: Race and Ethnicity, Latin America, Indigenous Peoples, Environment
Selected publications:

Sebastiáan Faber
Hispanic Studies
404 Peters
Phone: x58189
E-mail: sebastiain.faber@oberlin.edu
At Oberlin since: 1999
Related courses this year: SPAN202, Intermediate Spanish I, SPAN310, Survey of Spanish Literature II, The Discreet Charm of the Buñuelos: Transnational Cinema and the Surrealist Legacy, SPAN 446 Literature and Exile in Spain and Latin America
Primary research interests:
Literature of Spanish Civil War Exile (Max Aub, Luis Cernuda, Paulino Masip, León Felipe, and others), Representations of the Spanish Civil War, The Crisis of the Turn of the Century in Spain and Spanish America, Institutional History of Hispanism.
Selected publications:
Talk to me if you are interested in: Voces, Fresco (Programa de Estudios Hispánicos en Córdoba).

Lisztso Scholz
Hispanic Studies
Peters 104
Phone: 56535
E-mail: fscholz@oberlin.edu
At Oberlin since: 1990
Related courses this year: Translating Latin American Literature, “The Other” in Modern Peruvian Fiction.
Selection of courses taught relevant to field of Latino-Latin American-Caribbean-Spanish Studies: Latin American New Narrative, Modern Peruvian Short Fiction, Literary Genres of Colonial Literature, The Nouvelle in Latin America...
Primary research interests: 20 C. Latin American Fiction, Short Story Analysis, Translation Theory and Practice.
Talk to me if you’re interested in: study away programs, private readings, publications, translations.

Pablo Mitchell
History
Rice 311
Phone: 440 775-8191
E-mail: Pablo.Mitchell@oberlin.edu
Pablo Mitchell is the author of "Accomplished Ladies and Coyotes: Marriage, Power, and Straying from the Flock in Territorial New Mexico, 1880-1920," in Martha Hodes, ed., Sex, Love, Race: Crossing Boundaries in North American History (NYU, 2000). He is currently completing a manuscript titled Bodies on Borders: Sexuality, Race, and Conquest in Modernizing New Mexico, 1880-1920 that analyzes the link between bodily coherence and American citizenship in turn of the twentieth century America.
Kim Faber
Hispanic Studies
Peters 124
Phone: 775-5125
Email: Kim.Faber@oberlin.edu
At Oberlin since: 1999
Related courses this year: Spanish 101 & Linguistics for Language Students (Spanish 311)
Primary research interests: Applied Linguistics, Second Language Acquisition & Language Pedagogy, Bilingual & Multilingual Issues: Bilingual Education & Raising Children Multilingually
I have studied abroad in, and traveled throughout both Spanish and Mexico. I am happy to talk with any students about either of these countries if you're interested in perhaps studying and/or working there. Additionally, I am affiliated with ACTFL which is an organization focused on the teaching of foreign languages. If you are interested in knowing more, please see me.

Esther Sanz Roncero
Hispanic Studies
Graduate Assistant
Phone: 8-3256
Email: Esther.Sanz-Roncero@oberlin.edu
At Oberlin since: Fall 2003
Related courses this year: Teaching Assistant: Español 202, Español 203

Kristina Mani
Politics
Instructor
Phone: 5-8657
Email: Kristina.Mani@s@oberlin.edu
At Oberlin since: FALL 2003
Related courses this year:

Polt 222: International Relations Of Latin America (Fall) Polt 326: Seminar: The Military And Security Issues In Latin America, (Fall), Polt 210: Latin American Politics (Spring)
Primary research interests: International Security, Democratization And War/Peace, Strategies of Non-Violent Conflict.

Ana Cara
Department/Program: Hispanic Studies (Chair)
Peters 408
Phone: 58660
Email: ana.cara@oberlin.edu
At Oberlin since: 1980
Related courses this year: Survey of Latin American Literature (Part I) (Fall), Reading Borges (Spring), Caribbean Literatures and Cultures, Spanish for Heritage Speakers.
Selection of courses taught relevant to field of Latino-Latin American-Caribbean-Spanish studies: Latino/Latin American Folklore, Modern Latin American Poetry.
Primary research interests: Latin American Folklore, Folklore and Literature, Creolization Theory, Latin American Folk and Popular Music.
Selected publications: Various articles in Latin American and Folklore journals.
Talk to me if you're interested in: Transfer of credit for Spanish courses. Majoring in Comparative Literature or Latin American Literature.

Barbara Sawhill
Language Lab Peters Hall 331
Phone: 440 775-8595
Email: Barbara.Sawhill@oberlin.edu
Director and Language Technology Specialist
The Cooper International Learning Center (ILC)
Oberlin College (Oberlin, Ohio)
August 1998 to present:
The ILC provides computer assisted language learning for the Oberlin College community. (approximately 2000 students, including the Conservatory of Music)
The languages taught at Oberlin and supported by the ILC include: ESL, Spanish, French, Italian, Russian, German, Japanese and Chinese.
Responsibilities included: Research, evaluation and promotion of appropriate instructional technologies for existing language instruction.

Meredith Gadsby
African American Studies
Rice 206
Phone: 440 775-8594
E-mail: Meredith.Gadsby@oberlin.edu
Courses: AAST 248 Literatures of the African Diaspora; AAST 347 Going Away Coming Home: Caribbean Literature

Gina M. Perez
Comparative American Studies
King 141 D
Phone: 558982
Email: gina.perez@oberlin.edu
At Oberlin since: this is my first year
Related courses this year: Latinas/os in Comparative Perspective.
Selection of courses taught relevant to field of Latino-Latin American-Caribbean-Spanish studies: Militarization of American Daily Life (Spring 2004) and other courses in Latina/o Studies.
Primary research interests: Latina/o Studies, migration, gender, political economy, urban anthropology, poverty.
Selected publications: forthcoming with University of California Press
“The Near Northwest Side Story: Puerto Rican Families and the transnational politics of belonging.”
In the Journal of Latin American Anthropology
“PuertoRriqueñas: women in the communities, as well as other publications.

Narciso J. Hidalgo
Hispanic Studies
Peters 301
Phone: 440 775-8204
Email: Narciso.Hidalgo@oberlin.edu
Courses: SPAN 313: The Emergence of the Anti-Slavery Novel in Cuba

Olga Markof-Bealaff (Olga) Title:
Visiting Assistant Professor
Office Address: Hispanic Studies
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Office Phone: 440 775-3018
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Linda Gronn
Anthropology, Archeological Studies
King 302
Phone: 58376
Email: fgronn@oberlin.edu
At Oberlin since: 1972
Related courses this year: Ancient Civilizations of the New World: The Maya
Selection of courses taught relevant to field of Latino-Latin American-Caribbean-Spanish studies: Ancient Civilizations of the New World (survey course: high cultures of Mesoamerica and Andean South America).
Primary research interests: Prehistoric archeology, museum anthropology, Talk to me if you're interested in study away programs, Museum internships, archeological field work.

Faculty & Staff
Local Thoughts

The Identity Issue of the Latino and Latin American
by Daniel G. Ortiz

Looking back at my life and the moments that have shaped the person I am and led me to the path and direction I am now facing, is something that has been prevalent in my thoughts for the past few weeks I have spent here in Ecuador. It has brought up some issues for a person like myself that identifies as a Latino, but being born in and living my whole life in the United States has had a distorted view of Latin America. This was not my first excursion to Latin America, I had been to Puerto Rico previously but the discrepancies between where I was coming from were not as large as they are here in Quito. I don’t know exactly how to describe how I feel since I’ve been there, but it is different. It’s as if a certain part of myself is coming into being, the beginning of a new feeling of understanding beyond the limits of the grasp that I have thus obtained in the States, but my understanding is definitely far from complete. I feel an awakening to become a citizen of the world and no longer can stay blinded to the world that extends beyond my country. I do not intend to sound redundant but any experience one can have outside of their respective environment adds the slightest shock to the system that is necessary for this type of growth. Where as a person you become uncomfortable for the slightest second, because of a language or a cultural barrier and then begin to see why that is, the factors of society conditioning our thought patterns is not unique to the U.S. and varies globally. Once this can be acknowledged it can be surpassed and free intelligent thought can occur leading toward a sense of global citizenship that can change the world. This experience for me was all the more meaningful taking place in Latin America being a Latino raised in the United States. My eyes were not only opened to the world but to Latin American culture, where my roots lay. My sense of understanding of this culture increased my sense of self-understanding as to where my heritage and identity are coming from. I have a more clear vision of the society my parents and grandparents came from through learning from and witnessing Latino culture and society firsthand and immersing myself in that. The sense of self-understanding that I have obtained through this experience is important to my identity as a Latino in the United States and I believe that as Latino culture evolves in the United States the issue of keeping roots in the culture of Latin American society is very important seeing as our ever expanding population is in a large part coming directly from Latin America. Forward progress must be made and this will be achieved by keeping past and present Latin American societal culture in the forefront of our thoughts.

Cómos vamos por Isaac Evans-Frantz a cambiar el mundo?

A pesar de que la gran parte de la gente de Oberlin College reconoce que hay problemas graves del medio ambiente, muchos contribuyen a tales problemas. Aunque el activismo político vale, lo que hagamos a nivel personal para cuidar el medio ambiente influye mucho más de lo que general se cree. Algunas personas creen que el énfasis en cambiar los hábitos personales distrae a la gente de las causas principales de la polución. Dicen que mientras hay empresas que animan a la gente a reciclar, ellas mismas contaminan la naturaleza. Estas personas aclaran que el gobierno no puede hacer nada en la politica de la empresa para que la gente no ponga atencion en las leyes que permiten las corporaciones contaminar el medio ambiente. Sin embargo, cierto nosotras, los estudiantes, contamos con el mundo ambiente, ayudamos a producir los problemas contra los que luchamos. Por otra parte, si nos pusiéramos a rectificar esta situacion, de tal manera reduciriamos los efectos negativos en la naturaleza, y lo que es de especial importancia, esto serviria de ejemplo a otras personas.

Este tipo de activismo se expresa con el tema "Sea Ud. una parte de la solucion, no una parte del problema." Los estudiantes de Oberlin bien comprenden el significado del tema. Además, la expresion "cambiar el mundo" es tan popular aqui que las palabras salen impresas en las camisetas oficiales de la universidad. Claramente lo que hace a los estudiantes famosos es este activismo politico.

Es indudable que cambiar la politica que causa problemas en el medio ambiente seria muy importante. No obstante, debemos reconocer que ejercercemos mas presion y poder sobre los politicos cuando nuestras acciones reflejen lo que decimos, porque sin actuar de tal manera, el publico pensara que somos hipocrates. Asi podemos enseñar a otra gente con palabras, pero podemos demostrarle nuestras creencias mas fuertemente con acciones, de tal modo que le mostraremos que somos serios y que si es posible cambiar el mundo.

Con pensar que nuestras acciones personales no logran mucho, en realidad podemos alcanzar objetivos de mayor importancia de lo que se piensa. Gracias a lo que nos ha enseñado la historia de los movimientos sociales, hemos aprendido que una accion pequena puede lograr un cambio grande. Un ejemplo clasico es el inicio del movimiento de los derechos civiles el primero de diciembre de 1955 en Montgomery, Alabama. Una mujer que se llamaba Rosa Parks, siguiendo sus creencias, se sento en la parte de delante de un autobus, una accion ilegal porque ella era negra, y asi empezó el movimiento. Fue pequena la accion, pero causo una sacudida de grandes cambios. Entonces, nadie debe decir “No es importante lo que hago.” Tenemos que seguir el consejo de Mohandas Gandhi: "No importa la magnitud de la accion; hay que hacerla.

A parte de los valores politicos y practicos de cuidar el medio ambiente, tenemos la obligacion personal de vivir de acuerdo con nuestras creencias. El libro que se llama Your Life is Your Message trata este tema. Dice que para quedarnos tranquilos y para hacer los cambios mas profundos, tenemos que cambiar nosotros mismos y nuestros hábitos. Según el autor, tenemos que analizar como nuestras acciones personales afectan el medio ambiente.

En resumen, a pesar de que es indudable que las acciones politicas son importantes para proteger este planeta, hay que cambiar nuestras propias costumbres tambien. Existen muchos modos de hacerlo, y asi podemos actuar en una manera que refleja nuestras creencias y actuar de una manera que preserve el medio ambiente.

...