

Voices

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

Daniel G. Ortiz
While I researched in Ecuador I decided to look for what the people of the country have identified as their artistic voice and I got one resounding answer, the late great Oswaldo Gayasamin. For those of you totally unfamiliar with this man, this supreme artist, this cosmopolitan, and true humanitarian, I urge you to familiarize yourself with his work and make ready to be astounded. Oswaldo was born in Ecuador's capital city Quito on July 6, 1919, son of a Native father and a mestiza mother. He graduated from the Quito School of Fine Art and from there began formulating his cutting style which prevailed to this day in Latin America. He achieved all National Awards and by 1952 received the Grand Award of the Biennial of Spain, he was 33 years old and this was a great honor, which was shortly compounded with the Grand Award of misery that is the

consequence humanity pays for its society of elitism. This critique is a denouncement of the violence of wars, (both civil and foreign), genocide, concentration camps, dictatorships, and tortures. His acclaim has afforded him to forge friendships with some very powerful people, such as Fidel Castro who gave a speech following his death where he gave Gayasamin the praise that he, "was perhaps the most noble, transparent and humane person I ever met. He painted with the speed of light and his dimension, as a human being, was humanness." To hear these words of passion towards how this man lived his life from such a distinguished man of conviction as Fidel Castro more than solidifies the effectiveness carried out by Gayasamin's message to the world. My admiration for this man was strengthened by the fact that he has such a monumental political effect but it all started with just

seeing the powerful artistic mastery displayed in his painting and sculpture. I must say that when looking at some of his paintings and the passion expressed on the semi-distorted figure's faces I felt such a connection from focusing on the eyes of the subject. I feel that this was probably a main goal for Gayasamin and through his style he takes the viewer's focus and has the ability to draw it to wherever he wants it to be though 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 devotion 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.

Vuelta al estatismo en América Latina

por Gabriel Prieto Cogliolo

La elección del populista Lucio Gutiérrez, un coronel de izquierda, como presidente de Ecuador ha tramado regocijo y aliento a los socialistas latinoamericanos. Es comprensible. La izquierda asume que con Gutiérrez se creará un nuevo frente de lucha capitaneado por Lula 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 terminarán la crisis económica y la corrupción en el continente.

Se equivocan. Si el cambio que traeran los nuevos gobiernos de izquierda consiste en desarticular las reformas, cerrar las economías, ampliar el proteccionismo, los subsidios y el déficit, nacionalizar las empresas privatizadas y volver a la oscura senda del estatismo, entonces, no existe motivo de esperanza; pues, el continente se estaría encaminando de nuevo hacia otra década perdida, con autoritarismo, atraso y violencia social. Argentina y Venezuela son ejemplos de la desarticulación de las reformas y la regresión al Estatismo.

Para combatir la crisis y corrupción que se apoderaron de América Latina en la segunda mitad de los años 1990, es necesario profundizar las reformas y promover el libre mercado. Los monopolios estatales se volvieron monopolios privados. Se liquidó la hiperinflación, pero el gasto político continúa creciendo. Las finanzas públicas se equilibraron con la venta de los activos estatales y el endeudamiento, hasta que la deuda hundió al sistema. Es inútil soñar con el retorno al socialismo, nacionalismo y proteccionismo en

Pura Vida The Costa Rican Way of Life

by Deena Guzder
Draw yourself a tropical paradise. Color the picture in pastels. Have beaches with sand that tickle the bottoms of your feet and oceans with glitter that dance on their waves. Watch yourself turn into a golden goddess under the soft inviting sun. Meet people as beautiful as the stars that adorn the night sky and as sweet as the sticky juice that runs down your chin when you bite into a perfectly ripe mango. Admire the myriad of colors that reflect off a fish's scales while snorkeling or experience the thrill of tracing the ocean's stomach while surfing. Float away forever in a therapeutic natural hot spring or lose yourself while gawking at a volcano's show of rock and lava eruptions. Imagine flying through the elevated ecosystem of a rain forest canopy. By day, bird-watch in hopes of catch-Pura Vida, continued from page 1 -ing a glimpse of the legendary Quetzal; by night, join a noisy party of howling white-faced Capuchins. Escape to a world where the threat of war is so abstract that the only standing army was abolished over half a century ago. Play a friendly game of catch with the Morpho butterflies that glide throughout this mystic wonderland. Forget your troubles, Bienvenido a Costa Rica.

to this small (size of West Virginia) country I dreaded stepping off the plane only to be bombarded with ghastrly golden arches, the John Hancock of American commercialism, and find my beloved Costa Rica exploited and deprived of her natural splendor as has happened to so many other tourist retreats. Yet Costa Rica has preserved her dignity by containing tourism. Unlike Cancun, Costa Rica prefers "Ecotodges," which demonstrate sensitivity towards the delicate nature of the rainforest's biodiversity, rather than aesthetically-unpleasing Goliath-like resorts, which attract and indulge hoards of tourist while polluting the environment and destroying the ambience. Costa Ricans realize that the fauna and flora are the country's greatest assets and they take pride in protecting them.

The day after I arrived in San Jose, the streets of the capital were crowded with people dancing and drinking from pipas (coconuts) while watching Tupo Caballos (the horse parades). I could barely pull myself away

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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-21 conglomerate headed 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 com-



pletely 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 Luis 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 critics by the OAS and USA for its recent repossession of transmission equipment from Globovision, a well known dissident television station.

COLOMBIA

The extremely popular president Alvaro Uribe has had positive and negative news during 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 Nestor Kirchner has been digging up the past of the so called "Dirty War." As a youngster he opposed the dictatorship, and in August,

he pushed Congress to terminate two laws that forbade the judgments of military or police personnel that 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 center, 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.



Paraíso perdido: la Venezuela de Chávez

by

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 indicio de su pronta finalización. Todo este ajeteo se debe a la persistencia de un hombre y su afán por mantenerse apegado 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. El 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, tal vez 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 facción del conflicto está formada por casi toda la población venezolana: está Fedecámaras 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. Básicamente, casi todo el país está confrontándose a Chávez excepto los denominados "chavistas" que conforman un 20% de la sociedad, o en números, unos cinco millones de personas. Ellos piden un referéndum en el cual el país decida si quiere que Chávez se quede en el poder o que sea destituido. Es una petición totalmente razonable por una sociedad que no encuentra la paz o tranquilidad para poder prosperar.

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VOCES NEEDS

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Prestige Oilspill

by
Lindsay Miller

With current issues regarding politics and war being what they are, issues regarding the environment have been pushed to the periphery of "hot topics." Yet, events seem to have a way of reminding us that we do, indeed, exist within a natural world and not one created from man-made products and conceptions.

The Bahaman registered ship, the Prestige, was bound for Singapore when it encountered some difficulties in a storm in mid-November. The 26 year old, single-hulled ship began leaking from a 30-50 foot crack in the hull below the waterline on November 13th. The ship, carrying 20 million gallons of fuel oil, attempted to land at ports in Spain and Portugal for repairs or to transfer its cargo. However,

it was turned away from both countries for fear that the leaking ship would affect tourism and fishing industries and cause more contamination problems at the port. As a result, the ship was ordered further out to sea. On November 19th, the Prestige broke in two and sank two miles into the Atlantic Ocean, about 150 miles from Spain's coastline.

Before sinking, the Prestige was able to release anywhere from 1.3 million to 6 million gallons of fuel oil, depending on the sources. According to the World Wildlife Federation, it is now releasing 30-40 (although other sources claim as much as 125), tons of oil a day and the leaking could continue for three years or more. Originally thought that the oil would solidify in the frigid water, it has now been confirmed by multiple sources that the ship is in-

deed leaking from at least 15 holes (as cited by the WWF). Witnesses say that the ocean off the beaches of Muxia and the Camarinas are covered in 15 inches of oil. If all of the Prestige's oil leaks out, it will be twice the size of the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska. Already, thousands

Some of the main "hits" of the November oil spill are: shellfish, Atlantic puffins, European shag, Harbor porpoise, Iberian guillemot, Balearic shearwater, Peregrine falcons and the Atlantic Islands National Park (an ecological reserve and Galicia's last remaining wild

the oil and attempting to vacuum the oil from the surface of the ocean. Solvents are also being used on beaches to degrade the oils as well.

This disaster could have been prevented, or at least drastically minimized, if the ports would have accepted the Prestige into their harbors. Also, the Prestige was a single-hulled ship, which should not be allowed on the ocean. The United States has banned single-hulled ships from its waters, which are not as reliable as double-hulled ships that offer more protection from potential damage.

Our world seems to be pulling away from issues concerning the environment, choosing to focus instead upon other topics and to be capable of solving any problem. Yet, even technology is not able to save the millions of organisms which are affected once a man-made toxin leaks into an ecosystem.

Already, thousands upon thousands of wildlife have been affected.

upon thousands of wildlife have been affected. Fuel oil is much more toxic and harder to clean up than crude oil. It also contains polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's), which within an organism can interfere with the hormonal system and reproduction, depress the immune system and can cause cancer.

lands, the once-pristine islands have been devastated by the flood of oil). The northwestern coast of Spain has been hardest hit so far, but the oil continues to spread.

Volunteers and residents have taken action by creating floating barriers, burning and hand-collecting



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Por otra parte el honorable presidente Hugo Chávez sólo busca quedarse en poder de cualquier forma. Desde que comenzó la huelga se ha aferrado a la constitución de la republica 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 tomo control de PDVSA y de la policía de Caracas. Esta centralizando el poder alrededor suyo y de sus colaboradores. Ultimamente está tomando posesión de compañías privadas que se sumaron al paro, por ejemplo, la Coca Cola. ¿No se parece esta situación a la de una isla Caribena del continente? La sociedad venezolana no quiere esa modelo para seguir y no lo aceptara, 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 aun con organismos internacionales como mediadores disminuyen 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 nublado. Hugo Chávez debería aceptar hacer el referéndum pero teme ser destituido ya que ve a una gran masa de venezolanos que lo desprecia. Hasta el 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 forma democrática y civilizada.

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NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

This is the fourth year *Voces* will be circulating around campus. The newspaper has had great success as Oberlin's only bilingual newspaper and a source of information for all readers interested in the politics, history, culture, and society of Spain, Latin America and Latino communities in the U.S. This issue addresses a variety of topics that will be of interest to most of the community, since they encompass the views and opinions of diverse fellow Oberlin students. Since there was no publication of *Voces* during the previous semester, this issue will concentrate on Winter Term projects of students who visited other nations in January 2003 and have experiences to tell. However, it will not leave behind other interesting topics in an attempt to provide an account of the current situation in the Hispanic world. In addition, this issue also includes a variety of articles on politics and art relevant to the Oberlin community. Additionally, it has articles that reflect on current events on campus as well as the ideas and feelings of a variety of peers. To help students, especially freshmen, we are including a brief biography of each of the professors involved with Latino/a, Latin American, Caribbean, and Hispanic studies on campus. We hope that the scope of the articles appeals to students interested in the field.

As continuous writers for *Voces*, both of us will enjoy working together with other contributors to continue the excellence of the newspaper. However, it is difficult to do this task alone and we would like to thank Professors Ana Cara and Lászlo Scholz for their constant contribution and support in this and previous issues. In addition, we would also like to mention Sebastiaan Faber for his constant work on this newspaper, especially mentoring us during this semester. We know you expect excellence and that is provided in this issue. Enjoy the reading! Gracias.

- Felipe Latorre and Gabriel Prieto-Cogliolo

The Arts at Oberlin



Vivir para contarla o crearla

by Felipe Latorre

¿Qué persona que sea un fanático de la literatura puede decir que no

conoce a Gabriel García Márquez? La respuesta es muy simple, nadie. Sus novelas han destellado en la escena literaria como un

resplandeciente sol de verano durante ya casi un siglo. Sus narraciones han cautivado a diversas generaciones y han obligado al hombre a soñar y vivir de una forma completa. No hay otra forma de describir una obra de García Márquez que no sea la creación de un mundo lejano pero cercano, incierto pero cotidiano, irreal pero sobre todo tangible. Esta misma esencia esta derramada sobre su nueva novela titulada, *Vivir para contarla*. Esta novela, que en realidad es una autobiografía hasta sus 29 años antes de hacer su primer viaje al exterior, refleja una cara personal e intuitiva sobre la mente de uno de los mejores autores de la lengua española de todos los tiempos.

Al comprar el libro no pude esperar para comenzar a leerlo. En realidad, de pequeño nunca me gustó García Márquez, pues pensaba que lo que escribe en tres hojas se lo puede decir en dos oraciones. El problema recae que en mis primeros años apreciando la literatura sobre la televisión, no supe apreciar su maestría. Todo cambió luego de leer por

completo *Cien años de soledad*, novela que lo llevó a ganar el Premio Nobel en 1982. Con esta obra maestra me volví un fanático de sus novelas y al saber sobre su nueva publicación hice hasta lo inesperado para poder leer su autobiografía.

Creo que lo más impactante de la obra es el epígrafe, "La vida no es lo que uno vivió, sino la que uno recuerda y cómo la recuerda." Al leer estas líneas el lector analiza sus memorias y recuerdos, pero sobre todo analiza lo que un gran cosmopolita, como García Márquez, quiere expresar. Esto se convierte evidente al transcurso de la novela, ya que el lector no sabe si el autor expresa la verdad o la esta creando. Un lector de García Márquez está acostumbrado a lo que se ha denominado "realismo mágico" y a creer hasta lo imposible por la facilidad con que se digieren las líneas. Esto sucede una vez más en esta novela pero de una manera completamente distinta. El autor recuerda su adolescencia pero no cuenta lo que el vivió sino el mito, leyenda, fantasía y folclore de la región que se entrelaza con esta realidad. El autor transforma su vida real en una de sus novelas donde la verdad y la mentira se mezclan y crean una nueva existencia.

Para los amantes de *Cien años de soledad*, esta novela es básica. García Márquez relata la forma en que concibió el nombre Macondo. No sólo esto sino que conecta la vida de su familia con la de la familia Buendía. Vemos el contexto en que escribe sobre el coronel Aureliano Buendía que en la vida real era su abuelo. Observamos muchas más conexiones en hechos como la realidad sobre los pescaditos de oro o las

bacinillas para las compañeras de su mamá. Lo más impactante es conectar ambos mundos en el momento que describe físicamente su casa y los integrantes de su familia con la imagen de la casa de la familia Buendía y su integrantes donde la mesa del comedor siempre estaba llena al igual que en la casa de sus antecesores. Al leer la novela uno no puede parar de hacer conexiones con sus antiguas obras, como él menciona, el amor y cortejo de sus padres fue la inspiración para escribir *El amor en los tiempos de cólera*. Como estos ejemplos hay centenares que conectan la narración a sus otras obras.

No quiero ir en detalles sobre lo que sucede en la obra para inducir a los lectores fanáticos a que la lean. En mi ocasión, fue una de las noches más entretenidas, desde el momento que tomé la novela no paré de leerla hasta terminar con sus casi 600 hojas. El viaje al cual García Márquez nos conduce es ejemplar para hacer una introspección sobre nuestras vidas. ¿Son nuestros recuerdos reales o en realidad los sazonomos de una manera similar a la del autor? Esto no es lo principal, aprendemos de las anécdotas de uno de los literatos más impresionantes y sabios de nuestra era. Sobre todo la diversión y sentimientos que la novela emboca nos trasladan fuera de nuestra realidad hasta ser personajes de una de sus narraciones en la cual todo es maravilloso sin importar si es melancólico o jovial. Después de leer esta novela, lo único que puedo esperar es la rápida publicación de las siguientes dos partes para entender la vida de García Márquez y divertirme junto a él en su mundo de escritor.

Behind the Church: A Look at Religious Myth in Ecuador

by 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

decay, but stand proudly as a reminder to the this city that also has a massive monument to the Virgin Mary that stands nearly fifty meters high, and is the only depiction of the Virgin with wings. All of these churches and religious monuments also have

day he and a rooster crossed paths and the rooster nearly pecked the man to death but let him live and told him to reform his life or he would surely be pecked to death the next time they met. The man is 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 only had 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 deadline. As the month came to an end the devil came to collect his soul but to his dismay the architect left 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. These stories stand as representations of the faith and religious history and changes that the people in society faced through the years in Quito, they have come down over the years and are still told to children to give them something to believe in as opposed to just looking at all of the beautiful artwork and architecture in the churches, but a meaning behind it all. For the people of Ecuador having such a long devotional religious history must give a multitude of stories to share as well as their strong beliefs, which add to their beautiful culture and history.



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

a 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 Santo Domingo's church goes that there once 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 wondering drunkenly causing havoc in the town until one

modelo estatista triunfante, sin embargo, insisten en las utopías estatistas. ¿Por qué no adaptan a sus países el exitoso modelo chileno? No ven acaso que Chile es el único país latinoamericano que mediante el libre comercio ha logrado controlar la corrupción y mantener un pujante

economía. La corrupción no surge de la libertad económica o la falta de reglamentación, como se piensa, sino de las exageradas restricciones gubernamentales.

Los socialistas que buscan sacar a sus países de la crisis y corrupción

Vuelta al estatismo

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crecimiento económico? ¿No tiene Chile un gobierno socialista? El estatismo jamás ha vencido a la corrupción, incluso en los regímenes más autoritarios, con penas de muerte para los funcionarios deshonestos. El capitalismo democrático, en cambio, ha controlado la corrupción institucionalizada mediante el desarrollo de la ética en el servicio público y la desregulación de la

harán bien en olvidar que las reformas y la globalización provienen del liberalismo clásico e iniciar el perfeccionamiento de las reformas como políticas sociales que permiten combatir eficazmente las desigualdades y la pobreza. El desafío de los liberales es convencerlos de que el libre mercado enriquece a la gente, fomenta la caridad y la defensa de los más débiles y protege el medio ambiente

Pablo Neruda's Poetry

Translated by: Tehezeeb Moitra

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 Goliath-
And these insects that follow me
sing 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 bonding 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
olívio hasta marrón..
Pon un poquito de
mantequilla 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 estila de Eva

Ajo, dos dentes, picados
Cinco champiñones picados
12 gambas hebidos troceados
una lata de carne de cangrejo
una lata alcachofas, troceados
le parte verde de las cebollinas,
troceadas especias italianas y pimienta
negra



Sauté un mitad de ajo, y champiñones, celo, gambas, y
carne de cangrejos
Añadir cebollinas, sazón italiana. Entonces cuando esté
huelo, poner en otra paella aciete y saltar alcachofas.
Sazonar. Cuando están listas las alcachofas, mezcla todo,
sazonar de nuevo.

Winter Term - Travel and Experiences



Hispanic Community in Seattle: a study of time and place

by
Samuel García

Seattle, Washington. — Observing the technology, the culture and the commercialism one can imagine why the "Emerald City" (as

a "thriving cross-culture."

The Hispanic community has gradually expanded in Washington State, particularly in southern and western Seattle. Many of the Hispanics who arrived early

sectors such as South Park, Tukwila, Kent, SeaTac and others more.

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 Cubans, 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

last decade, higher than the national average for growth within this group. Presently they account for 5.28 per cent of the total population, which is significantly less in comparison to the national average of 13 per cent.

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 though, 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

the fine cuisine that exists. Most of the influence is Mexican though, 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 carnisas y camaron* to *arroz frito con pollo guisado*. However many authentic dishes have 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 settling in their new niche thanks to their ancestors, which made it possible by spreading their culture as well. With its population on the rise we can expect the Hispanic community or the rising community to influence Seattle in several ways.

Up from a population of barely 8,000 in the 1970's, Hispanics have truly come a long way.

it is also known) has advanced so far to become the "mecca" of the Pacific Northwest. Strategically located within the Greater Puget Sound area has allowed Seattle to develop in various ways to its present status. Also one of the fastest growing cities within the US, its population size has grown immensely over the past decade according to the US Census Bureau. Most of the population growth is attributed to a new wave of various ethnic and racial groups, a leading factor in Seattle's diversification. Diversification has been widely accepted in Seattle since its inception in 1869 which already included an array of cultures, mostly all of Scandinavian descent though. Gradually though diversification has proliferated through numerous cultural influences. The Hispanic community is a prime example of this cultural diffusion: relating its cultural influences on Seattle through fine cuisine for instance. Recently, I got the chance to explore the Hispanic community out here in the Northwest Pacific and came across

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 Ruis Caballero, whom I met at *Maya'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

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

Seattle for many Hispanics is the current tight market in Southern California particularly Los Angeles, where many have come from to seek work.

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 18,000. By 2000 there were at least 30,000 Hispanics settled there, representing a 62 per cent increase over the

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

Human Rights Delegation: Winter Term in Guatemala

by

Marian Schlottbeck

During the month of January, ten Oberlin College students, chemistry professor William Fuchsman, and three Oberlin residents traveled through Guatemala as part of a human rights delegation sponsored by the Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA), a group started in 1981 to coordinate local activism on 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, NISGUA has supported the work of international companions in Guatemala and has worked to provide grassroots voices for responsible U.S. policy in the region. (<http://www.nisgua.org>)

It would be impossible to recount all of the diverse and memorable experiences in one article, so instead I will give a brief summary of our itinerary. On January 3rd, our fantastic guide and translator Heather Dean met us at the Guatemala City (Guate) airport. She briefed us on the history, culture, politics, and security concerns in Guatemala. The following day we headed to Quezaltenango (Xela) for a week of one-on-one language school and home stays with families. This time was important not only as a refresher in Spanish, but also as an opportunity to learn about the political situation through chatting with teachers, reading the newspaper, and attending special lectures. People from around the world chose to study at Proyecto Lingüístico Quezaltenango because of its left leaning politics, an aspect that was hit home at our graduation when we joined the teachers in singing the official school song "Bella Chao," which contains the line "Soy comunista toda la vida."

While in Xela we took day trips to nearby women's weaving cooperative Asociación Mayalan, the hot springs of Aguas Amargas,

efforts on indigenous communal lands with an awareness of how they are affected by larger political and environmental issues such as Plan Puebla Panama. After several hours of demanding physical labor, a volunteer guide for Chico Méndez took us back up the mountain to show us several ancient and still active Mayan altars. He not only dispelled many common misconceptions about Mayan spirituality, but also shared one of their philosophies on life in the words "Qué amenezca" (That it may dawn). This phrase took on a special significance for many in our group as we remembered it throughout the trip.

On the 12th, we returned to Guate for two days packed with meetings including: Myra Mack Foundation, (named in honor of assassinated American anthropologist), this group does human rights work, in particular with the genocide cases in the na-

current students' courage to put their lives in danger for what they believe in made a strong impression on our group. The day after our return to Oberlin, we received word that the same students have now taken over the entire university as the protest escalates.

The second phase of the delegation began on January 15th when we traveled to CopalAA, a community founded in 1993 by refugees returning to Guatemala after spending twelve years in camps in Chiapas, Mexico. The entire community turned out to welcome us with incredible hospitality. Everybody was patient with our limited Spanish abilities as three Mayan languages are spoken in CopalAA in addition to Spanish as a second language. While in community we stayed with families, attended meetings with community leaders and the woman's organization Mammaquin, and

Scorched Earth Policy of the 1980s. From there we rode in a pickup truck to Laguna Lachúa National Park for three days of rest, relaxation, and communing with nature. Another student from San Carlos University accompanied us and gave us talks on the park's ecology, as well as the detrimental environmental effects of political issues such as PPP, Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), and genetically modified foods.

For many of us it was a chance to reevaluate the cynicism present in many activist efforts in the United States.

Scorched Earth Policy of the 1980s.

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After two and half weeks on the road, the trip was certainly not winding down as we headed to Santa Elena el 20 de octubre, the community of *retornados* that the Oberlin group Santa Elena Project of Accompaniment (SEPA) has worked in solidarity with since 1997. 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. While in Santa Elena we were treated to a demonstration of chocolate making, a chance to pick cacao in the fields, and a community wide marimba dance. On our final day, SEPA members John Gates, Bill and Barbara Fuchsman, and Michael Kay presented families with scholarships that will enable their children to attend middle and high schools in nearby towns.

In the final stretch of the trip, we spent a night in Cobán, which gave us just enough time to visit the *Vivero Verapaz* orchid nursery, where volunteers preserve 600 of the more than 750 orchid species native to Guatemala. The next day we hiked in the *Biopoto de Quetzal*, a cloud forest, which is also a natural habitat for Guatemala's endangered national bird, the Quetzal. The night of the 26th was spent in Guate, during which time we had a wrap up meeting to discuss the delegation and possible courses of action upon our return.

At this point we deviated from our anticipated itinerary to spend one night at Monterrico, a breathtaking black sand beach with volcanoes rising in the distance. A half hour ferry ride through a mangrove swamp was neces-

sary to arrive at this Pacific Coast beach famous for its sea turtle hatchery. We had the opportunity to release three day old baby sea turtles after touring the conservation complex. From *la playa* we arrived in Antigua for an afternoon of relaxing in the charm-

ing, albeit touristy, colonial capital. The following morning saw us off at the Guatemala City airport with parting farewells to the talented Heather, who promises to visit us in March.

With all of these varied and valuable experiences, it is difficult at this point even to process them and grasp their full meaning. Instead, I will say that the trip allowed each of us to understand at a personal level the lasting impact left by the thirty-six year armed internal conflict on the lives of Guatemalans. We leave inspired by the incredible dedication and determination of activist groups to achieve their goals locally and to understand how they fit into the larger world perspective. This coupling of local and global activism offered us a positive example of effective change. For many of us it was a chance to reevaluate the cynicism present in many activist efforts in the United States.

Lastly we come back to the United States and into the Oberlin community with a message to share of the people's fight for a just life and of the hope and optimism that continue to exist in the face of suffering and oppression. Unlike other trips with a concrete outcome (eg. building a house), what we bring back is less tangible—a collection of memories as diverse as our experiences and an inspiration to continue efforts to work in solidarity with Guatemala and Latin America. While I was personally moved by each story of suffering, struggle, accomplishment, and hope shared with us, I believe that the giving was not one sided. In some small way our international presence reassured the activists we met that somewhere in the world others are willing to listen and to take action in support of their efforts. The exchange of ideas alone made the trip worthwhile.

The Oberlin students on the delegation feel strongly about this experience and desire to continue the work begun, and inspired, by this trip. A new student section of SEPA is in the process of being formed and any interested persons should contact the author (mschlott@oberlin.edu).

We had the opportunity to release three day old baby sea turtles after touring the conservation complex.

tional courts); UPAVIM (United for a Better Life, a women's organization in a marginalized urban community that works in handicrafts and education); Trópico Verde (an environmental organization that visited Oberlin College in Fall 2001); and lastly with newly appointed U.S. Ambassador John Hamilton at the U.S. Embassy and for an educational, albeit frustrating, experience with diplomats and U.S. foreign policy.

For many the highlight of this portion of the trip was our visit to the University of San Carlos, where by chance a protest was underway against the entrance examinations, which students believe are both discriminatory in nature and an attempt to privatize their university. The medicine and law students, who had taken over a building, gladly showed us several of the murals com-

enjoyed a marimba dance and weaving exposition. Life within the community presented us with several adjustments; for example, with no electricity the sun dictated the daytime hours, so bedtime was around 8:30 p.m. and the rain quickly turned the dirt roads into *lodo* (which reduced the way I thought of mud), thus a task as simple as walking to the elementary school became a challenge. Our stay in CopalAA allowed us to experience first hand the difficulties many rural Guatemalans face everyday. The gains the community has made in the past ten years, such as the high level of community organization based on consensus and a strong political awareness did not fail to impress us. Yet their daily lives are a struggle to survive on limited resources.

After leaving CopalAA by boat we spent the night of the 18th in Cantabul, the town that houses the *Playa Grande* military base where in the early 1980s the Guatemalan military systematically tortured and killed thousands of individuals. There a representative of MINUGUA (United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala) spoke to us about their work to monitor the implementation of the Peace Accords since 1996 and to document human rights abuses of the past and present. In 2004, MINUGUA will pull out entirely as stated in the Peace Accords, but they leave with the hope of having strengthened the framework for human rights and democ-

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 (1524) in Central America in the town of Salcajá. On Saturday January 11th, we worked with a reforestation project called Chico Méndez, which coupled local conservation

memorating the student protests of the early 1990s. During the years of repression, most of the student leaders and their faculty supporters were killed by the government for their actions of dissent, thus,



Lisa Abend
 History
 Rice 305
 Phone: 8528
 Email: lisa.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 spiritism in 19th and early 20th-century Spain.



Bill Norris
 Sociology/Comparative American Studies (progr. director)
 King 301 B
 Phone: 440 775-8373
 E-mail: William.Norris@oberlin.edu
 Classes:



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



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.
 Lisa Abend (History Dept.) and I are sponsoring a winter term project this January called "Rendering Place: Barcelona" that takes students to Barcelona and works with them as they devise different ways to represent Barcelona.



Blanca Vinuesa Zamorano
 Hispanic Studies
 403A Peters Hall
 Phone: 440 776 2332
 Email: Blanca.Vinuesa-Zamorano@oberlin.edu
 At Oberlin since: 08-17-03

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



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



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: Latino/a Communities in the United States (Spring 2003).
Primary research interests: Latin/o America, cultural theory, film.



Steve Volk
 History
 Rice 309
 Phone: x58522
 Email: steven.volk@oberlin.edu
 At Oberlin since: 1986

Related courses this year: History 109 (Latin America 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 American Studies (which I chair)

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.

erica: Conquest and Colonization); History 110 (Latin America: tes and Latin America); FYSP 175 (How Images Matter: Latin ST 150 (Historical and Political Significance of the Chilean Coup

n-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.
: 165-188.

on the Americas XXXII: 6 (May/June 1999), pp. 21-30.
merica, the Borders Program (El Paso-Ciudad Juarez), Latin



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
Italian Renaissance, 17th&18th-century Italian, Spanish, and
French Art History
Course: Spanish Art in the Golden Age, 1500_1700

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

continued on pages 12-13



Jalane Schmidt
Religion
King 141 I
Phone: 5-6477
Email: Jalane.Schmidt@oberlin.edu
At Oberlin since: began fall '03

Related courses this year: "Festivals of the Americas," (Fall); "Seminar: Afro-Cuban Religions" (Spring)
Primary research interests: Afro-Latin Religions, religions of the Americas.



Patrick O'Connor
Hispanic Studies
Peters 402
Phone: 5-8922 (773 425-1767)
Email: poconnor@oberlin.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 Río 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: 07/2003

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.



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

Selection of courses taught: 203. Intermediate Spanish II, 309 Survey of Spanish Literature I, 314 Humor and Horror in Pre- Modern literature, 306 Colloquium: Literary Commentary of Hispanic, 427 Cervantes and Don Quijote: Art, Context and Fiction, 450 Picaresque Narratives: The World Vision of Female and Male picares.

Primary research interests:

Teaching and technology. Humanistic approaches to Higher Education. Information Literacy and its applications into the classroom. Cervantes works: Genre manifestations in Cervantes' corpus: picaresque novel, burladores, celestinas, short drama. Cervantes' life: the figure of the Conde de Lemos and Cervantes as a captive.

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.



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 Aguero—who convinced me to buy a box of tea noted for its healing affects from his booth *Hierverito Central: Todo en Hierbas medicinales y macrobiotica*. After drinking a strong cup of the brew, I left San Jose 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 free 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 Caño Negro (also known as Río Frio) tour, which took me to the Nicaraguan border. The swamp-like mangrove-area 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've seen in my entire life.

I spent the next few days exploring Tabacoa, a lush area sprinkled with naturally formed pools. The close proximity of Volcano Arenal heats these mineral waters 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 warning, I ventured a few paces forward to get a better view of the mountain looming in the near distance

and gaped in disbelief upon realizing clouds of lava were spurring from her majestic frame at that very moment! Steadying 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, I packed my belongings and went to sleep full of anticipation for the next day, which brought me to the "Cloud Forest" of Monteverde. On the way to my new residence, Finca Valverde, Jorge (the friendly taxi driver) stopped so I could take a picture of a group of Pizotes (long-tailed Coatis) that had gathered around a bus full of tourists engaged in feeding them Pringles 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 up the 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 far 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 chrysalises, are bright colors, close their wings at night and are diurnal. Turns out that Heather is also an arthropologist, 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 for air, by placing a raw slab of meat

over 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 us another shocking story about a malignant bug referred to as the "Assassin." This tiny cockroach-like insect creates a sensation similar to a hypodermic needle, when it stings its prey, and then proceeds to defecate in the wound. If the wound is person or animal is spared but if the host scratches the wound (as natural impulse dictates), a deadly protozoan

primary (untouched by people and marked by its noticeably denser foliage) forest where the abundance of lichen bares testament 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 as he explains the phenomena of strangler fig trees and how the cloud forest manages to stay green

As I sailed through the sky, barely dodging protruding branches, I realized this is the closest I would ever get to flying.

is released 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 unceasing awe, we cautiously followed Heather through a forest area to an exhibition room with three anthills. We observed "Leafcutter" ants in an endless parade—these tiny workers carried leaves three times their size! Even more interesting is what goes on inside the nest, deep under the ground, where the leaves are processed and fed a mold-like fungus. The Leafcutters 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 container. Skeptically I hold 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—staggered into the sunlight. With awe, I watch the small defenseless "milagro alado" fly away.

For the remainder of the week I explore Reserva Biológica—Bosque Nuboso de Monteverde. I move from the secondary forest to the

even in the dry season. While telling me how the Quaker community initially founded the reserve, something suddenly grabs his attentions and he freezes. Quietly reaching for his binoculars he peers into the forest and 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 but as soon as I blink, its elegant green and red feathers are nowhere in sight. Still bewildered, I thank the man profusely before leaving his company. Walking across the 100-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 humming bird gallery as compensation. The quaint reserve consists of inverted bottles of sugar-water (a common nectar imitator) dangling from the branches

of trees. Although the hummingbirds were fun to watch, the sight I found most amusing was a mongoose-like animal, who had strategically curled around 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 days later I decided to be adventurous and sign-up for the notorious "Canopy tour" where people come in contact with the Tarzan inside them 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, frantically searched for the Spanish words to express my second thoughts. Two of the other tourists promptly returned their gear and left pale-faced and bewildered. As one of the guides fastened my waist straps to the cable, I asked in my best Spanish if there was even the slightest possibility that the guy-wires would snap. The man smiled and pushed me from the platform without a bothering to respond. As I sailed through the sky, barely dodging protruding branches, I realized this is the closest I would ever get to flying. Two hours, ten cables (the longest being 2525 feet long), and a 5 km upward climb later, I left Monteverde with a new appreciation for the ground I walk 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 experience was overall worthwhile. The park is home to waterfalls, trails and sulfur mud baths. Although the latter smelled absolutely putrid, they are noted for their soothing powers.

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 distinctive attraction, Manuel Antonio National Park (only 2 km away) is world-renowned. Although the admission price is arguably steep, the beaches were nothing short of perfect—white flour-like sand and a crystal clear ocean. I enjoyed snorkeling and bargaining with vendors outside the park but the highlight of my trip was simply basking under the sun while listening to the soft Pacific waves bathe the golden shore.

As mid-January arrived, I sullenly headed back to San Jose to make my early morning flight. I waved good-bye to 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 insults and dirty looks that have been exchanged over the years one thing is clear, the U.S. and Cuba are connected by a long history of a vibrant relationship. With its sibling rivalry type nature that at times bordered on abuse, this relationship just might be maturing into an adult brotherhood that is much more devoid of animosity than either of the governments involved would lead their people to believe.

Due to our governments' respective attitudes, Cuba-U.S. relations have become the forbidden fruit, and a Romeo and Juliet love affair has been brewing underground. We can only hope that this affair will find a way to avoid the customary tragic end.

Before arriving in Havana I really had no idea what to expect. The visions swirling around in my head were of old cars, falling down buildings, guerrilla style military personal and people of all races and creeds living equally in peace and harmony. They created a picture that fit nowhere into any definition of reality I'd ever come across. Trying to rid my belongings and myself as best I could, of any signs of the capitalist devil I set off for Havana. I was greeted overwhelmingly with one sentiment, that of warmth and curiosity. I witnessed

flourishing Cuban pride living side by side with every influence of U.S. culture.

As any Cuba guidebook will tell you and a trip to Cuba will confirm, if you see someone wearing an American flag chances are they're Cuban and if you see a Che shirt chances are the owner is a foreigner. Nike is the uniform, as it is anywhere else in the world. Ja Rule plays in every cheesy nightclub, and people flock to watch Tom Cruise save the day with subtitles. Although U.S. culture has become part of the fabric of the Cuban backdrop the presence of U.S. citizens is still an exotic treat. The wide eyes I got from saying I was estadounidense (from the U.S.) equalled the response to pulling a twenty out of my pocket in front of someone for whom that was two months pay. But as the number of tourists from the USA increases exponentially every year and every Cuban that can get a hold of the side of a boat heads for American shores the open relationship between our people can not be held off for long. Despite a blockade, which is nothing more than an age-old grudge between a bully and the only kid on the playground who had the balls to stand up to him, the relationship continues to grow. It reminds me of the time I was in third grade and a bully threatened to beat up my friends if they talked to me

Cuba-U.S. relations began when Cuba won their independence from Spain and the U.S. was convinced Cuba was not capable of self-government. Convinced that Cuba would decide to annex to the U.S., Cuban mission work was considered a domestic affair for years. Then we became bitter when they sold out to the commies. The original justifications for the blockade were based on Cuba's relationship with China and the Soviet Union. (Neither of which still exists, in case someone forgot to inform the Bush family) Still today if a cruise ship docks on Cuban shores its not allowed on U.S. shores for six months. The Cuban government is no innocent in this little skirmish. The biggest art museum in Havana features caricatures of former U.S. presidents dressed as cretins. It appears, however, that this rivalry has trickled down very little into the sentiments of the people on either side.

Coming from my Oberlin background with all my visions of a Cuban communist paradise I expected to face a considerable amount of anti-capitalist sentiment, people who wanted to keep the influence of the U.S.A. out of Cuba. This was just about the only thing I didn't find. People of all walks of life in the city of Havana encourage Cuba-U.S. relations. Whether people want our money or they want our music or they

want our friendship or they believe in the liberty to intermingle with whomever they choose, I was hard pressed to find anyone who wanted to keep us out.

Instead people are focused on how to make the relationship between our nations a healthy one. A man named Alfredo Prieto is currently doing research about the prevailing images of Cuba and Cubans that exist in the U.S. The main problem he talks about is the lack of information. If one person comes down to Cuba and shares their experience back home this becomes the image we have of Cuba. We picture old buildings and old cars. He wants the U.S. to know that there is so much more to Cuba than that. There is a whole other part of the city that is the center of business and social culture in Havana, as opposed to the center of tourism, which seems much less likely to catch the attention of artists and journalists. So naturally I set out to write something different that would improve the image we have here in the U.S. of Cuba.

When I first arrived I saw Cuba as an untouched fountain of purity. It was the first place I'd ever been in my life that didn't have a McDonalds on every corner. Next I heard stories about evil McDonalds executives that have already drawn up their plans for the day Castro kicks

the bucket. But as Alfredo says "Do you think we don't eat fast food, we have El Rapido on every corner." I watched the corner outside one of the big hotels in Havana filled with young Cuban women and old European men. I watched the obsession with the American dollar and the disparity it has created in the Cuban economy. Cubans earn in pesos, but because the value of the peso is so low compared to the dollar most goods, outside of bare necessities, are only available in dollar stores. I watched the desire in the eyes of the people who begged swindled and charmed my money from me. I swelled with the guilt of having so much of something that people wanted so badly. I decided on the absolute evil of tourism and resolved to tell people if they really had respect for other cultures they would stay home. I pitied these people who whored themselves for the American dollar and saw our presence as the cause of it. I tried to explain to people the abusive nature of our US culture and how they shouldn't welcome it and I shed a tear to imagine this beautiful place swarming with American tourists and torn apart by American companies. I tried to ask friends of mine why they welcomed people and culture of the U.S. Didn't they realize our culture is no better than anything they already have and it does nothing but wreak havoc on foreign cultures. The response was: to believe that the interaction was not already in full bloom was delusional. More importantly, the unique liberated and strong spirit that is Cuban, that made Cuba the destination of the worlds most rich and famous and the scene of such remarkable revolutionary triumphs is not so easily destroyed.

I spent three and a half weeks in Havana. I arrived with very little knowledge of Cuban history or culture. Any information I have is from people who chose to share their experiences with me. So in the same way that I can't attempt to describe to you anything at all about the nature of Cuba, I'm realizing I can't expect to go there and understand anything except that the place is real when you see it in front of you in a way it will never be from books or pictures or stories or movies.

Despite many statements that may easily support a shallow or exoticized image of Cuba and Cubans, I don't intend to depict or capture it for you. Instead, if you have the means and the curiosity, I encourage you to go to Cuba. Your presence and your perspective are welcome there. And, as a friend told me in the midst of complaining about the shortcomings of the Cuban government, "travel does something truly liberating for the human soul" and the city of Havana loves to show their guests a good time. And don't forget to bring gifts.

Alexis Ponce addresses Oberlin audience on Plan Colombia

by
Marian Schlotterbeck

On November 20th OSCA's Nicaragua Sister Co-op Committee was pleased to sponsor a talk by Alexis Ponce entitled, "Ecuador and the Andean Region: the Effects of a Silent War." Alexis is one of the foremost authorities on the impact of Plan Colombia on Ecuador. Plan Colombia refers to the U.S. aid package given to Colombia as part of the "War on Drugs," with the primary beneficiaries of the package being the Colombian military and police. Under President Bush, the plan was expanded to include the entire Andean region, and thus its name was changed to the Andean Regional Initiative.

Ponce described to an attentive audience in Wilder how U.S. policy and action targeted at Colombia has had detrimental effects on the whole region. For example, the aerial fumigation with herbicides directed at eradicating coca crops in Colombia has spilled over into neighboring Ecuador and wiped out many sustainable agricultural crops. As a result, some rural Ecuadorian farmers are

turning to growing coca out of desperation. Furthermore, increased U.S. military presence in Ecuador has not acted as a deterrent to drug traffickers. On the contrary, the largest shipment of illegal substances apprehended by police in Spain apparently left in from the U.S. military base at Manta. Many view the base as a potential staging ground for U.S. counterinsurgency efforts in Colombia, which will likely bring conflict to the entire region.

These and other comments were the focus of Alexis' talk. To provide a some biographical information, Edgar Alexis Ponce Bustillos is Executive Director of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights (APDH) in Ecuador. He is an expert in human rights in Ecuador, and particularly in the impact of the militarization of Ecuador as a result of Plan Colombia and the Andean Initiative. Alexis is also head of the Grupo Civil de Monitoreo de Los Impactos de Plan Colombia en Ecuador, a civil society network which now has members from Colombia and Brazil. He has met with many important officials including the Colombian

Vice-President and the head of FARC about Plan Colombia. Alexis is also an outspoken critique of the United States base in Manta, as well as U.S. fumigation program on the Colombian-Ecuadorian border.

His analysis links Plan Colombia to neoliberal policies in Ecuador, especially the dollarization program, and advocates for economic human rights in the face of IMF and World Bank restructuring programs. Alexis also works closely in support of ecological human rights, especially communities in resistance to oil development and mining projects in the Andean mountains. He is a leading member of Ecuadorian civil society with an international reputation. Alexis has traveled extensively to speak about issues of Ecuadorian human rights.

Accompanying Alexis as translator was David Kneas a recent graduate of fellow GLCA college. DePauw University (Greencastle, IN). He started working in Ecuador during his senior year through a School for International Training semester abroad program.

David returned to Ecuador upon graduation in 2000, where he started working at an eco-preserve in the Andean mountains. David has subsequently become involved in grassroots resistance to World Bank mining projects which threaten to destroy a cloud forest in the Intag region of Ecuador. He is founder of the Ecuador Solidarity Network. The ESN aims to provide solidarity with Ecuadorian civil society as it confronts neoliberal restructuring, the impact of Plan Colombia, and mining projects. David is co-producer of a documentary video on mining in Ecuador.

Lastly, Alexis and David's visit was made possible through the generous donations from the following groups: the Hispanic Studies Department, Barnard Hall Council, Pyle Inn Coop, Harkness Coop, Tank Coop, Keep Coop, and Old B Coop. For contact information for Alexis Ponce and David Kneas, write the author at (mschlott@oberlin.edu). Also much of the biographical information above came from David Kneas and Glen Kuecker of DePauw University.

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Nanette Yannuzzi-Macias
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166A
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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 snapshots 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 Adenike Sharpley, Crane Pool Oberlin, Ohio.

Jed Deppman
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At Oberlin Since: 2003
Courses: European Modernism and the World, U "187" Death and the Art of Dying

Baron Pineda
Anthropology
King 220C
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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:
"The Chinese Creoles of Nicaragua: Identity, Economy, and Revolution in a Caribbean Port City," *Journal of Asian American Studies* 4(3): 209-233, 2001.
"Creole Neighborhood or Miskito Community?: A Case Study of Identity Politics in a Mosquito Coast Land Dispute," *Journal of Latin American Anthropology* 6(1): 94-130, 2001.
"Cosmopolitan or Primitive? Environmental Dissonance and Regional Ideology in the Mosquito Coast," *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 25(4): 35-55, 2001.



Sebastiaan Faber
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At Oberlin since: 1999

Related courses this year: SPAN202, Intermediate Spanish I, SPAN310, Survey of Spanish Literature II, The Discreet Charm of the Buñuels: Transnational Cinema and the Surrealist Legacy, SPAN 446 Literature and Exile in Spain and Latin America

Selection of courses taught: Span 423 - The Crisis of the Turn of the Century and the Discourse of Decadence, Spa 445, The Spanish Novel After 1975 Span 465, ¡Viva la raza! Constructions of Hispanic Identity.

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:

Exile and Cultural Hegemony: Spanish Intellectuals in Mexico (1939-1975). Nashville: Vanderbilt UP, 2002.

"Between Cernuda's Paradise and Buñuel's Hell: Mexico Through Spanish Exiles' Eyes." *Bulletin of Spanish Studies* 80.2 (2003): 219-40.

"Learning from the Latins: Waldo Frank's Progressive Pan-Americanism." *New Centennial Review* 3.1 (2003): 257-295.

"El exilio mexicano de Max Aub. La relación con el régimen anfitrión." *Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos* 26.3 (2002): 423-38.

Talk to me if you are interested in: Voces, Preshco (Programa de Estudios Hispánicos en Córdoba).



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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: 20th C. Latin American Fiction, Short Story Analysis, Translation Theory and Practice.

Selected publications: El arte poética de Julio Cortázar, Ensayos sobre la modernidad hispanoamericana, Los avatares de la flecha, Traducciones de J. L. Borges, G. García Márquez, J. Cortázar, C.J. Cela, Don Juan Manuel, M. de Unamuno, J. Ortega y Gasset, J. Martí, A. Reyes, G. Arciniegas, A. Carpentier, O. Paz, A. Dorfman, M. Benedetti, etc.

Talk to me if you're interested in: study away programs, private readings, publications, translations.



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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.

Mr. Mitchell teaches course on Latina/o History, US-Mexico Borderlands, History of American Sexualities, Mixed Heritage in US History, and Gilded Age America.



Kim Faber
Hispanic Studies
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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 Rencero
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At Oberlin since: Fall 2003
Related courses this year: Teaching Assistant: Español 202,

Español 203



Kristina Mani
Politics
Instructor
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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.



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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.



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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
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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: x58982
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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 rencorosas y mejicanas sufridas: gendered ethnic identity construction in Chicago's Latino Communities," as well as other publications.

Narciso J Hidalgo
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Courses: SPAN 313: The Emergence of the Anti-Slavery Novel in Cuba

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Linda Grimm
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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.

Local

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 here, 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 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.

.....thoughts.....

¿Cómo 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 y cuenta más de lo que en general se cree.

Algunas personas creen que el énfasis en cambiar los hábitos personales distrae a la gente de las causas principales de la contaminación. Dicen que mientras que hay empresas que animan a la gente a reciclar, ellas mismas contaminan la naturaleza. Estas personas aclaran también que el gobierno aconseja a la gente: "Mantenga limpia su ciudad," apareciendo interesado en la protección del medio ambiente para que la gente no ponga atención en las leyes que permiten las corporaciones contaminar el medio ambiente. Sin embargo, cuando nosotros, los estudiantes, contaminamos el medio ambiente, ayudamos a producir los problemas contra los que luchamos. Por otra parte, si nos pusiéramos a rectificar esta situación, de tal manera reduciríamos los efectos negativos en la naturaleza, y, lo que es de igual importancia, esto serviría de ejemplo a otras personas.

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

Es indudable que cambiar la política que causa problemas en el medio ambiente sería muy importante. No obstante, debemos reconocer que ejerceremos más presión y poder sobre los políticos cuando nuestras acciones reflejen lo que decimos, porque sin actuar de tal manera, el público pensará que somos hipócritas. Así podemos enseñar a otra gente con palabras, pero podemos demostrarle nuestras creencias más fuertemente con acciones, de tal modo que le mostremos que somos serios y que sí 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 acción pequeña puede lograr un cambio grande. Un ejemplo clásico 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 sentó en la parte de delante de un autobús, una acción ilegal porque ella era negra, y así empezó el movimiento. Fue pequeña la acción, pero causó una sucesión 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 acción; hay que hacerla.

Aparte de los valores políticos y prácticos de cuidar el medio ambiente, tenemos la obligación 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 más 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 políticas son importantes para proteger este planeta, hay que cambiar nuestras propias costumbres también. Existen muchos modos de hacerlo, y así podemos actuar en una manera que refleja nuestras creencias y actuar de una manera que preserve el medio ambiente.