

La Voz de Esperanza

October 2001 • vol 14 issue 8

we

are

todos somos
suspechosos

all

suspect



La VOZ de Esperanza

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Opinions expressed in La Voz are not necessarily those
of the Esperanza. We advocate a variety of social,
economic & environmental justice issues.

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Policy Statements:

We ask that articles be visionary, progressive,
instructive, & thoughtful. Submissions must be
literate & critical; not sexist, racist, homophobic,
violent, or oppressive. Articles may be edited for
length. All letters in response to Esperanza activities
or articles in La Voz will be considered for
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On September 11th, I was in my classroom with my three year olds when someone came in and whispered to me that an airplane had crashed into the twin towers in New York City. I calmly walked to the library and turned on the TV. I watched as another airplane crashed into the second tower....

I needed to continue to teach that day so I shelved my reactions. Later, on the way home, with a heavy heart and a great sense of forboding for our home, la madre tierra, I began to process. It was then that I remembered that my first thought upon hearing about the attacks was *Oh sh--, they're gonna come after us!* By us, I meant me, my friends, mi familia, and the Esperanza folk. Many of us have that unidentifiable ethnic look, most of us are peace activists, some are queer, all are *other*.

Days later, on September 13th, Jerry Falwell made a statement on The 700 Club about the terrorist attacks:

"I really believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians ... the A.C.L.U., People for the American Way, all of them who have tried to secularize America, I point the finger in their face and say, 'You helped this happen.'"

When Jerry Falwell made this statement you can be sure he meant it. Many, like Pat Robertson and locally, Adam McManus, supported and applauded his statement. He apologized on September 14 because it was politically expedient to do so. He never apologized to the people he made the statement about, nor did his cronies.

Since that date, I have had a great desire to go to New York and see for myself the devastation wreaked by this terrorist act. I have wanted to be there to help in any way that I can. I have felt this way often throughout my life when the terrorist acts claimed lives in the rest of the Americas, in Asia, in Africa, in Europe and throughout the world. Now we must challenge ourselves to find ways to make terrorism obsolete without creating more violence.

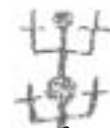
In this issue of La Voz we remember the victims of the recent terrorist attacks and call on our readers to educate themselves as to the causes of these attacks and what we can responsibly do about them. We begin with a statement from **The Women of Color Resource Center** which expresses many of the sentiments many of us at Esperanza feel. We also commemorate October as **National Domestic Violence Awareness Month** with a calendar of highlights and a story by Rick Gipprich.

Locally and globally, violence is an issue that we must examine carefully if we are to understand its roots and causes. It will not go away until we come to realize that we are all part of a living breathing earth which is being destroyed by those at the top of the food chain... and that is, us.

Rhetoric like ***We will use every necessary weapon of war and Americans should not expect one battle, but a lengthy campaign unlike any other we have ever seen*** are not the kind of statements we need to hear if we are serious about the preservation of our planet and all living things. Join us in protesting all violent actions against life. Educate yourself and speak out against all forms of violence and war. Call the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center about actions and coalitions forming against violent actions. ¡No more wars!

Check out websites like zmag.org, altnet.org, www.indymedia.org and more...

VOZ VISION STATEMENT: *La Voz de Esperanza* speaks for many individual, progressive voices who are *gente-based*, multi-visioned and *milagro-bound*. We are diverse survivors of materialism, racism, misogyny, homophobia, classism, violence, earth-damage, specicism and cultural and political oppression. We are recapturing the powers of alliance, activism and healthy conflict in order to achieve interdependent economic/spiritual healing and *fuerza*. *La Voz* is a resource for peace and justice work, providing a forum for criticism, information, education, humor and other creative works. *La Voz* provokes bold actions in response to local and global problems, with the knowledge that the many risks we take for the earth, our body, and the dignity of all people will result in profound change for the seven generations to come.



SHARING GRIEF

Breaking the Cycle of Violence & Xenophobia

Statement by Women of Color Resource Center

Berkeley, California

September 2001

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Women of Color Resource Center staff, board, members and supporters returned from the UN World Conference on Racism to a changed world. Having reaffirmed our steadfast commitment to the struggle against racism and xenophobia during our days in Durban, South Africa, we are now called upon to affirm and manifest our commitment to the struggle for peace.

The Women of Color Resource Center expresses our most profound sorrow and condolences to the loved ones of all those who were murdered and wounded on September 11 in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. The lives lost and those still missing are linked in long chains of grief and anguish to so many people across this nation and within the broader human family. We send our prayers for strength and love to the victims' families and friends and to the many workers and community people who bravely shouldered the heavy responsibility of rescue, recovery, and healing the deep wounds of body and spirit that will be felt for many years to come.

As a women's organization that works for peace and social justice, we strongly condemn the heinous criminal acts of hatred and violence that extinguished the lives of so many innocent people. There is no legitimate religious or political agenda that could possibly warrant such horrific acts. The perpetrators must be held accountable.

People of all racial and national backgrounds and religious beliefs, including Arab and Muslim Americans, lost loved ones during the disaster and are crying out in grief. We are greatly alarmed by reports of the rise in racist and xenophobic attacks against Arab Americans, Muslims, South Asian Americans and other ethnic minority people "mistaken" for being Arab or Muslim. As women from different communities of color that have long suffered from racially motivated violence, including slavery, genocide, lynching, internment, incarceration, racial profiling, hate crimes, harassment, and deportation, we firmly stand opposed to snap judgments of "guilt by ethnicity" and the racist scapegoating of entire groups. Even prior to September 11, our Palestinian and Arab sisters had shared their experiences of being hounded by racial and religious stereotyping and hatred.

We are further concerned about the possibility of all immigrants being subjected to similar attacks in the wake of intensified "anti-terrorist" border

control and increased xenophobia. We fear that in the rush to war the government will intensify domestic repression, including deprivation of hard-earned civil liberties.

The Women of Color Resource Center strongly urges the U.S. government not to use this horrific tragedy as a pretext to carry out new militarist and repressive actions. To do so would only escalate the cycle of violence and lead to greater losses of precious human blood. Despite the use of euphemisms like "collateral damage" or "surgical strike" to cover up the true human cost, we know that war always claims the lives of innocents. The long history of the deployment of U.S. military and financial might against oppressed and colonized peoples at home and abroad holds many cautionary lessons as we witness the escalation of the rhetoric of revenge and the stirring up of hyper-patriotism.

From our own experience we firmly believe that **THE SOLUTION TO VIOLENCE IS NOT MORE VIOLENCE**. We have seen enough of revenge killings in our daily lives. We can only overcome violence and hatred by working together against oppression and poverty and for peace, justice, reconciliation, and healing.

As participants in the recent United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Forms of Intolerance that took place in Durban, South Africa, we stand strongly committed to bringing home the lessons we learned there. We stand with our sisters and brothers from around the world who have dedicated their lives to eradicating those evils. We call on all our sisters who have been so steadfast in the fight for women's human rights to extend themselves in this extraordinary period to the fight for peace. As the U.S. prepares for war, Women of Color Resource Center commits to working more closely with all others seeking to build peace, justice, tolerance, and healing in the difficult days, months, and years that we fear lie ahead.

No More Lost Lives!

Horrible Attacks in the U.S. Harvest of Our Misguided Foreign Policy

By Antonio C. Cabral

"You harvest what you sow," five small words that accurately explain the root of our misguided foreign policy that on September 11 came home in a terrible way. We saw the horrible video clips over and over. The giant airplanes slamming into the World Trade Center, the desperate people on the top floors standing by the windows helplessly. All those nightmarish scenes were imbedded into our minds forever.

The grotesque destruction of innocent human life on that day reflected the devastation, starvation and human misery that the U.S. government has sown directly or indirectly in several parts of the world. Now, after the initial shock, the tragedy is being used shamelessly by our government through its servant media to fan the flames of war and racism, and to dismantle our rights to privacy, free speech and free movement. They also seek to benefit from this tragedy by using it to fulfill their long-held goal of greater geopolitical and economic control over the entire world.

History teaches us where we are headed. The similarities between these times and the early stages of the Vietnam War era are frightening.

Today, like then, politicians at all levels are marching to the drums played by U.S. multinational corporations who fund their political careers. Their inhuman neoliberal economic model was being challenged effectively by a growing tide of opposition worldwide including here in the U.S. The protests in Seattle, Praga, Quebec and Geneva drove cold fear into these corporations. Here at home the economy was rapidly sinking and working families were beginning to challenge corporate-controlled politicians at all levels and they were also questioning our blind financing of Israel. The corporations needed an excuse to regain control.

Today, like then, the U.S. media has become a shameless propaganda machine parroting ludicrous arguments that the Arabs and others hate the U.S. because, "...we are free and democratic...because women can dress anyway they want...because we have so much...."

Among the so-called experts mouthing such silliness is

Henry Kissinger. Kissinger has been formally accused in international courts of masterminding, financing and providing training to terrorist forces in many parts of the world during the 1970s and 1980s.

For example, the terrorist Pol Pot forces in Cambodia massacred thousands of families with U.S. support. In Chile, Kissinger, President Nixon and the CIA triggered the bloody overthrow of President Salvador Allende's

democratically-elected government in the early 1970s. Thousands of innocent people were massacred during and after Allende's overthrow and the infamous General Augusto Pinochet was installed as president as the U.S. demanded.

Earlier this year, while Kissinger was living in his Paris apartment, a French judge tried to serve him with a summons to appear in court concerning concrete evidence linking him to the

murder of General Rene Schneider in 1970. According to that evidence, Kissinger and Nixon ordered Schneider's death because he was blocking the overthrow of Allende.

The Paris U.S. Embassy hurriedly helped sneak Kissinger out of France and into the U.S. to help him avoid having to appear in court. Last month, Schneider's family filed legal action against Kissinger in a Washington federal court charging him with Schneider's murder. Yet, none of the mouthpieces in the media even mention this but continue interviewing Kissinger as an "expert" in foreign relations.

They also never mention how thousands of innocent men, women and children were massacred by the U.S.-sponsored terrorist Contras in Nicaragua during the 1980s. Nor do they talk about the thousands of poor families massacred by the invading U.S. forces in the Chorrillo neighborhood of Panama City when Papa Bush decided to use dictator Antonio Noriega, an ex-CIA operative, as an excuse to teach Panamanians a lesson for demanding that the U.S. leave Panama.

Even closer to the root of why Arabs hate the U.S. government is Washington's unjust foreign policy in the Middle East. Since 1948 Washington has been giving billions of our tax dollars annually to Israel's Zionists

regime so they can continue taking over Arab land and massacring thousands of innocent Palestinian men, women and children. The propagandists conveniently ignore this fact.

They also ignore the documented evidence that since the Gulf War over 500,000 Iraqi children have died as a direct result of the U.S. embargo that prohibits any government from selling Iraq much-needed medicines. In 1999, Madeleine Albright, then Secretary of State, publicly recognized that horrible toll of innocent children but shamelessly explained, "...it is a high price, but we are willing to pay it..."

U.S. policymakers will continue hiding these and other historical realities from the American people and continue trying to convince us that killing thousands of innocent Afghans will make us safe. But the world is slowly waking up to the true motives behind Washington's xenophobia and worldwide opposition to war is growing.

That's why Alan Richard and Rudofe Sharping, Defense Ministers of France and Germany respectively, stated that President Bush and Congress must consider only a "reasonable response" and they opposed Bush's "declaration of war" as overkill and reckless.

Obviously anyone involved in perpetrating the September 11 tragedy must be brought to justice. Killing innocent people cannot be tolerated here nor in the Middle East nor in Latin America nor anywhere. However, bombing or invading Afghanistan will only result in more innocent people dying and the cycle of violence will continue.

The world knows that the U.S. has a superior war machine and they are dreading its reckless unleashing. Let's demonstrate that we are really a peace-loving people and demand that our government stop financing and propping up abusive regimes and financing terrorist groups throughout the world. Let's earn the world's respect instead of their fear and hatred. That's the only way that we can ensure a safe society for future generations.

To those who will dismiss this suggestion as weak and naive and demand instead more human bloodshed in their name, I can only remind them that history teaches that violence begets violence. The September 11 tragedies were examples of that. The violence that our government has caused through a reckless and arrogant foreign policy came home that day. If we want to rid the world of such senseless violence and hatred, let's start by ridding ourselves of our inhuman and violent foreign policy.



Antonio C. Cabral is a San Antonio freelance writer and activist. He is published in both Spanish and English nationally and internationally.



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A View From the Border

by Yolanda Chávez Leyva

I live on the U.S.-Mexican border, two thousand miles from this week's horrifying attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. Despite the vast physical distance from last week's events, my community was deeply saddened and shocked. Many here still do not have the words to accurately describe what we felt in the hours and days following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Like so many other communities across this nation, people have come together. To pray for those killed and injured and their families and loved ones. To donate money and supplies. To give blood. To ask what we could do to help. To silently ask why.

We are confronting the same fears, about the future and our safety. In so many ways we are like any other community. But there are differences.

We live in a place often portrayed in the media as a place of danger. Drug trafficking. Undocumented immigration. A vulnerable place on the margin of the nation.

Following the terrorist assaults, the border became the

focus of both government officials and anti-immigrant groups.

The morning of the attacks, the INS implemented Level One procedures at border crossings. All vehicles were thoroughly searched. As a result, the amount of time it took to cross the border into the United States grew to four hours in some cases. In a city where over a million and a half vehicles cross the border monthly, this had an immediate effect on people's lives. Yet, I heard no complaints about the long, hot wait.

Also within hours of last Tuesday's events, anti-immigrant groups began calling for a complete closing of the border. Anti-immigrant rhetoric permeated message boards on Internet sites. Writers mentioned Middle Eastern immigrants but also alluded to Mexican immigrants. Labeling immigrants a threat to the United States, individuals spewed forth hatred in the name of protecting American freedom.

But in my community, most of us know that immigrants are not the enemy. My community is 78% Latino, mostly of Mexican origin. Many of us are immigrants or are the

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children of immigrants. We know that the vast majority of people crossing our border come to work and to study. They come to improve their lives. And to contribute to our nation.

In anger and fear, some Americans have spoken out against anyone appearing different. There have been attacks on Arab Americans and others who appear Middle Eastern. We who live on the border have seen this before. We know what it is like to be labeled different, foreign, and dangerous.

Living on the border we also know about humanity. Since the attacks, I have seen human concern over the loss of life transcend language, citizenship, and the international dividing line itself.

In my favorite restaurant, American flags hang from the walls as Mexican music plays. A restaurant displays a sign, "Una nación invincible," rendering the now often-quoted sentiment in Spanish. In class, one of my students talks about the sense of solidarity she feels exists on both sides of the border.

When the Mexican consul announced that the Mexican government would cancel its participation in the beloved 16 de septiembre (Mexican independence) celebrations in our city, in respect to the dead, we experienced this act of international support in a very personal way. During independence celebrations on the Mexican side of the

border, patriotic speeches acknowledged the profound suffering of Americans this week.

As we watched Spanish language news reports, we were reminded that Tuesday's loss was not confined within our borders. **Mexican television reported that an unknown number of Mexican citizens were missing in the WTC attacks. The estimates range from 100 to 500.** A graduate student at my university provided us a listing of some of the missing. They worked as custodians and as professionals. Asociación Tepeyac de New York, which serves the Mexican community in New York, feared that many would remain unidentified because they were undocumented immigrants. I wondered how many had crossed here, bringing with them hopes and desires for the future.

On the border we remember the dead and pray for the survivors, in English and Spanish. And on the geographic periphery of the nation, our humanity transcends the division between two nations.



A View From the Border originally appeared in the Progressive Media Project/Latino Voices, Monday, September 17, 2001. Yolanda Chávez Leyva is an professor of border and Mexican American history at UTEP. She can be reached at pmproj@progressive.org.

National Domestic Violence October 2001

The P.E.A.C.E. Initiative, Putting an End to Abuse through Community Efforts is a grassroots coalition of 51 public and private individuals, agencies, and organizations that work collaboratively to end domestic violence in the community. Funded by the Benedictine Resource Center and the citizens of our community. The theme for this year is *Breaking the Chains, Creating the Links*.

Conference Frontline Responders: Catalysts for Change in Domestic Violence

Thurs., Sept. 20 & Fri., Sept. 21 2001
@ Alamodome from 1:00 pm -3:00 pm

The San Antonio Safe Family Coalition, the SAPD Victims Advocacy Section and the P.E.A.C.E. Initiative are sponsoring a two-day conference to improve community awareness and capacity to respond to domestic violence. Five nationally-known speakers as well as local professionals will be presenting on a variety of topics relating to family violence. In addition, local resources, community agencies, and literature will be available. Contact the Safe Family Coalition (210) 358-4298.

Opening Event: Breaking the Chains Creating the Links

Thurs., Sept. 27 from 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
@ Plaza de Las Islas (Main Plaza across from San Fernando Cathedral)

The Pillowcases Project and Descaradas (masks) will be on display. Survivors and their children created the art. Resource tables will be available. The Co-Creative Inter-generational dancers will present a dramatic interpretive dance.

Legislative Update

Tues., Oct. 2, 2001 from noon to 1:30 pm
@ Estella's Café, 2200 W. Martin St.
(210) 226-2979

8 S.A.P.D. Victims Advocacy National

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Reception & Anima Santa Gift Giving

Wed., Oct. 3 from 11:30 am to
1:30 pm
@ Mezzanine City Council
Chambers 2nd floor City Hall,
103 Main Plaza

Join us to hear Ruth Jones McClendon on the work we all do to end violence in families. The P.E.A.C.E. Initiative will award two \$300 gifts for education to survivors of violent relationships who are attending school. Contact Jane Shafer at 207-2136.

10th Annual Conference on Domestic Violence

Mon. - Wed., Oct 15-17
@ Marriot Hotel in El Paso, Texas

San Antonio's Patricia Castillo will be presenting.
Contact Pat at 735-4988.

The Mexican American Business and Professional Women's Club Panel Discussion on Domestic Violence

Mon., Oct. 17
@ UTSA Downtown Campus at 7:00 pm

**People that
domestic violence
always feel that
that all Americans
acutely living
of the attack
September 11
daily live with
violence of domestic
terrorism in
intimate spaces
home.**

**Antonia J. C.
Associate Professor
St. Mary's**

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

1 Highlights

live with
Domestic
Violence
the terror
Americans are
living in the wake
of this crisis.
Each year, they
die from the
effects of
domestic
violence.
It is their
most serious
crime-their

Dr. María A. Castañeda, Ph.D.
Professor of History
at the University of

the Americas
The Victims Advocacy unit will give a presentation from 10:50 am to 12 pm in MLC room # 177-178. Contact Yvonne Schilling at 733-2299.

Phoenix Awards Ceremony

Thurs., Oct. 25, 2001
@ San Antonio Main Library Community Room,
600 Soledad from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

The P.E.A.C.E Initiative presents its third annual Phoenix Awards. The Phoenix, a mythical bird, when it



Coordinated by the
P.E.A.C.E. Initiative

A panel discussion to learn about community responses to domestic violence. The San Antonio Police Department, District Attorney's Office, P.E.A.C.E. Initiative, Municipal Court, and the Battered Women's Shelter will participate. Call Cindy Gonzales at 472-6590 x381.

San Antonio College Women's Center Domestic Violence Awareness Fair

Thurs., Oct. 18, 2001
@ SAC, 1300 San Pedro
(Student Loftin Center room #156)
from 9 am to 4 pm

Performance at noon by the intergenerational dance group from the University of the Incarnate Word. In addition, Ms. Sylvia Esquivel from the SAPD

feels it's life is at an end, builds a nest, sets it on fire and is consumed by flames. From the ashes, a new Phoenix springs forth to live again. Survivors, like the phoenix, must arise from the ashes of an abusive relationship to find life again. Join us as Mistress of Ceremonies Wendy Rigby of KENS recognizes those individuals within our community who have endeavored to change the consuming effects of domestic violence

Dia de Los Muertos - Day of the Dead

Fri., Nov. 2
@ PEACE & REMEMBRANCE Mural, corner of
South Trinity & San Patricio at 6 p.m

Join us for the 1st Annual Dia De Los Muertos Westside procession. The collaborative effort by San Antonio Cultural Arts, the P.E.A.C.E. Initiative, Inner City Development & the San Jacinto Senior Homes will focus on Domestic Violence. A procession will begin at the Peace & Remembrance mural and continue with a skit, viewing of nichos and listening to poetry, ending at an altar created by seniors at the San Jacinto Homes. Call Manuel Castillo at 226-7466.

Throughout October 2001 the P.E.A.C.E. Initiative will be selling t-shirts entitled "Stop Abuse Start Respect." They will be available for the cost of \$10. If you would like to purchase a shirt contact Laurie at 735-4988.

For a full calendar of events which include children's activities, broadcasts, and presentations in all kinds of venues throughout San Antonio call Patricia or Laurie at 735-4988.



Mother Sun, Mother Moon

By Rick Gipprich, Jr.

I was three years old when I gained my independence.

I inherited it from her. The result of a life of struggle, abuse, hatred, hurt, and ultimately saying...no more!

The one day that sticks out in my mind the most. The one day of my childhood that I remember so clearly, was the day she uttered the words...no more! She picked up the phone, called for help, and decided that this day was the day it would stop. This day was the day she said...no. And this was the very day that changed my life. This was the very day that freedom was handed down to me.

He got home. It was three o'clock in the morning. As usual he was hungry – I guess there was never any food at the bar. Like clockwork, he would come in, wake her up growling the same words he always said,

Hey, get up and warm up my food!

And she would. She would kiss me on the forehead – I always slept with her when he was not there. Actually she would beg me to sleep with her. I guess she was tired or afraid of sleeping alone. I liked sleeping with her. She always smelled so good - a combination of all day baby powder and Rive Gauche perfume. So she would get up, leaving my embrace, and go to the kitchen to do as she was ordered. Leaving me with just a hint of her smell when she pulled the covers back to get out of bed. She would warm up his food, get him what he needed, listen to him yell and argue – as he always did – and come back to bed before he was finished. I always wanted to know what happened when he finished, and why she always came to bed so quickly and made sure she was asleep before he was done. Sometimes, when he was finished, he would come in and try to wake her up. But usually he just passed out face first in his plate. And she would wake up in the morning, clean him up as usual and send him on his way. This is how she started most of her days. It was her ritual.

But that night was different. When he woke her up, he demanded that she wake me up as well.

Tonight, we eat together....like a family!

Leave him alone. He's sleeping.

But I wasn't asleep. I was never asleep when he was home. Partly because the only time I ever saw him...well, the only time he was ever home really...was at three o'clock in the morning.

And so she woke me up. And we sat at the table together. A family. Arroz con pollo. I can still remember the smell. A mixture of Lone Star beer-breath and stale chicken and rice.... at three o'clock in the morning. But nevertheless, we sat there. I couldn't understand why he wanted us together like that. Families talk. Families share. Or at least that's what my mom and I did together. He didn't even speak one word, to either of us. He just sat there, head down towards his plate, shoveling the food in his mouth, coming up for air once in a while. Occasionally, he would look at her and yell at her to wake me up – I must have fallen asleep in her arms. I always fell asleep in her arms. When I sat in her lap I would fit her curves so perfectly. It was like I was meant to stay there forever. He looked over at her again and yelled.

You better keep him awake, godammit!

And she would wake me up. And of course, I would cry. What child wouldn't if he was forced to stay awake? And I would shut my eyes, and be woken up again. But this time it wasn't her soft angel voice waking me up. I woke up because I felt like I was falling – like in your dreams when you are falling and you wake up!...suddenly before you hit the ground. And when I opened my eyes she was crying. Holding her face and crying. And I started to cry. And he hit. And she was holding her arm. And I cried louder. And he hit again. And she was holding her face again. And I, I stopped crying. Because I knew what would happen to her if I continued to cry. And so I stopped. I felt so guilty. I was hurting her with my three-year-old guilt. My three-year-old fear. She started yelling at him, the usual stuff that I heard when I was awake in bed, when she thought I was sleeping.

**What are you doing! Please stop!
Not in front of the baby!**

I was her baby. Her baby was hurting her!

It was so strange to watch and hear what was going on. I couldn't believe it really. To actually see it happening live in front of me was astounding. So this is what happened when they yelled. So this is why she always came to bed before he finished shoveling his food in his mouth. So this is why she always held me tighter next to her sometimes. It was so strange to see, exciting almost. Kind of like being in another room with the TV on, and you can't see it, you only hear it. And you know you are missing something good, but you don't really bother to go into the other room to check it out. It was like that. That's what I heard on the "TV" every night he was home and he would wake her up.

And this night, I was forced to go into the room and witness what I had missed all those other times. It was frightening. It was a scene that no three-year-old should ever have to witness. Ever.

I remember she dropped me and told me.

Go into the other room!

But I didn't. I couldn't. I needed to see how this was going to end. Curiosity took over my fear and kept me there in the room. He continued to hit her. I watched. He yelled, complained about his dinner being cold, about how we never eat like a family. I listened. She yelled back, defending herself in a voice that I had never heard before. It was not the soft angel voice she always used with me, it was this hard, cold, deep, fiery voice.

I'm tired of your shit. I'm tired of you. I'm tired of hurting.
And for what? Nothing. You..are..Nothing!

He didn't like that so much. So...he hit again. Only this time his face changed. There was more power behind this hit. More anger. And she went down. To the floor. Face first. Holding her breast. Leaving the rest of her body an open target. He kicked. She doubled over. Still on her side. Her hands moved from her breast to her stomach.

FUCKING BITCH!

I stood there and watched him leave. He didn't even look at me. But I looked at him. I never took my eyes off of him. I didn't want him to go. My Daddy. But I knew that if he was gone, she wouldn't cry anymore. Bleed anymore. Hurt anymore. I ran to her and knelt down. She grabbed my hand. And she cried. And I cried.

Mommy. Mommy. Mommy.

She crawled from the floor of the dining room to the hallway where the phone was. She grabbed the cord. Pulled it down. She dialed. 434-3756. My grandmother.

Mommy, come get me. I want to leave.
I'm tired and...
I'm through.

And so we left. Everything. The furniture. My toys. The dishes. Our clothes. The TV. The Tears. The Pain. The Hurt. The Blood. The Fists. Her Husband. My Daddy.

From that moment on, there was no turning back. There were no regrets. She changed her life. She changed my life. She left the one man that she has ever truly loved. She hoped for a better life for us, without him.

She still talks to him. After all these years, I can still see the

love for him in her eyes – a mixture of pain, of guilt, of hurt and longing. To this day, she has never loved another man the way she loved my father. I've asked her why, and she can't really say exactly. I understand what she means. She doesn't have to explain it to me. They grew up together. Found a lover and a best friend in each other at 14 years old. There is so much history between them. She will always care. She will always love.

As for me, I don't really care for my father that much. I love him, and I try to connect with him. But I just can't. When I see him, I turn three years old again, I smell stale Arroz con pollo, and Lone Star Beer, and the first thing that pops into my head is...you hurt my Mommy. And you never once said sorry.

But you know what. It's ok. Because of what he did, she learned how lucky she is as a woman, to have survived. To have been strong enough to say...no more. To have been strong enough to tell herself that she was the most important thing in the world. That I was the most important thing in her life.

She fights now. She fights for herself, and she fights for me. She has raised me to be everything that my father wasn't. She raised a Gentleman.

I learned from her. I make my decisions based on her past and her struggles. Her hurt has become my sun. Her pain, my moon. And I, her earth. She exists to revolve around me. To teach me to embrace the light. To go after everything in front of me that I see. To shine my way through life so that I can make my dreams my realities. To teach me not to fear the dark. Not to be afraid of failing. Of not seeing clearly the things that blind us. And that is a wonderful gift to give someone.

Because she has listened to me, I can listen to others. Because she cared for me, I can care for others. Because she first loved me...I know what it is to love and to be loved back.

And she has been able to love another man the way she loved my father. And that man is me. I've never realized that until now.

She is my mother. She is my friend. She is my sister. My sun and my moon.

My strength. My weakness. And today I celebrate Her independence. My Independence. My Freedom. My Inheritance from Her.



Rick is a local San Antonio writer. He has participated in various performance and writing workshops sponsored by the Esperanza Community School.

Remembering Our Sacredness

When Our Heart Met The Sky

by Antonio López

I am always humbled by the many ways my queer hermanos y hermanas express their sacredness. Kaakukechueti, Pretty - Feathered Eagle Serpent, used her eagle feather and poured water on the rocks in the sweat lodge. She brought vida to her vision of "La Madre Del Mundo" through sculpture using clay, fire and water.

Mililani reza al lado de el volcan en su isla. She hung out with Mother Teresa en la India. Maria Christina walks the four corners and to the tops of the mountains that are her home each spring in prayer and plants Ojos de Dios. She recently built a Temazcal. Esmeralda es Matachin y danza con su familia en Laredo. J.D. follows the ceremonial calendar of the Mexica/ Azteca tradición behind the estandarte de Coatlicue. Javier es sargento in the tradición conchero, blows the caracol and is the keeper of protocol. Rico es dueño de una botánica y organiza conciertos y círculos de tambor para los Orishas.

I hear there is a young joto en Tucson that is reclaiming the sahumador and I see las comadritas tocando el huehue y el caracol. La Miss Tipper Somora is a drag queen de Corpus who continues to return to the inner ceremonial circle reclaiming the she/he place. Miguela sent her son on his first vision quest last year. Two spirit



sisters come together to dance to the sun. Fernando sings in the choir at San Fernando church and creates beautiful floral arrangements for la Guadalupana on her day. Chicano jotos y jotas enter the sweat lodge with their two spirit families in the sacred spots de las montañas de Colorado. In Méjico men are seen wearing pants underneath skirts, ayoyotes on their ankles, feathers adorning their heads, dancing at the Templo Mayor y Tepeyac.

For years I have lit the fire and called in the abuelas y abuelos and carried in the rocks for my hermanas. En rodillas, in copal filled rooms on the Rio Bravo he trabajado las flores y las plantitas creating the Olin durante velación. We all have our way of expressing our sacredness as queer people, claiming, re-claiming our place within the inner ceremonial circle, around the sacred fire.

On October 26 - 29, 2001 Two spirit mujeres from the four corners will meet in the round house alrededor del fuegito sagrado at the top of the Ozark mountains at Rancho Arco Iris. This will be time for prayer, ceremonia, entering the sweat lodge and temazcal, song, danza, honoring antepasados, honoring one another, organizing and gathering strength. It will be a time for "Remembering Our Sacredness, Gathering Our Power," a

LA VOZ DE ESPERANZA

OCTOBER 2001

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★ ★ ★ ANUNCIO ★ ★ ★

Maya Rosita Cuellar llego el 24 de agosto, 2001 a compartir su vida con su mamá, Laura Varela, su papá, Gilbert Cuellar y su hermanita, Ixchel. Pesó 6 lbs. 10 oz. y está en buena salud. ¡Bienvenida! Maya Rosita de parte de la comunidad Esperanza. Felicidades, Laura, Gilbert y Ixchel.

time for two spirit wimmin to remember "When Our Hearts Met The Sky."

You have to take the small road at the foot of the mountain, pass the cemetery, pass the small white country church and slowly leave the valley following the red clay road and enter the heavy woods to find this gathering.

This encuentro of two spirited indigenous wimmin is being organized by Maria Christina Sun Hawk Moroles y Miguela Borges founding mothers and visionaries of Arco Iris, Inc., Arco Iris Rancho y La Clínica. Arco Iris Rancho y La Clínica are located forty-five minutes from Fayetteville, Arkansas. Rancho Arco Iris was founded over twenty years ago and encompasses 370 acres.

Over the past twenty years a ceremonial cycle/calendar has been established at Arco Iris where two spirit wimmin and men come together. The rancho has served in many capacities over these years for countless queers, lesbianas, transgender, transexual, bi-gendered and queer-spiritual people of many communities, ethnicities,

and nations from this continent and from other shores. Rancho Arco Iris provides a safe place for curación y sanación, ceremonia, collective living, teaching, learning, honoring of our many caminos y tradiciones and strategizing action.

*Remembering Our Sacredness,
Gathering Our Power When Our
Heart Met the Sky*

Encuentro of Two Spirited Indigenous Wimmin

Rancho Arco Iris, Inc.
near Fayetteville, Arkansas

October 26 - 29 contact
arcoirisinc@hotmail.com

The four-day encuentro, "Remembering Our Sacredness, Gathering Our Power, When Our Heart Met The Sky" will feature various formal and informal events, pláticas y talking circles for the two spirit indigenous womyn. Honored speakers will be Mililani Trask, Hawaiian ceremonial leader and activist; Dr Yolanda Leyva, Chicana historian and writer; and Susana Santos, Tygh River band artist, poet and activist.

Solamente abriendo los ojos se puede ver quien está alrededor del fuego. ☀

Para información write to HC70 Box 17 Ponca, Ark., 72670 or e-mail arcoirisinc@hotmail.com. Food will be provided by gay Latino men of the Indigenous Archives de Tejas.

Antonio is a supporter of the Esperanza, a student of curanderismo and a brother to indigenous lesbianas.

a new solo show by Obie award-winning performance artist Peggy Shaw and Vivian Stroll performing live music and soundscape

To My Chagrin

World premiere of *To My Chagrin* • Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 19-21 & 26-28 at 8 pm. \$10 general admission and \$8 for students and seniors, plus group discounts.

Opening Night Dinner/Performance • Friday, October 19 at 7 pm.

\$20 for dinner buffet, drinks & show.

Performances are at Jump-Start Theater, Blue Star Arts Complex Building B, on the corner of S. Alamo & Probandt. Call 227-5867 for reservations.

Tareada Reading • October 14 at 3 pm at the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center, 922 San Pedro. A sneak peak of what's ahead...Join us on Sunday afternoon for comida, platica, and a reading of *To My Chagrin* by Peggy Shaw.

Hands On Writing Workshop • Facilitated by Peggy Shaw October 23 at 6:30-9:30 pm at the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center, 922 San Pedro. A non-threatening approach to using extraordinary details & ordinary fantasies of your life. Open to public. To register call 228-0201.

Jump-Start
Performance
Company, in
collaboration with
the Esperanza Peace &
Justice Center, will host

OCTOBER 2001

LA VOZ DE ESPERANZA

Notas Y Más

Brief notes to inform Voz readers about events, issues and happenings. If you have an item to announce, send it to La Voz de Esperanza, 922 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78212. The deadline is the 12th of each month.

The Low & Slow Classic Car Show sponsored by **Centro Cultural Aztlán** will be held on Sunday, October 7, 2001 from 10 am to 10 pm at the historic Mateo Camargo Park (Hwy 90 West & Callaghan exit). Admission is \$6. Children under ten are free! This one-day, authentic-art, family-oriented event attracts hundreds of local and regional competitors who have turned their once factory-standard machines into *mobile works of art*. Call Ramón at 432-1896.

A free bilingual reading and discussion series, *Stories of Love, Life and Work*, will take place at the Westfall Branch Library, 6111 Rosedale Court, on Tuesdays at 7 pm. The event moderated by **Dr. Norma E. Cantú** will take place this month on October 15. The discussion will center on author Rosario Castellanos' novel, *The Nine Guardians* about the lives of the Mayan Indians in Chiapas, Mexico and their complex struggles in the region. Call at 344-2373.

The Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center and **St. Philip's College** present The Guadalupe Dance Company in the world premiere of *Santuarios* at the Watson Fine Arts Center Theatre on the St. Philip's College campus, 1801 Martin Luther King Dr. There will be only six performances: Fridays and Saturdays on October 19, 20, and 26, 27 at 8 pm and Sundays October 21 and 28 at 3 pm. Opening night tickets are \$50 with a and include a performance reception. Tickets for regular performances are \$12/\$8 students and seniors. Choreography is by Serafin Aponte Najera and the music is by Lourdes Pérez. Call GCAC at 271-3151.

The San Antonio Gay & Lesbian Community Center will be sponsoring an intimate violence seminar on Sunday October 21 from 12:30 pm-2 pm. Representatives from the San Antonio Police Victims Advocacy Unit will be available to answer questions. Also, the San Antonio Gay & Lesbian Community Center will be showing films on

Domestic Violence every Monday in October from 6 pm-7:30 pm. There will be a special seminar on Youth Dating Violence October 19, from 6 pm-8 pm. All events are free and open. Call 732-4300,

The Fourth Annual San Antonio Poetry Fair, *Voices Along the River*, will be held at the Arneson River Theater on Saturday, October 27. Winners of the Poetry Fair Contest will read their work from 1-4 pm at this free event. Trophies and cash prizes will be awarded in four categories: elementary, middle, high school, and adult. Call Don Mathis at 736-1405.

Target Corporation is accepting applications for their **All-Around Scholarships**, which provide funding to high school seniors and college students committed to community service and education. Four \$10,000 scholarships and more than twenty-one hundred \$1,000 scholarships will be given. Applicants must be enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or vocational- technical school in the (mainland) U.S. by the fall term of the 2002-2003 year. **The Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America, CSEA**, will screen all applications and make final selections. Preference will be given to students who reside in a community where a Target store is located. Check http://www.target.com/target_group/community/community_scholarships.html or call (800) 537-4180 and ask for the **Target All-Around Scholarship** program manager. Deadline: November 1, 2001.

A celebration of a work in progress—the biography of the late **Emma Tenayuca**, activist and labor organizer, will be held Saturday, November 10, 6-8 pm at **Trinity University's Chapman Auditorium**. The reception, free and open to the public, will feature readings from both the children's book and the biography. Both are works in progress by D. Carmen Tafolla, acclaimed author and poet and

Sharyll Soto Teneyuca, attorney and niece of Ms. Tenayuca. Please RSVP to 826-6618 if attending.

The Eighth Annual Multicultural Conference Representing the Other will take place on April 23-25, 2002 at San Antonio College. The focus of the conference is the representation of members of particular ethnic groups in society by both members and nonmembers of that group. The boundaries of the conference theme are quite broad and encompass any study of ethnic communities. Those wishing to present papers should submit a title and a 100-150 word abstract outlining the proposed topic and mode of presentation. Deadline for submissions is November 16, 2001. Call 733-2533.

AUDRE LORDE FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN OF COLOR WRITERS/ACTIVISTS

-- Each year The Union Institute Center for Women, in collaboration with Norcroft Writing Retreat, awards a month long residency retreat and \$1,000 stipend to a woman of color writer/activist. The retreat, lodging, and food are free to the recipient. The award is named in memory of Audre Lorde, the poet and essayist whose life exemplified the meshing of world-changing thought and action. The application deadline is December 21, 2001. For more information contact Diana Onley-Campbell, 202/496-1630: email: dcampbell@tui.edu > dcampbell@tui.edu

Fuerza Unida will offer free sewing classes to interested community members. Classes will begin November 6 with orientation from 9 am - 12 pm. Classes will continue every Tuesday morning until December 18. Products created by students in the class will be divided evenly between the **Cooperativa de Costura** and each student. The Cooperativa items will be on sale Wednesday, December 19. Call 927-9214 to register.



Do you work for a public school, the Federal Government, the City of San Antonio, or Bexar County?

Esperanza is part of the Another Way Texas Shares.

Sign-up to donate monthly to the Esperanza directly from your paycheck at work:

Bexar County Government
Local Charitable Campaign

City of San Antonio Local Charitable Campaign

and the

Combined School District Charitable Campaign

Esperanza Peace & Justice Center
Code #8035

or call us to sign-up with our electronic direct deposit program!

Community Meetings

ELLAS, Latina Lesbian organization. Call for meetings and information, 210-473-0217.

San Antonio Lambda Students (SALSA) meets the last Wednesday of the month at the Central Library, 6th floor, 7 – 8:45 pm. Call 732-4300 & ask for Lambda Students.

San Antonio NOW meets the first Monday of each month at the Resource Ctr, 121 W Woodlawn. Call Maggie Cronan, 673-8600.

Voice for Animals meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm, Brook Hollow Library, 530 Heimer, call 737-3138.

Parents/Friends of Lesbians/Gays (PFLAG) meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Resource Ctr, 121 W Woodlawn, call 351-0395.

Circle of the Re-Formed Congregation of the Goddess meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center, 922 San Pedro, csll 822-9105.

Amnesty International #127 meets the fourth Thursday of

each month at 7:30 pm at Ashbury United Methodist, call Ernani Falcone at 681-8370.

Society of Friends Meeting meets every Sunday at 10:00 am at Friends Meeting House, 7052 N. Vandiver, SATX, 78209, call 945-8456.

A Multicultural Worship Service is held every Sunday at 11:00 am at **Spirit of Life Lutheran Church**, call Rev. Jennifer Kivikko, 826-8771.

DIGNITY S.A. holds mass every Sunday at 5:15 pm at St. Ann's Convent, call 735-7191.

Massage Therapy for HIV Positive Persons is offered Wednesdays, call 732-0751.

Proyecto Hospitalidad Liturgy meets Thursdays at 7:00 pm at 325 Courtland, call 736-3579.

Habitat for Humanity holds Volunteer Orientation the first Tuesday of each month at 1st Presbyterian Church, 404 N. Alamo, at 6 pm.

Xicana Xicano Education Project meets every Tuesday at 6pm at the Bazan Public Library, 2200 W. Commerce St. Call the voice mail at 348-3872.

Todos somos esperanza...

or

I would like to donate \$ _____ /month by automatic bank withdrawal. Contact me to sign up.

I pledge to send \$ _____ each _____ month _____ quarter _____ six-months

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Enclosed is a donation of

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I would like to volunteer!

Make checks payable to the Esperanza. Send to Esperanza, 922 San Pedro, SA TX 78212. All donations to the Esperanza are tax deductible.

the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center presents

iREVOLUTION!

a writer's workshop series for Lesbians of Colour



R. Erica Doyle

PUBLIC READING & RECEPTION

October 5, Friday 8pm \$5

WRITING WORKSHOP: Speak the Earth

October 7, Sunday 11am – 2pm \$20

limited space – call for registration

Shay Youngblood

PUBLIC READING & RECEPTION
with special guest Rajasvini Bhansali
November 9, Friday 8pm \$5

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
November 11, Sunday 12am – 4pm \$20
limited space – call for registration



Cherrie Moraga

PUBLIC READING & RECEPTION
December 7, Friday 8pm \$5

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
December 9, Sunday 2:30pm – 4:30pm \$20
limited space – call for registration

all events are at the Esperanza and open to the public

Centro Esperanza

922 San Pedro ★ San Antonio, Texas ★ (210)228-0201

La Voz de Esperanza
ESPERANZA peace & justice center
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