

La Voz de Esperanza

May 2003 • vol 16 issue 4



The Haudenosaunee were instructed to make all decisions with the well being of the seventh generation in mind.

By this process no one generation could cause undue harm to the Creation.

La VOZ de Esperanza

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Opinions expressed in La Voz are not necessarily those of the Esperanza. We advocate for 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 publication. Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

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This issue was pulled together from letters we recently received both from e-mail and snail mail. Letters came from elders, mothers, youth, and writers of many genders expressing concern for what the War on Iraq has wrought and how it will affect the children of future generations.

As I caressed heads and patted the backs of children taking their nap in my pre-kinder classroom, I began to formulate thoughts about the May issue of La Voz. Each Voz seems to magically appear. Rarely do I solicit articles. My job is to figure out how articles fit together as an issue at any given time. There seems to be a Voz that speaks to me and if I am in awareness it guides me in putting the issue together.

Throughout this school year, my children have repeatedly requested one song in particular, Cada Niño/ Every Child by Tish Hinojosa. Every day, for months, my little girls cry out at breakfast and after naptime, "Maestra, maestra pon a Tish, maestra!" Then, they play Cada Niño over and over. It begins like this:

Veo en cada niño un porvenir	Every child believes in good, tomorrow brings
Esperanza, fuerza y paz	Every child's our faith to hold
Mi ocupación es dandoles razón	What we leave behind and want for them to find
Que la fe no pierdan jamás	Is what we are today.

Tish does not translate directly, but the words and sentiments in both languages are undeniably important to express. It is not a cutesy, frivolous child's song, but it is their favorite. I finally get it that they understand something intuitively that we as adults sometimes fail to see/hear. The writers in this issue seem to understand this, also. Did I mention that these are 4 and 5 year old children? The anonymous writer who writes about young children in our present school system in this issue understands how important their education is and why.

I picked up the New York Times yesterday (April 29, 2003) because I couldn't take my eyes off of the front page. A procession of soldiers carrying a flag draped casket was led by three buddhist monks in traditional saffron colored robes. It seemed an oxymoron. I have stood by and watched as newscast after newscast and article after article announces yet another soldier killed or found dead after missing in action (a huge number of them, Chicanos/ Latinos.) I have watched as familia or neighbors have stated how proud they are of their son or daughter who died in the war. My heart stops for an instant each time I see this. I wonder how each of these war dead grew up as children and what they or their children might have contributed to the world. I imagine it's far too painful to recognize that their deaths were a waste. What are we doing today that will determine the lives of our children tomorrow? Do we have no choice but to be proud of them as war dead?

In The Sun My Heart, Thich Nhat Hanh, writes,

"A school of theoretical physicists has developed the 'bootstrap' concept, which suggests that every thing and every being in the universe depends on every other thing and every other being for their existence. We are used to believing that particles form 'things,' but in fact all particles are dependent upon all other particles and none have a separate individuality 'every particle is made up of all others.'"

Have we not heard something like this before. Something about how we are all connected as are the strands in a spider web? Isn't that one of the quotes from Chief Seattle, a Native American of the United States? Ruth Lofgren cites John Donne's well known quote, "No man is an island..." Seems like we're all on the same wavelength. So, why haven't we, as Sandra Cisneros in her letter to Laura Bush suggests, created peace rather than war?

When I looked for graphics under variations of "peace graphics" on the web I ran into some indigenous pictorial representations that included the Tree of Peace which symbolizes "the Great Law which 'pierces the sky' for all nations to see. The four white roots extend to the farthest parts of the earth; beneath the tree are buried all weapons of war while the eagle watches for approaching dangers." The site of this particular graphic used for Alejandro Pérez' article also included the quote on the front page, another plea to put the well being of the children first before all other considerations. Is that so farfetched?

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, speciesism 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, justice, and human rights, 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.

8 March 2003
Querida Graciela,
Three cheers and hooray for Esperanza Peace and Justice Center!!!! -- thank you for this and all excellent issues of La Voz. Surely, this number (March 2003, Vol. 16, Issue 2) echoes the desire of all conscientious Americans—those of us who stand for justice, peace and freedom by way of civilized non-violent means.
Un abrazo grande to each and every one of you—los que jalan en La Esperanza.
Angela de Hoyos and Moises Sandoval

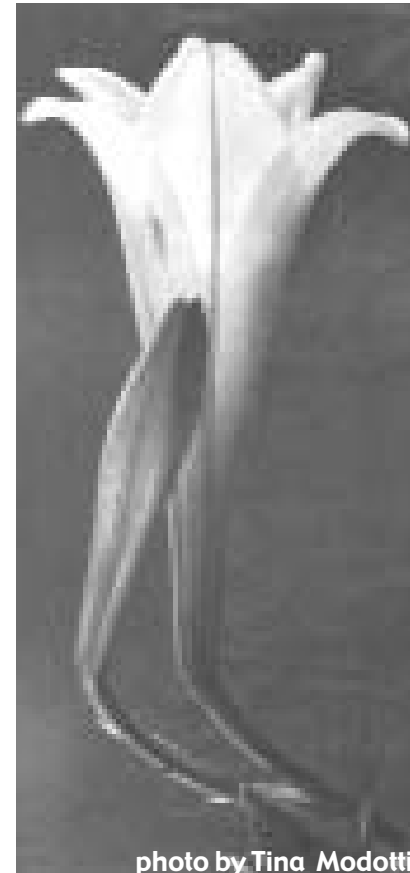


photo by Tina Modotti

I would like to recommend poet and Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh, who was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the Vietnam War. I would like to nominate the Burmese leader of nonviolent revolt, the great lady Aung San Suu Kyi. I would like to nominate Nelson Mandela, Rigoberta Menchu, and the Dalai Lama. I would like to bring to your attention labor organizer Baldemar Velásquez, who has worked to organize the Mexican farm workers in the U.S. All of these are experts in dealing with conflict and with resolving it in peace.

I ask la Virgen de Guadalupe to open all our hearts so that we listen with more than our ears, and to bless our words so that we speak with compassion and wisdom, and not fear. I pray you will hear me, Mrs. Bush, and in this spirit, help us all to realize our humanity.

Abrazos,
Sandra Cisneros



This letter was read to Mrs. Bush by Sandra who was among the honorees receiving the Texas Medal of Arts this past March. (Lydia Mendoza was also one of the honorees.)

The note included at the top of this article is by two elders of the community, Angela and Moises. They remind me that the work we do at La Voz is not overlooked and that we must continue to speak out as Julio Noboa has, regardless of the oppressive direction we seem to be moving towards in this country. I thank Angela and Moises for sending in a donation for the Esperanza on behalf of the work we do with La Voz. I encourage all readers to send in a donation so that we can continue to provide a forum for progressive voices, both professional and community-based.

If you need an excuse to send in a donation, my birthday is/was this month and I just got a reminder (my AARP card in the mail) that I am on my way to being an elder, hopefully like Thein Wah, Ruth, Angela and Moises. Or, think about supporting our work at Esperanza by having a house party as did our director, Graciela who celebrated her birthday on April 24th in her home with donations given to the Esperanza in lieu of gifts. Remember, keep writing and sending in your contributions. They are greatly appreciated by us and our community.

Gracias,
la editora.



March 25, 2003

Dear Mrs. Laura Bush,

I am the daughter of a Mexican immigrant who became a citizen by enlisting in the U.S. army and serving during World War II. Since 9/11, I have asked myself what I might do to bring peace in this time of great fear and rage. I am only one writer. I live in Texas. I am only one woman. But I believe in the power of words to change hearts, to save lives, to soothe and heal, as I am certain you do since you too are a lover of books.

I do not know if you realize how heartsick Latinos in America feel in regards to all that has occurred, and how for many of us, because we are used to being the scapegoats at times like these, are the first to put out our American flags to remind our neighbors that we too are Americans.

I know that among our U.S. troops being sent to war, many are Americans with Spanish surnames. As a community that has had to struggle with conflict and poverty, I think we understand your situation as the wife to a man who has problems with his job, who is struggling to make economic ends meet.

We also understand the power of the spirit in times like this, for although we may be poor in material possessions, our community is spiritually wealthy.

In our families it is often the mother who has to take control when situations are out of control, when situations are in crisis as they are now. Because you are a woman, Mrs. Bush, I hope you will listen to this request. I pray you will intercede and ask your husband to consider creating a peace pentagon, because not all our options have been used to diffuse the current situation of conflict. We have not used our greatest assets, our humanity.

Celebrando quinientos años
May 2003 LA VOZ DE ESPERANZA 3

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WHY IS PEACE SO ELUSIVE?

by Ruth Lofgren

"If you want peace, then work for justice."

People matter. In the end, human rights is all about people being treated and feeling like people who matter. In this age of conspicuous consumption, greed and relaxed moral values, people striving for a simple, uncluttered life of learning and service are definitely not in the mainstream.

I believe that each of us is an amalgam of our animal and spiritual natures. Maybe some people glory in their worldliness and some abide their saintliness, but most of us balance the worldly and spiritual aspects of our natures depending upon our upbringing.

My mystical side can experience unity and peace, even as my physical side recognizes the complexities and conflicts in the world. As a Quaker, I believe that there is "that of God," an "Inner Light" within me (and within all human beings). If I will listen in silence, I will be led to the right action to take in each situation. The Society of Friends avoids anarchy since its members realize that this Light is super-individual. We listen together. We seek a sense of the meeting. This light can create peace and unity among all persons who respond to it (a gathered meeting), or as George Fox often said, "answered it in one another." Quakers are called to be peace-makers, not protesters.

I believe that we need to coordinate the spiritual and the physical sides of our natures. It took billions of years for the coordination of arms and legs and nervous system to evolve that makes walking and building things possible. Perhaps, in future generations, the Inner Light will naturally illuminate all people's actions. But until then, we need to work at it!

As an American I say, along with the Founding Fathers, "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Of course, I assume that "all men" means all men and women, not just the white land-owners. And of course, I assume that being "created equal" means that all possess that of God within them. As a biologist, I realize how unequally we are endowed both by genetics and the social and physical environments into which we are born and that should nourish us.

People in all parts of the world long for democracy, for a government of the people, by the people and for the people, where all are free and equal. It is disillusioning to realize how far short of the goal the USA still is after over 200 years. True, women can vote, institutional slavery has been replaced by economic "slavery," but some safety nets that exist for the poor,

the elderly and disabled are in jeopardy with repeated cutbacks in funding.

Now that industries are global, national governments no longer can even attempt to regulate or limit bad practices. The military-industrial complex that President Eisenhower warned us about half a century ago has grown into a giant that made the

USA's "pre-emptive strike" against Iraq possible. The ability of companies to move from place to place, seeking the cheapest labor market, has put workers at the mercy of international forces as millions of unemployed people are left behind.

Those of us who buy the articles that are made more cheaply are participating in the process.

After World War I the League of Nations was organized in 1920 based on the concept of collective security "to preserve the peace." Protectorates were formed from former colonies. Iraq, Israel and Palestine were British Protectorates. The Senate of the USA did not ratify the treaty, so we did not belong. The World Court and the organizations of the League of Nations lacked the support needed to deal with international problems. In general, diplomats talked as problems festered into economic depression, fascism, communism and World War II.

When the United Nations was formed in 1946, the property of the League of Nations was transferred to it. The organization was strengthened, with emphasis on human rights: health, welfare of children, food and agriculture, control of narcotic traffic, aid to refugees, peacekeeping, etc. Against tremendous odds, it has developed skills that continue to deal with many global problems. But of course, its success depends upon the cooperation of the member states. Sad to say, USA has recently been one of its most difficult members.

I wasn't aware of how self-centered our slogan of Life, Liberty

The ability of companies to move from place to place, seeking the cheapest labor market, has put workers at the mercy of international forces as millions of unemployed people are left behind.

and the pursuit of Happiness is until last summer when, during a visit to Canada, Dr. James Wiley told us that Canada's slogan is: Peace, Order and Good Government. What a contrast!

A country conceived in injustice (taxation without representation) and born through war (the revolution) might be expected to seek freedom and assume that peace would follow. George Washington said, "To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace." However, Thomas Jefferson recognized that, "War is as much a punishment to the punisher as to the sufferer."

The good news is that many dedicated people are currently working to relieve the suffering of millions of their fellow human beings and are attempting to restore order in the war-torn, hungry, and disease-ridden parts of the globe.

Quakers base their peace testimony on the fundamental conviction that war is wrong in the sight of God. George Fox was unwilling to serve in the army in England. "I told them...that I lived in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of all wars."

In Science and Peace,

"Selections from Writings of Friends," James G. Vail said, "The disciplines of science have the great advantage of inclining men to be friendly and cooperative, though at the same time analytical and rigorous in examination. We want security for ourselves and for our neighbors. There is no security except in creating situations in which people do not want to harm you. This is a difficult truth for most people to face, but the difficulty is more emotional than rational or scientific. 'If thine enemy hunger, feed him,' is not only Christian teaching, but it is profound wisdom, for the best way of getting rid of an enemy is to convert him into a friend."

"Peace and justice are indivisible (all people must be treated justly for peace to prevail)" is the title of Dr. Nicolaus Tideman's article. "... peace is more than an armistice. Peace is unity and harmony. People are pleased to cooperate with one another. People will feel the truth of John Donne's meditation:

'No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the Continent; a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the lesser, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of my friends or of thine own were: any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in Mankind; therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.'"

Pope John Paul II added another dimension to peace in his message for the World Day of Peace on January 1, 2002 "No Peace Without Justice, No Justice Without Forgiveness." He said, "The pillars of true peace are justice and that form of love which is forgiveness. ... It can heal and rebuild troubled human relations from their foundations." Then the Pope asks, "How do we restore the moral and social order subjected to such horrific violence?"

The good news is that many dedicated people are currently working to relieve the suffering of millions of their fellow human beings and are attempting to restore order in the war-torn, hungry, and disease-ridden parts of the globe. Unfortunately, that is a vast part of it. Organizations like the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Amnesty International, Doctors Without Borders, Catholic Charities, American Friends Service Committee, and hundreds of others are making a temporary difference, and that is important. But, unless human attitudes and institutions change to include the "right sharing of world resources," the numbers of exploited, hungry, sick, and desperate people will increase. And wars and rumors of wars will continue.

My question is: how can we educate ourselves and the next generation of children about justice and equity? First, we need to choose the values that are required for just and humane behavior. The Ten Commandments, the Golden Rule, the Scout Oath, etc. inform us what to do and what not to do. We need to learn alternatives to violence in resolving conflicts. It would help if each of us sought the common good, rather than demanding that to the winner belong the spoils.

One of the most hopeful practices I see is home-schooling. When parents are concerned enough about their children's upbringing that they take on the responsibility of providing a rich, nurturing environment: in helping them learn the skills, facts, and values they respect, and if the parents are examples of the behaviors they value, a major change could happen in one generation.

There are many fine schools with dedicated teachers, but the system is so big that most children are lost in it. Some high schools seem to be training grounds for conceit or despair, snobbery, prejudice, bullying, cruelty and violence. The PBS program, "People Like Us: Social Classes in America" shows us how far we have strayed from the ideal nation we could be.

"Democracy, like love, comes from within." Since it does not come naturally to most of us to coordinate our animal and spiritual natures, bullying and control compete with compassion and concern. Each of us chooses: Do I see someone who needs help, or do I see a victim to exploit? Our decisions and our actions make us the people we are and will become.

If we want a peaceful world, we need to become peacemakers.



Ruth Lofgren, an octogenarian, a member of San Antonio Friends and a longtime supporter of Esperanza is a retired biologist and now a world traveler and adventuress.

Re-claiming my Homeland.

by Susan M. Guerra from Oslo, Norway/
San Antonio, Texas



I am a Texan who loves her Homeland. My homeland is not the same one as the one the George Bush regime protects. He protects the Homeland of the rich. The interests of BIG CAPITAL industry. Weapon makers. Oil and gas companies. Worldwide interests. The George Bush regime does not exist alone.

I wonder if there is a president somewhere who judges the George Bush regime the way his regime judges Saddam Hussein? Will they decide to bomb our cities? Will they remember how our homeland dropped chemical weapons over civilians and territories in Vietnam? Still, today, our own people, the brave soldiers and nurses, are in and out of VA hospitals because of that. Who will judge us?

I wonder if turning tables around with questions and phrases can help me get a larger picture of politics than what the stir of flags, ribbons and nationalistic rhetoric provide.

I am scared. I am scared when I hear radio reports sending the voices of ordinary people in middle America singing God Bless America. My God and my Homeland want me to pray and sing God Bless Humanity. God Bless our Earth. God Bless ALL the Children. I get scared because the George Bush regime said that America (meaning citizens of the USA) were the best people in the world. The best people of the world. This doesn't make sense now, does it?

Who can claim to be the best people in the world? I remember Hitler said something about that. Many citizens of Europe remember that, too. My American education, my Catholic religion, my homeland's constitution taught me that "all men are created equal". I do believe that, and that we are equal. But how do we use our equality? How do we choose to manifest our ideal of equality in our everyday decision making?

At this moment, I hear bird song. Outdoors the sky is as blue as freedom. I held a three month old baby last night. I felt Maria's (my colleague's) carefree joy as she danced and laughed with her husband. In New York a dear friend is going through chemotherapy and my sister is there with her caring for her. We are a community of universal prayers and meditations across two continents. Across the personal and the political.

Yesterday, I spoke with my eighty-three year old mom to send her love and comfort through the sound of my voice. Today, I just sent my sixteen year old off to his soccer game with his tummy full of bread and fruit.

I feel like the Iraqi mother I saw on television three days ago. She said "This isn't a war any of us want. We are just people. We are scared."

I am scared. Why do I feel more like her and less like the mighty

allies of the George Bush regime?

I am not poor nor rich. I do not have a savings account. But I know and live with my family history. We come from a war torn and poor people. Call it Northern Mexico or Southern Texas, depends on the era. We live with the political consequences of the rich man's politics over the poor man's political defeat throughout the world. It doesn't matter what color, faith or ethnicity the rich "man" is. The global rich exercise power greedily.

I do not feel my sense of being American is one dimensional. I feel deeply like a citizen of Texas. I love my city, the Texas hill country, the red clay roads to the south towards Floresville, the flatness and the length of the Gulf coast.

I feel deeply like a citizen of the USA, a Homeland of many creative and loving people; smiling, believers in miracles, believers in justice and peace; sometimes a little wild and reckless. I see ourselves so well from the outside looking in, living as I do in Northern Europe. I am always part of something very American, very Mexican.

I feel deeply like a member of a universal female population; our resilient nature to ensure our equality in public and private life. I feel deeply as a member of a spiritual community. Brought up as a Catholic, a believer in the universal spirit of human beings. May we allow loving grace to guide our actions to foster inclusivity and compassion.

I feel deeply I am a member of world citizens who feel love and responsibility for our life in this miraculous environment and our earth. Sacred elements of water, wind, soil and fire. I am a lover of life. I want to always be learning.

I cannot get it through my brain that I am considered deficient or disloyal because I cannot support the military acts of the George Bush regime; which with bombs of terror on the heads of ordinary people in their cities and along their coasts is a way of showing greatness and leadership. We could choose, instead, to use power in so many constructive ways.

My homeland is not the same as the one the George Bush regime speaks of. He protects the Homeland of the rich. The interests of GLOBAL CAPITAL industry. Weapon makers. Oil and gas companies. Worldwide interests. The George Bush regime does not exist not alone. This war does not make sense for my Homeland. Tell me, citizens of our Homeland, does it make sense for yours?



Susan, a founder of the Esperanza Center, is a writer currently living in Norway with her family.

What happened to Julio Noboa?

by Thein Wah

Editor's note: Julio Noboa was recently fired as a columnist of the Express-News. In response to community outcry over his firing La Voz is printing two articles protesting his dismissal. Community concern has led to organizing around this issue. For more information regarding further actions on this matter call Esperanza at 228-0201.

It might look like a coincidence that Julio Noboa was fired as a columnist of the Express News at about the same time that Paul Wolfowitz's policies triumphed in Iraq. Actually the two incidents, one local and the other of international scope, spring from the same source that is currently triumphant in the United States.

Looking for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq was never



Thein Wah at a recent war protest

anything more than an excuse to invade. The two major objectives are to get control of the Mid-East oil resources and to reshape the entire Islamic world there so that Israel will be the supreme and unchallenged master of the region. The second aim requires that all anti-Israel voices be stilled in the United States. Julio Noboa is one of the victims of this campaign since he was one of the few voices fighting for freedom of the Palestinians.

The Express-News pretends to believe that it is an independent voice in the community. But this is only a pretense. It can no more remain insulated from nationally powerful groups like the Israeli lobby to which the U.S. Congress pays daily obeisance.

This situation is likely to get worse in the near future, as the "Wolfies," as they are called, take control of Iraq after subjugating its people.

We can already see the outlines of American policy, as they exploit the latent animosities between the Kurds, the Sunnis and the Shiites. Curiously the imperial power that created present day Iraq, namely the United Kingdom, was a master of the age old technique "divide et Impera" (divide and rule). Is it another coincidence that Britain's Blair is one of Bush's mentors?

In order for American plans to succeed, dissent needs to be stifled. The simplest way to do this is to call into question people's patriotism or accuse them of anti-Semitism. (At this moment the two are synonymous). No wonder they got Noboa.

The triumph of Paul Wolfowitz and Richard Perle are, however, likely to be short-lived.

The entire Islamic world and most Europeans see through American pretenses and are not taken in by proclamations of a new era of democracy and freedom suddenly dawning in the Middle East.

The prospect is for widespread unrest and ethnic strife and general misery all over that region. The United States, like Britain before it, will find it virtually impossible to control events.

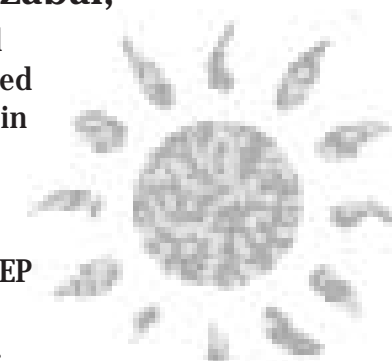
Nobody can predict the future with exactitude, but it is likely to be chaotic.



Thein Wah is a retired university professor.

Kudos to Manuel Berriozábal,

UTSA math professor, who received UTSA's 2003 President's Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence in University Service. Manny has been associated with the UTSA for almost 27 years and is the originator of the very successful PREP Program which celebrates its 25th year of existence in August of 2003.



In informing Manny of this award, Dr. Ricardo Romo wrote:

"This annual award recognizes teachers' superior command of their respective disciplines, classroom methods, and commitment to the learning process, exemplifying work, but also the essential teaching function of the University."

Con admiración y respeto de parte de la buena gente de Esperanza.

The Termination of Julio Noboa and the San Antonio Express-News: What are we fighting for?

by Bárbara Renaud González

In the mid-nineties I got the call from the San Antonio Express-News while I was living and working in Dallas.

“Will you write monthly columns for us?” Lynell Burkett, the Editorial Page Editor, asked me. I had just written my *Ay Henry!* essay and the intersections of sex and politics regarding you-know-who. It was a controversial column that got the city talking so much so that Lynell offered me \$100 a month for my columns. At that time, our agreement made me the first out-Chicana writing a “regular” opinion column for a major newspaper in Texas.

It is now almost ten years later, and my monthly columns (most recently paying \$125 per) have been criticized by the right-wing for my use of the “gringo” word and Lynell has complained about my emphasis on “race.” The SAEN, like so many institutions, likes its minorities brown but deracinated.

And there is so much to write about. Latinas are now “stars” in Hollywood while others are pinned with the Texas Medal of Art. A real hero, Cesar Chavez, is on a postage stamp while our soldiers, trying to be the kind of heroes that the media rewards, are returning decorated with a flag around their casket.

And now that Julio Noboa’s Saturday columns were terminated from the SAEN in March, there are no progressive, provocative, voices left speaking from a Latina/o viewpoint on the Opinion pages - weekly, monthly, or syndicated.

As a result of Julio’s last two articles “Jenin survivors ending the silence” on 3/1/03 and “Israel gets billions while Americans tighten belts,” 3/15/03, Lynell Burkett cancelled his columns. The reasons given were his heavy reliance on one source and a “lack of attribution”. These are charges, according to experienced journalists I’ve spoken with, that are unjust for a free-lance columnist. They suggest that the attribution issue could have easily been handled in a subsequent column. Other professionals tell me that the termination is a veil for his defense of the “p” word - *Palestine*.

But, “nobody reads the Insight section anyway,” say the journalists. So who cares?

Today the SAEN publishes many conservative columnists: Hackworth, Gurwitz, Gardner and Austin Bay and the syndicated William Safire, George Will, Cal Thomas, Tom Sowell and Kathleen Parker. There are two full-time Latino columnists at the Express-News, but do you know who they are and what they stand for, or are they intimidated from saying very much? Ruben Navarrette, the Harvard-educated Dallas Morning News columnist whose columns runs weekly, is anti-affirmative action although he went to Harvard. Gilberto Hinojosa and Victor Landa are confined voices in similar piecemeal arrangements as Julio and I were.

I keep reading that we’re fighting this war to safeguard democracy. But how can we expect to do that without dissenting voices?

Noboa’s response to me, and one that I agree with, is that conservative right-wing lobbies in this city deny the rest of us a democratic debate.

Their hard-fisted power is reflected in the opinion pages that nobody reads - except those who analyze, make and participate in public policy. Not only do they prevent a thorough examination of social and political injustice in this city, but these forces keep us parochialized, infantilized, cartoonized.

Their combined impact is subtle but deadly to our hopes for a cleaner and historically-leveraged city. Including a literate audience that might one day want to read the Opinion pages.

In an article examining the boring vanilla opinion pages of The Washington Post (The Progressive, October 2001), Lynell Burkett was quoted from her position as an officer of the National Conference of Editorial Writers and as Editorial Page Editor. Here’s what she said regarding her feelings on the need for vibrancy and readership:

...“if you expect people to read your op-ed page it has to reflect the variety of voices in the community. That means gender diversity, ethnic diversity, and a wide variety of political views.”

The conundrum, of course, is that the SAEN want us to read the newspaper but they are afraid to give us anything to read. Because you will not find any *cachetadas* in these pages about the middle-class abandonment of our public schools, the lack of mass transportation and our petroleum wars, obesity and the food industry, the CIA and global drug traffic, the privatization of water, the militarization of our culture while we demonize the poor, and (God help us) discussions of peace, forgiveness, resistance, stories of human desperation told intimately and poetically. Has anyone challenged the Americans for being the new conquistadores? And what about the relationship between the Tejanos’ historical loss of land and the Palestinians’ need for autonomy and their humanity? The last seven words are exactly what got Julio Noboa into trouble.

Which is why we need to keep talking and why we need the ammunition of words to fight back.

Worse, you will rarely read anything authentic (or gripping) about any of these subjects because the columnists have either forgotten how to do it, they are likely afraid to lose their jobs, or - perhaps, they aren’t as diverse as they seem to be. Paradox, dimension, context, originality, the dialectics that would make an opinion fresh and unforgettable is lost to the pages rejuvenated with wartime viagra. This isn’t even McCarthyism. You don’t have to be a communist to get branded as a traitor or expelled on these pages. You just have to be for peace and respect and dignity for all, especially the Palestinians.

Julio’s termination has ramifications beyond even this volatile issue, though.

Recently, a San Francisco Chronicle columnist was fired for participating in an anti-war rally. Journalists at the SAEN have told me that they are not allowed to even, “observe anti-war marches or put signs in their yards” and have been “discouraged” from writing anti-war opinions as well.

But the delicious irony is that if you’re reading this essay then you are one of the nobodies who reads the SAEN opinions, or might if they said something of value. More than ever, we need and deserve a rip-roaring **nochingesconmigo** discussion. Messy and passionate and full of corazón. Pero, when? After we finish off Syria or before North Korea finishes us?

Writing good columns requires lots of time and money, and I for one am tired of seeing this newspaper create a façade of “minority” columnists when the ones you know are basically campesinos like I was. Those days to me are long over, when we the little brown ones are precisely **los sucios** who can draw the audience of the future while confronting too many columnists who are still circa 1950s.

Newspapers around the country are reeling from the economy, and the SAEN may be facing layoffs in the near future. Perhaps they don’t realize how their majestic pro-war posture has come home to roost with a bedraggled economy. Good timing! Eighty percent of the children born in Bexar County are my color. I shudder to think of how illiterate and unprepared we will be as a society in the decrepit, dismembered warzone schools while we’re saving Iraq. I went to those classrooms, and I understand how some days you just want to scream and give up or kill someone. But unlike me, these students are growing up in a society surrounded by guns and security guards and insane tests and windowless safety. The majority of them will see the military the way the Bush administration has planned it - as true Americans - learning to hate people like you and me for being the “great unwashed” as a FOX television commentator put it. They call people like us scum, and nobody fires them. Gadflies who need to get real jobs.

As if writing was a sin. I pray that in my hands it is. And in Julio’s.

In the years to come, the symphony’s audience will continue to diminish. Our **gente** will get fatter and the climate will get weirder. More silly **nalgona** actresses who look like us will become stars, and more men and women who look like us will go to prison and to the suburbs, which to me is almost the same. The Democrats will continue to be the capitulating cowards we know and love. And who will lead our politicians out of the woods? The next generation is joining the military thanks to

our president and the media that kisses his feet. And another part of his body that would really get me censored at the SAEN.

A sorry snapshot, I know, but too many of us will be uneducated and illiterate. You want attributions? See The Texas Challenge: Population Change & The Future of Texas, by Dr. Steve H. Murdock, TAMU. But if you want columns, forget it.

When these newborn chavalitos grow up and finally figure out what has happened and how little they are getting out of this new apartheid, it will be too late for the democracy we say we love. More wars and dying. And the San Antonio Express-News will be torched because nobody reads it anyway.

In the meantime, I continue to write. Julio and people like him.??? The words are the only land we have left.



Bárbara is a free lance writer who writes occasional columns for the San Antonio Express-News and the Current.



photo by Tina Modotti

Un rezo contra la guerra

palabras al viento

By Alejandro Insurgentes Perez

Editor's note: Received April 24th. Alejandro Perez wrote this the night the bombing began, and read it across from the San Fernando Cathedral at the anti-war marcha held.

I do not believe in the war between races.
but in this country there is war.

"Poem for the Young White Man Who Asked Me How I, An Intelligent, Well-Read Person, Could Believe In The War Between Races," by Lorna Dee Cervantez

At dawn, half a world away, the first bombs rain on a country of brown people, people who look like they could look like me, my familia, my friends and loved ones.

I want to run from my apartment, through the complex where I live, knocking on the doors of my neighbors, known and unknown, to ask them if they know what is happening, if they understand what is happening. Can they comfort me in this time of struggle? Do they know the cost of war, in lives and human suffering? Of course, I ask this of others because I don't know the answer myself.

I know not of war firsthand, that is to say, war between nations. I do know of another sort of war: a war within; a war against. I know of the war this country has waged on Xicanas and Xicanos. The rape and enslavement of Mexican and Indian women. The taking of tribal and communal land. The lynching and brutality against our gente.

This nation has prospered through our blood. We built the rails, dug the mines, picked the crops which feed this country. Our people have fought in every war to defend the freedoms of this country, yet we have not, do not share in these freedoms.

This nation in which we live has held no qualms about decimating the lands of our sisters and brothers to the south: Mexico. Nicaragua. El Salvador. Guatemala. Panama. Colombia. Chile.

Military-backed coups, CIA-backed death squads and corporate excess called free trade have brought our people here, joining

those of us whose roots run deep in ésta tierra. And for what? To have our language and culture devalued, mocked? To work in backbreaking labor for those same corporations which exploit our people elsewhere? To be abused by law enforcement and la migra? To train to fight and kill for a country which sees us as foreign?

We have resisted centuries of Spanish colonialism and Yankee imperialism. We are survivors of half a millennia of genocide. We are products of violence but we, as a people, as a whole, have not responded with violence directed against our oppressor.

(And what of the violence of hunger and illness, of education denied and economic discrimination?)

This is called "the war to liberate the Iraqi" but I don't believe that destroying Iraqi infrastructures or assassinating their military commanders, and in the process murdering potentially tens of thousands, will bring about freedom and democracy to that portion of the Muslim world. This formula has not worked in Latin America and the Caribbean basin, when the u.s. has gone in to install their own friendly dictators.

What Bush says is a lie.

The Iraqi people do not ask for this war. Their leaders, whether legitimate or imposed, do not speak in the best interests of their people. Of this I am convinced.

The American people: Raza, Indios, Blacks and whites, Asians, Muslim, Catholic, Christian, Jew do not ask for this war, either. Our leaders, illegitimate and imposed, do not speak in the best interests of our people.

We as Raza have no business supporting this war. Now that it has begun, we must do everything in our power to end it. Muslim or Mexican, from the streets of Baghdad to my westside barrio, we are all targets.

The Tree of Peace symbolizes the Great Law which "pierces the sky" for all nations to see. The four white roots extend to the farthest parts of the earth; beneath the tree are buried all weapons of war while the eagle watches for approaching dangers.

Dear Daughter of Mine

By Dolores Zapata Murff

Have I ever told you about the times, I felt I'd had enough, you
That I felt like running away?

It wasn't because I didn't love you all
I did
But somewhere along the way
I lost myself and no longer
had my own words to say
All the things that I once
loved to do
Were but distant memories
of a distant day

Have I ever told you about
the times
When I stayed up all night?
Slowly going out of my mind
Listening to my son's
hungry cries?

My breast had already gone
dry,
Nipples bleeding,
Hungry mouth tugging
How I wished I could just
die?
All alone into the night, I sat
there with my baby,
And just cried and cried?

Don't get me wrong, oh
beautiful daughter of mine,
It's not like I didn't love to
hear the laughter
Of my four children at play
I just want you to know, that sometimes it's ok
To want to run away...it's ok to hold onto yourself, to
continue
To expand your mind...sweet daughter of mine it really
Is not a crime...
To take time to breath ALONE at times...

The best advice I can give you
Continue to learn and take time for yourself
Outside of your home. Laugh and surround yourself
With friends, take some time away...the kids won't miss

I promise you they will be busy at play

You need to have that time
FOR YOU,
Dear daughter of mine

Have I told you, I guess
not, that it took me twenty
plus years
To find myself again?

I say all this to you right
now, because I have sat
and watched your busy life
today,
And I wondered to myself,
why I never told you
About the downside, and
how it's ok

To take time for yourself
So that you won't want to
run away,
Sweet daughter of mine...

It's ok...it's ok
All mothers have felt like
this at one time or another
We are just not supposed to
talk about
The downside of being a
MOTHER

But I love you, and I am
here to testify,
Having a bad day
Does not make you a bad mother
It makes you human,
So don't be so hard on yourself
It's ok...it's ok



Mother and Child by Afshin Naghouni

Dee Murff is a student, mother, Esperanza boardmember and aspiring writer.

Do You Feel Safer Now?

by Antonio Cabral

Last Saturday, an angry Mexican crowd in Zacatecas, Mexico blew up George W. Bush.

Even in this small town high on the Sierra Madre the anger against the U.S. in general, and the Bush regime, in particular, is growing.

Judas is burned every Holy Saturday as part of the traditional ceremonies of Holy Week. This year, an effigy of Bush was blown up instead. A voice over the sound system in the city's main Hidalgo Street announced, "Today, President Bush will pay for his war crimes, he will pay for his sins as the Judas of humanity."

Watching the crowd of thousands applaud, whistle and cheer as Bush's image exploded into hundreds of pieces brought me mixed feelings.

I was happy to see that Mexicans, even in this isolated city, like most people throughout the world and unlike most Americans, understand that the Bush regime's unprovoked invasion of Iraq is a crime under several international laws including the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Genocide Conventions, the four Geneva Conventions and the Hague Convention.

Yet, the anger towards our illegitimate and now outlaw president worried me because it will inevitably turn against innocent Americans including those who blindly continue to support the Bush regime.

The fundamental reason that Mexicans and the rest of the world view the destruction of Iraq differently from people living within the U.S. is the information they receive.

While Americans are shown only "our" tanks, bombers, ships, etc. and the bombs they drop upon Iraqis, Mexicans see images and read reports of Iraqi men, women and children killed or mangled by U.S. soldiers.

While the Bush propaganda machine shows images of Iraqis kissing Bush's photo (and no U.S. reporter checks on how those photo-ops were organized and by whom), Mexicans see photos of thousands of angry Iraqis in downtown Baghdad carrying banners that say "Get Out of Our Country!" and men, women and children yelling insults at armed U.S. Marines standing near.

While Bush's propaganda machine dismisses the looting and destruction of the Iraqi people's history and cultural

Editor's note:
Received on April 22nd, this letter comes to La Voz from a source "south of the border" giving us a view from beyond the border.

records as 'democracy at work,' Mexicans see it as a crime against humanity.

For example, La Jornada (4/16/03) condemned the "invasion forces for implementing a strategy of breaking the memory and pride of the Iraqis to destroy their resistance against the invaders and to twist their identity in order to make it more docile to the economic, cultural and ideological colonization."

Native Americans and the Chicano people understand very well such policy of cultural colonization.

Mexicans at all levels of society question how is it possible that over 80% of the U.S. public continue to support such atrocities against humanity even now when it has become clear, even to the most uninformed or patriotic person, that the Bush regime lied about Saddam's threat to other countries or to the U.S. The world now knows that it was a country disarmed and rendered helpless since Papa Bush's Gulf War and the inhuman embargo that followed it and that caused so many deaths of innocent Iraqis.

Such questioning of Americans' backing of the Bush regime is triggering a growing anger and repugnance towards all Americans. Therein lies the most serious threat to the security of the U.S.

The recent news that the U.S. company ChoicePoint purchased from the Fox Administration data banks containing personal information on all Mexicans has added to the anti-U.S. anger. ChoicePoint is the same company working with the Pentagon and the Homeland Security Department to gather personal information on Americans who oppose the country's self-destructive path.

Impoverished Mexican workers will continue going to 'el norte' but not because of respect or love for Americans. They are escaping the growing poverty created by the 'free market' doctrine that the Bush regime is about to unleash upon the Iraqis.

People in the U.S. must wake up and wake soon. The anger brewing throughout Mexico and the world may create situations for the whole world that not even Dante would have imagined.



Antonio is a former Esperanza boardmember and writer/activist whose columns appear in major Mexican daily newspapers.

A letter from a concerned Educator

photos gathered from Dia de los Niños, April 12 at the Esperanza

Editor's note: Early childhood programs are in flux throughout San Antonio school districts with the possibility of major cuts and added stress on early childhood teachers. According to my sources it is unclear whether the SAISD will implement a pre-kinder program that was tested this year as a pilot program and did not seem to meet with success. However, this anonymous letter is a rare speak-out from an educator whose sentiments are worth airing out.

Dear Editor,

I write this to you in hopes that you may follow-up on this information and give it the much-needed public exposure that it needs. I have been a faithful reader of your publication for a long time, and I am always grateful for its existence and how it gives voices to those that have been denied them in the mainstream realm of this mostly conservative city.



I write to you mostly as a concerned teacher and also as a concerned citizen of San Antonio. The information in this letter will also have a major impact in the near future on the hundreds of SAISD families of San Antonio. Consequently, for this same reason, I write to you anonymously -for one, fearing repercussions, which would affect my livelihood as a teacher in the SAISD school district.

As you might have been aware in the recent past, SAISD was given a large federal grant in order to better service (getting them "school ready") the huge young children's population (aged 3 and 4) that come from the lower socio-economic stratum (mostly inner-city) of San Antonio Independent School District. These children were thus eligible for an all-day Pre-K Instructional Program (monolingual and/or bilingual, depending on the need) with qualified teachers. The goal was to prepare these young children for Kindergarten and beyond so that they would have a greater chance of staying in school and becoming productive, responsible American citizens. From my experience, this has been a very successful program in preparing children for an academic school environment. Many of these children come from environments where they are unable to receive a foundation in school readiness skills, and/or school learning in general. Many have not had the experience of being read-to at home. Many of their parents and/or caretakers are working two to three jobs to make ends meet or they themselves are not literate.

SAISD was given a federal grant (temporarily), with the

understanding that SAISD would eventually match-up these grant monies in order to continue its quality Early Childhood Program. Well, SAISD did not complete its end of the deal for the benefit of the families of its district. What SAISD did with whatever monies it raised, if any, is a mystery to date.

Nevertheless, in comes the enormous Texas state deficit. SAISD plus other districts feel the pinch. But, what does SAISD do? It brings part of its cutting axe on those who are most needed, who make the most beneficial changes, but have the least voice within the community -the Early Childhood teachers of SAISD.



It is now official, and this is their plan (as was told to my colleagues and myself by our principal-please note that we were never called to any kind of forum in order to receive the news, nor were we even asked if we had any questions or reservations regarding the new change in program). SAISD will cut its Pre-K program in half. In this way the district can let-go of half of their Pre-K teacher staff (which is large) and save money. Beginning next school year, the young children of SAISD will attend an academic Pre-K program for only half a day. This means that the teacher would receive one group of Pre-K students in the first half of the school day (imagine fitting into only half a day the same kind of all-day instruction that was previously required by the state from the teacher). In the second half of the school day, the teacher would receive the second group of Pre-K students. Each group would consist of 22 students. This means that the teacher would be responsible for the instruction and assessment of 44 students during the school year. This does not include the students who may come to class with Special Needs or the Second Language Learners or

the student with Learning Disabilities. For me personally, this move on the district's part, calls into question the already pre-existing classroom cap on the number of children that a teacher can legally be responsible for.

I bring this up because even though the teacher will be with one group at a time, (while the other group will be in another classroom with an aide [this is another bizarre story in itself]), the district expects the teacher to be responsible for all of the students combined within that school day. This means that even when one group of students is not physically with or in viewing distance of the teacher, she is still legally responsible for their well being! This just does not sound legally or ethically right. SAISD lawyers managed to find some sort of loophole in the educational law (?) in order to allow one teacher to be legally responsible for 44 students. May I remind you that these are 3 and 4 year olds who still have not completely developed total control in the areas of gross and fine motor skills. There is so much to this incredible story that I could go on forever, but I won't so that I can finish with my main points.

I will add that a teacher's aide receives only a bare amount of Early Childhood training as opposed to qualified Early Childhood teachers. Aides are especially under-trained in the area of Special Needs, Learning Disabilities and Second Language Learner Populations).

Early Childhood teachers of the SAISD district are very anxious, to put it mildly, in regard to the changes proposed. They are helpless and cannot openly protest on their own behalf or on behalf of the children of that community. They fear being singled-out (a fear that is very real) and they fear repercussions in regard to their livelihood if they should speak out.

Finally, another thing which is ludicrous, is that while all of this

is happening (something that used to be hush-hush but now is "out"), SAISD has spent millions on an Early Childhood Center facility, which is due to be open for next school year. It will provide some SAISD higher-up employee with the lucrative title of Executive Director for Early Childhood. SAISD has opted for this, instead of using the money for paying their early childhood teachers in order to continue a program that is already working well.



For those at your publication offices that are educationally savvy, SAISD will also change their Early Childhood curriculum next year. It will use the High Scope Program. This is a very good program, but its philosophy of student-centered learning, goes completely against the now present instructional approach that SAISD uses, which is the teacher-centered and is a TAKS testing approach. How is that going to work in the long run??

In conclusion, not only will the children of San Antonio (mostly of the lower-socioeconomic strata) be receiving only half of a quality educational program, but they also will be receiving a method of instruction that does not jive with the pre-existing one (elementary-up). They will be going into a system that they are not prepared for and they will continue to be part of the very high dropout rate in the nation. Many teachers that do decide to stay with SAISD will be vulnerable to discharge at a drop of a hat (by an angry parent), or to unreasonable lawsuits. I hope that you will take interest in this petition that I have sent to you. It would at least allow that San Antonio citizens to be aware of it, and it would open up the table for a healthy discussion by all parties involved.

Respectfully and Very Concerned,

a teacher and a citizen of San Antonio



Christine Carvajal fue una maestra que sirvió por varios años en la escuela Francisco Ruiz. Ruiz era una escuela en el westside de la ciudad de San Antonio donde casi todo los niños eran hispanos. Su mayor interes era enseñarle a los niños que hay un mundo muy grande fuera de su comunidad y por eso tenían que aprender bien para enfrentarse a este mundo. En el segundo y tercer grado, ella les enseñaba frances igual que el ingles y el español. Era una

persona que parecia no cansarse. Era otra epoca donde los maestros podian enseñar más que leer y escribir. Hoy se encuentran muchos de sus alumnos que han conocido el mundo de que ella les enseñaba y entre todo eso les enseño buenos modales, respeto y ser buena gente. Que en paz descanse. December 1, 1914 to April 26, 2003.

Ms. Carvajal was Graciela Sánchez 2nd grade teacher. When asked for a

remembrance Graciela recalled that Ms. Carvajal was the only teacher she ever had that convinced her to play "the pretty princess." Late in her life Ms. Carvajal would frequent Taco Haven and even as she was barely able to walk would hold on to the top of the cab of the old truck she was riding in and swing her body out to the curb, a hint of her gusto for life. Ms. Carvajal died on April 26, 2003 and was one year shy of 90. She will be long remembered.

Notas Y Más

Brief notes to inform *La Voz* readers about events, issues and happenings in the community. Send announcements for *Notas y Más* to: lavorz@esperanzacenter.org or by snail mail to: 922 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78212. The deadline is the 12th of each month.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: Bilingual Anthology by Latino Gay Men and their Fathers. Submissions can be in English, Spanish, or Spanglish. Editors will consider almost any type of creative written or artistic endeavor speaking to relations between Latino gay men and their fathers. **Deadline: May 31, 2003.** Contact: LatinoAnthology@hotmail.com or call 562/ 984-3992. Editors include Francisco Alarcon, Horacio N. Roque Ramirez, Santiago Bernal, and Jorge Mario Cabrera.

Students and adults in the Bexar County area are invited to enter poems now for the sixth annual **San Antonio Poetry Fair**. **May 31** is the deadline to submit poems. The entry fee of \$1 for students, \$5 for college age and adults, entitles you to enter one original, unpublished poem. Entry forms are available at several Barnes & Noble stores and www.hometown.aol.com/sapoetryfair. Students are encouraged to ask their English teachers for a form at participating schools. Winning poems, and other poems of merit will be published in the sixth edition of the anthology, *Voices Along the River*. For details contact Don Mathis, 736-1405 or DMathis@trinity.edu.

Global Exchange and its partners are organizing a 200-person delegation of US environmentalists to attend and participate in Cuba's **4th International Conference on Environment and Development** in Havana, Cuba in June 2003. The Global Exchange Delegation dates are from May 30-June 8, 2003 and the **Global Exchange/Planetwalk** will take place from May 30-June 12, 2003. **Planetwalk-Cuba** seeks to transcend political and

cultural boundaries through a unique hands-on environmental education program linking US and Cuban students via advanced satellite technology during the walk. You can print out an application form directly from <http://www.globalexchange.org/tours/forms.html> or contact Rachel@globalexchange.org for more info.

Latina Letters, an annual conference on Latina Literature and Identity co-presented by the **Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center** and **St. Mary's University** will be held July 17-19 bringing together notable Latina scholars, writers, performers and artists. The 2003 theme is *Our bodies, Our Roots/Nuestros cuerpos, nuestras raíces*. Deadline for abstracts of papers, panel proposals, and other suggestions for possible presentations is May 7th. For complete information contact co-directors: Dr. Gwendolyn Diaz: gdiaz@alvin.stmarytx.edu or Bryce Milligan: Milligan@wingspress.com

A National Gathering for Youth Organizing will be held June 6 - 8, 2003 in Chicago, Illinois. The gathering will bring together over 350 youth (ages 13-19) and adult allies from every region of the country who are involved in efforts for social, economic and environmental justice. Participants will be mainly youth of color, low income youth, LGBTQ youth, immigrant youth and other young people facing social or political oppressions. Contact **YouthAction** in Albuquerque by fax: 505/873-3245 or by email: sireesha@youthaction.net

On June 6-7, 2003, the **Center for**

Democratic Renewal will convene a major strategy conference on hate violence. The vision of the conference is to show how hate violence intersects with various issues, and how the reduction of hate violence builds a more democratic society. This Summit builds on the foundation of CDR's *1996 Leadership Summit, 1998 Hate Crimes Summit, and the 2000 Youth Summit on Hate*. CDR will also use this occasion to introduce our five-year **National Campaign Against Hate** that is designed to educate the nation on hate violence, police brutality, hate crimes, INS violations, hate groups, and other human rights violations. Any questions can be directed to Dexter Wimbish, Program Director at dexter@thecdr.org or 404-221-0025.

The **P.E.A.C.E. Initiative** announces the opening of their new space. Their new offices are located in the Mennonite Church of San Antonio at the corner of St. Mary's Street corner of Eagleland St. Their doors are inside the "white picket fence" part of the church. Their phone number is 533-2729.

Taco Poetry Jam
a fundraiser for the **Esperanza Art, Live Music, Petry, Dancing and TACOS!**
featuring pluma y corazon poets & their friends
Friday, June 6, 2003 ★ 8pm - ?
ARtery Studio
150 El Monte, San Antonio, TX
Donations: \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100

Community Meetings

Society of Friends Sundays at 10 am at Friends Meeting House, 7052 N. Vandiver, call 945-8456.

Parents/Friends of Lesbians/Gays (PFLAG) First Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Resource Ctr, 121 W. Woodlawn, call 655-2383.

Habitat for Humanity holds Volunteer Orientation on first Tuesdays of each month at 1st Presbyterian Church, 404 N. Alamo, rm 302 at 6 pm.

Amnesty International #127 Fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm at Ashbury United Methodist, call 829-0397.

Circle of the Re-Formed Congregation of the Goddess Third Thursday of each month, 7 pm at the Esperanza, 922 San Pedro. Call 822-9105.

Xicana Xicano Education Project Wednesdays at 6 pm at the Bazan Public Library, 2200 W. Commerce St. Call 437-5196.

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

A Multicultural Worship Service is held Sundays at 11 am at **Spirit of Life Lutheran Church**, call Rev. Kay Johnson at 691-5937 in sanctuary of Los Angeles Heights Methodist.

Fuerza Unida at 710 New Laredo Hwy., Call for information and meeting times, 927-229.

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

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

Bexar County Green Party First Sunday of each month at 2 pm at the VIA Transit Center, 1021 San Pedro, across from Esperanza Center.





Soñar es Luchar
Imágenes de Domi
has been extended to June 16.



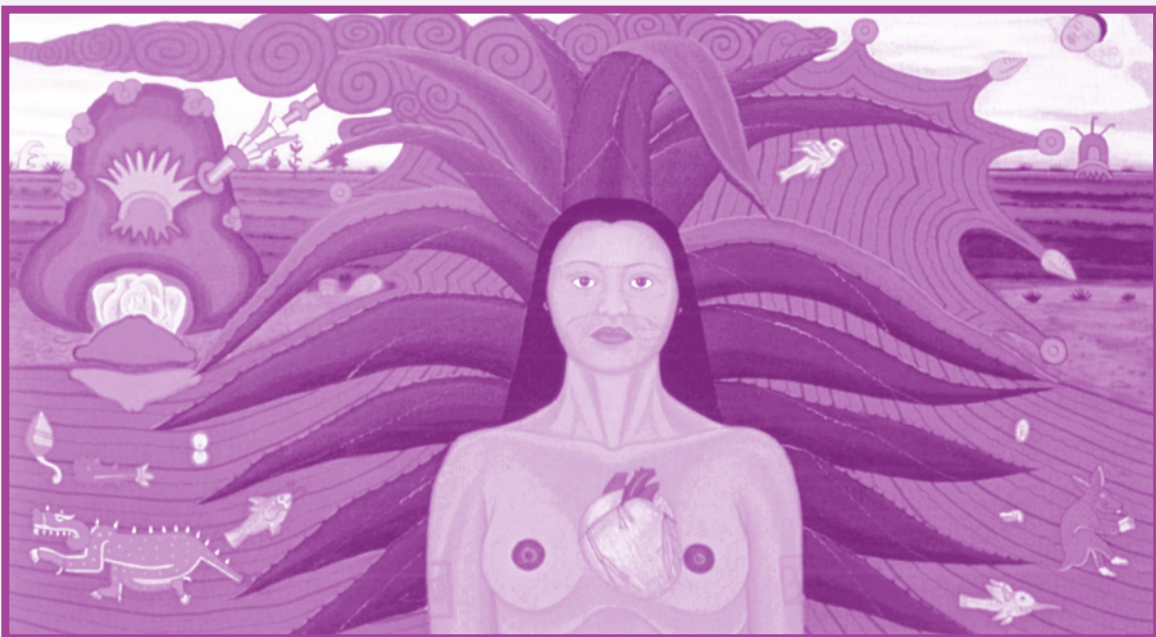
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