

ALMA LATINA

The University of Michigan
Latina/Latino Community
Newsletter

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WELCOME

HOLA! This newsletter is the first of what we hope will become a "Michigan Tradition." The main purposes of the newsletter are to: share university, Ann Arbor and personal information relevant to the Latina/o community, provide a forum for discussion of cultural, historical and current events and finally to build upon the strengths of our Latino community.

In this first issue you will find general information about university offices, services and organizations relevant to Latinos. We offer you an introduction to the worlds of two faculty and two staff members who promote scholarship and excellence for Latinas/os. Announcements about upcoming events, courses, and opportunities are also included. Finally, the LNET computer exchange is explained.

BIENVENIDA

¡HOLA! Este noticiero es la empezada de algo que esperamos que sea una "Tradición Michigüeña." (¿Qué les parece?!) Los propuestos de este noticiero son los siguientes: a compartir información desde la universidad, la ciudad de Ann Arbor, y fuentes personales que sean relevantes a la comunidad Latina; a crear un sitio para la discusión de acontecimientos culturales, históricos, y corrientes, y en fña unir a las fuerzas de nuestra comunidad Latina.

En este primer volúmen, encontrarán información general sobre algunas oficinas, servicios, e organizaciones universitarias relevantes para Latina/os. Les ofrecemos una introducción a los mundos de dos profesores y dos miembros del estaff quienes promueven esfuerzos academicos y sobresalidos para los Latinos y las Latinas. Finalmente, el intercambio de computadora LNET se explica.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LATINO/A COMMUNITY

Queridos comadres y compadres,

When I heard there was going to be a Latino/a Newsletter published on campus, I jumped at the chance to contribute something. Many of you don't know who I am, so allow me to introduce myself. My name is Bob Diaz. I am a Chicano from Tucson, Arizona. I've worked at the undergrad library for over four years now, but unfortunately, I won't be around much longer. I am currently looking for work back in the Southwest. Tucson, here I come!!

Before I leave, I'd like to share with you a few thoughts. First of all, as you all know, DIVERSITY is a big word these days everywhere you turn. Bet let me tell you something, if some people had their way, we Latino/as would be rendered INCONSEQUENTIAL and INVISIBLE on this campus. Diversity at Michigan does not include you and me, companeros!! Some people around here think we don't count, plain and simple. Experience has taught me this. I say these things as a WARNING and as a CALL TO ARMS!! UNITED, BROTHERS AND SISTERS!! Let your voices be heard loud and clear!! Even though many of us are culturally different from one another, we do have a great deal in common.. WE ARE BROWN!! SPANISH IS OUR NATIVE TONGUE!! And we have CORAZON!!

I am the only Latino librarian here. When I leave there will be no one to do what I have spent the last 4 1/2 years doing. (I'll tell you what I've done in a minute). You all will need to keep a close eye on the library system. If you do not make yourselves heard in one way or another, you will be ignored. Don't let this happen! If there are books, journals, displays or exhibits on Latino/a issues that you want to see in YOUR library, then DEMAND that they be bought and created! If you get treated badly at any public service point, then DEMAND MORE than an apology! DEMAND CHANGE!! Without pressure, the library does not move. It is a giant, clumsy bureaucracy, and it responds best to ORGANIZED PRESSURE!!

(continued on back cover.)

Open Letter (continued from first page)

In the years that I have worked at the UGL, I have been responsible for purchasing materials in a number of subject areas, including Latino/a Studies and Latin American studies. I have worked especially hard on beefing up the UGL's Latino/a literature collection. (I am currently in the process of compiling lists of titles received in Latino/a studies at the UGL between 1988 and 1991. For copies, contact me at 763-9761.) I have counted close to a hundred titles in Chicano literature alone. Unfortunately, many of these titles have yet to be checked out. If people don't use them, they will get withdrawn from the collection faster than you can say cucarachall!

The U of M library system isn't completely lacking. There are many resources available here that many people don't even know about. The Labadie Collection, for example, is a gold mine. (GL, 7th floor). It has lots of historical materials, i.e. pamphlets and journals, on various social movements related to Latinos, including documents produced by the Young Lords Party in New York and the Brown Berets in Califas. Also, the Graduate Library has on microfilm a series of Latino journals from the Sixties and Seventies in California and other parts of the West.. Did you know that it even has the **Chicano Periodicals Index?** (It's

buried in the stacks in the Z's, and not in the Inc Room). Speaking of indexes, there are a couple of others in addition to the Chicano Periodicals Index that you also might want to check out. They are the **Alternative Press Index** and, the **Hispanic American Periodicals Index (HAPI)**. Both provide excellent coverage of Latino/a issues and both are located in the Grad's Index Room. There are many other sources on Latino/as in the library system. New materials are coming in all the time. Check MIRLYN, the online catalog. If you feel you need to brush up on your MIRLYN search skills, give me a call (3-9761), or stop by the UGL. I would be happy to show you how to most effectively use MIRLYN. You can contact Chuck Ransom, Diversity Librarian for additional assistance at 764-1148.

Bueno, pues, amigas y amigos. It's been real!! Cuidense y que les vaye bien. ADIOS!!

Sinceramente, Bob Diaz

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