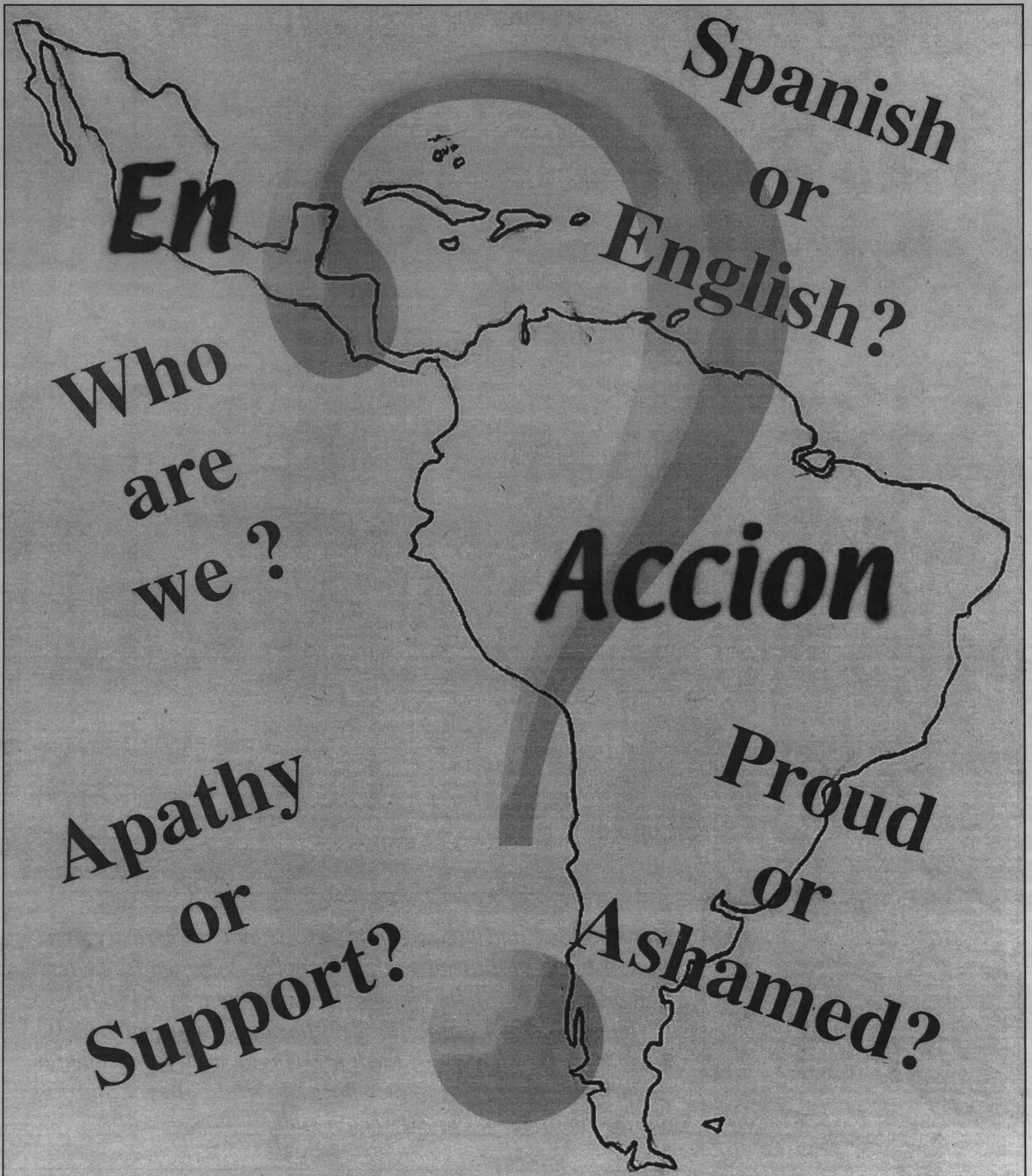


# Stony Brook's 1<sup>st</sup> and Only Latino Newspaper

Volume1 - Issue 1

Fall 2002





# EN ACCION

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

*Eusebio (Junior) Martinez*

MANAGING EDITOR

*Kimberly Herrera*

BUSINESS EDITOR

*Jonathan Marrero*

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

*Roseanne Solano*

COPY EDITOR

*Kevin Illes*

## Letter from the Editor: Where do we stand today?

*Did you know...*

- Only 5.7% of the total number of New York State public school classroom teachers are of Latino descent
- Latinos have the largest statewide dropout rate at 7.6% compared to Blacks at 6.3% and Whites at 2.3%
- Hispanic children under the age of 5 are less likely to be enrolled in early childhood education programs
- Sixty percent of Hispanic families have annual incomes less than twice the federal poverty level - \$35,300 for a family of four
- Nearly one million children live in poverty in New York State alone
- About 40% of Hispanic children under the age of 18 are living in poverty compared to 13% of non-Hispanic White children
- Nearly two out of five Hispanics (37 percent) are uninsured medically. This is more than twice the national average of 18 percent
- Only 16.1% of Hispanics use the Internet at home, half the national average of one-third (33%)
- Hispanic women average only half the full-time earnings of white men - \$20,527 to \$37,339
- Hispanic women with a high school diploma earn an average of \$22,469, 33% less than white men with the same level of education
- Hispanic women earn 52 cents for every dollar a white male earns in a similar job

These are just some of the alarming statistics that plague our everyday lives as Latinos. It is time for us to become aware of these numbers and make conscious attempts to improve our educational, financial, and social status. When I took the position to bring *En Accion* back to the point where it was the publication of the Latino, I did so with the intention of raising the awareness of our state as Latinos today. Some of the statistics that reflect our everyday living are just appalling. It is a shame that many Latinos are not aware of this sub-par standard of living we are now experiencing. Throughout this paper, and with subsequent papers to follow, the writers and contributors of *En Accion* will have as a focus the consciousness that needs to be promoted throughout our people. Whether it is a column on apathy, a poem about being Latino, or a fun spinoff of "Dear Abby", we will attempt to bring an awareness not only to the Latino community, but to all those who we live among. I cannot stress the value of self-awareness and pride we must take in our culture, heritage, and being.

I felt a new sense of motivation and a surge of appreciation for this paper when I met its founder, Fernando P. Tirado this semester. He went on to explain to me how he sacrificed much as a Stony Brook student to ensure that *En Accion* would promote the Latin voice he felt was absent on this campus at the time. I would be doing this community a disservice if I did not do the same. I, like Tirado back in 1994, will do my best to bring the Latin viewpoint to the table and let people know what we feel about the issues that not only affect us, but the world outside of us as well.

- With regard to minority women-owned businesses, Hispanics rank highest with a percent age of 37% of all businesses
- In a span of 20 years, the number of Hispanics enrolled in undergraduate institutions has increased 202%, compared with only 13% of Whites and 44% of Blacks
- Hispanics borrow less for their education than anyone else. As first-year students, 50% of Hispanics received grants while less than 30% received loans to pay for their education
- Despite smaller numbers, Hispanics doing graduate work are more likely to enroll full-time than Whites or Blacks

It is time for us to step up and realize who we are and more importantly, where we are in terms of the rest of society. With publications such as *En Accion*, I hope to get people excited about the idea that we can start a new wave of success from here and make our status in this world a better one. The statistics above are just a taste of what we can do if we can all take our appreciation of who we are and transcend above all the negativity that is presently existent in our world today. This is one step toward the goal. Now the question to be answered is, where will we stand *manana*?

*The opinions and views expressed are not necessarily those shared by the Editorial Staff. Articles, Viewpoints, Letters, Personals and Poetry should be submitted to STUDENTS UNION Rm 073 or our Polity Mailbox located within the SAC. Some articles may be edited for length and for grammar. Advertising policy does not reflect editorial policy. Editorials are the opinions of the En Accion staff.*



## Hispanics Come Out and Support Opening Ceremonies for Hispanic Heritage Month

Written by Eusebio Martinez

September 25 marked the beginning of a month long celebration in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month at Stony Brook University. Dozens of Stony Brook's proudest Hispanics made their presence known at the Student Activities Center plaza to show their support for their culture and heritage during the annual event. All were invited to this event that was part of "LASO week", an annual series of programs and events brought to the campus by the Latin American Student Organization. Several faculty and alumni were in attendance for the festivities and the feature guest speaker was Myrka Gonzalez, herself an alum of Stony Brook University.

The theme of Hispanic Heritage Month this year is "Unification through Education / Unificacion Atraves de Educacion" and this was evident through the thoughts of all those who spoke at this event. The event kicked off with some encouraging words from President Shirley Strum Kenny and was quickly supported by speeches from current LASO president Marc Anthony Rodriguez and other student leaders. They stressed the importance of Latino awareness and the presence of the Latino culture on campus. They helped to set up the inspiring words that came from the guest speaker of the day, Myrka Gonzalez.



Miss Gonzalez gave a speech on Ganas, the drive and ambition that is required to make it through life successfully. She backed her claim that we are still in need of Ganas with hard evidence about Latinos in education and the workforce. With the odds being against us, Gonzalez stress the need to have Ganas to persevere through the existing barriers so that we as a culture can succeed. She is living proof that anything can be done with this drive, being the proud possessor of two doctorate degrees in law and education. On a personal level, her speech made things a little clearer for me in terms of why I do what I do on this campus. She helped me realize that what I do here is very important in the grand scheme of my appreciation of my culture.

From this moving speech, food was served and featured dishes from many different Latin American countries, including Arroz con Pollo (Rice with Chicken) and Platanos (Plantains), all to the sound of a live Mariachi band.

Many of the Latin American organizations on campus were represented, all with the hopes of encouraging Latinos and non-Latinos alike to be a part of this annual appreciation of Hispanic culture and life.

*This was the first of many events that were part of Hispanic Heritage Month. Throughout the entire month of October, the campus community was witness to a sensational display of Hispanic history and pride, each serving as a small piece of the grand picture that is Hispanic appreciation. En Accion hopes to capture every bit of this phenomenon as the year goes on.*



## Latinos in the Entertainment Industry: Are we even there?

Written by Kevin Illes

In the last 10-12 years there has been a reduction in the role of minority characters in the entertainment industry, mainly television and movies. It seems as if there were more minority characters 20 or 30 years ago when it was thought that minorities in the U.S. had less opportunities socially and economically. According to a joint study done by the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) and the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute, Latinos have been the least represented minorities in the entertainment business today. Why has there been a regression in representation for Latinos in a time when minorities are supposed to be making the most advancement in every other industry? Well, here's some information you need to know.

As some of you may know, the 2000 census found that Latinos make up 12% of the overall U.S. population, making us the second largest minority behind African-Americans. It has been estimated that by the year 2005 we will be the largest minority group in the country. The same year of that census, another survey was done to account for how many roles on television are occupied by Latinos. The survey found that we accounted for only 2% of the total characters on television, and of that only half had any sort on meaningful role. Only 1% of all the meaningful roles are occupied by Latinos. There have been some people since then who have been seen on television with their own shows. The George Lopez show is a sitcom on ABC that has a majority Latino cast, and there is also the show called "Resurrection Blvd." on Showtime about a boxing Mexican-American family in east L.A. Actor Esai Morales, who is best known as the biker brother from the movie "La Bamba", has a role on the cop show NYPD Blue as the Lieutenant in charge of a precinct. Actor Martin Sheen, whose birth name is Ramon Estevez, plays the President on the hugely successful NBC show "The West Wing". However, outside of these and a few other characters, there really isn't too much more in our favor. It is still very rare to see one of us on a primetime show not playing a drug dealer, a gangbanger, or a pregnant teenage girl.

Now on the motion picture screen. In 2001 SAG, which is like a union for movie actors, did their own research on how many Latinos there were getting movie roles. They found that Latinos occupied only 4% of movie roles. The study also found that many Latinos in Hollywood feel that, though it is unfortunate, the only way for them to land a part in a movie is playing a role that fits these stereotypes. Behind the scenes in the motion picture business is probably worse than the life on the silver screen itself. Of the people behind the scenes in the Hollywood motion picture industry, only 1% of writers are Latinos, only 1% are directors, and less than 1% are producers or any type of significant studio policy maker. This is as close to zero as you can get.

Now, like television, there are not totally dark days ahead for us. There have been prominent names like Edward James Almos and Andy Garcia who have been nominated for Oscars, and the Puerto Rican born Benicio del Toro who won an Oscar for his role in the movie "Traffic" playing a Mexican cop where he spoke Spanish almost through the entire movie. Also, how could anyone forget one of the most famous stars of the moment. Jennifer Lopez (love or hate her) is doing her thing and was the first Latina to make a million dollars for one movie. We have a few bright stars, but it is still difficult to see roles portraying us as the ordinary everyday person, the roles which we live everyday of our lives.

What has been the reason for such a marginal representation in both television and film? According to some, the reason is very ironic. There have been some groups trying to put pressure on Hollywood for years now to stop the stereotyping and give us better roles to choose from. Groups such as La Raza and Nosotros were founded by one of the few Latinos to be successful in Hollywood back in the 60's and 70's, Ricardo Montalban. The National Hispanic Media Coalition has been demanding changes in Hollywood, especially within the last 20 or so years. In an interview held about a year ago for a publication in Lawrence, Massachusetts called the Eagle Tribune, the president of the NHMC Alex Nogales said that the reason why roles for Latinos have been reducing is because of the pressure to reduce the number of stereotypical roles. He said, "By stopping that, they also stopped using us." In other words, without using the stereotypes they don't know how to use Latinos in the entertainment business. All these people know is someone named Sanchez or Ramirez, or whatever Spanish surname is playing a prostitute, or a thief, a drug addict, or a sexy seductress. They don't know us by any other way as far as character roles. Is it really that hard to believe when you factor it in that there are so few of us behind the scenes writing the lines, directing the movies, and/or calling the shots? With so few of us controlling how the production goes, it is left to people who were never around us enough to present what and how a Latino is to White Anglo Saxon Protestant America. This is something we should be concerned about as our numbers grow. For some people the media is the only way they will ever have contact with our culture. What all these people are exposed to is that we are shady, hot-tempered people and this is all they will ever think.

We are going to have to find a solution to this problem. One way to do it is through more support for national organizations that represent us so that they can have more power to make a change for the better, and demand more lawyer and doctor roles for us. Now what do you think we should do?



## Stereotypes: Listen to them, or do we embrace to erase?

Written by Eusebio Martinez

Conflicts between cultures are a readily occurring thing. Ironically, in a nation known as a "melting pot" where people from all walks of life are represented, the animosity toward individual groups is highly rampant. One of the more verbal forms of such disagreement are the stereotypes that are swarming around each ethnicity and/or gender. Latinos too, have stereotypes thrown at them as well, ranging from comments about people from individual countries, to Latinos as a whole. I feel we Latinos need to do what we can to show that these stereotypes are not accurate depictions of us as a culture, race, or ethnicity. Several students from Stony Brook University feel the same way about these stereotypes and went as far as showcasing them in productions. These students took a different approach by embracing these stereotypes and illustrating how their effect is in fact minimal to Latinos as a whole.

I had the privilege of watching one of these productions and being involved in the other. These programs were a part of Hispanic Heritage Month and aimed to raise a campuswide awareness of what Latinos face in the everyday world of the stereotype. The first program was called "Hangin' con la Familia" and was brought together by students in Sanger College, and written Delia DeJesus. I had a chance to speak with Ms. DeJesus about her production.

En Accion: What is your name and where are you from?

DeJesus: My name is Delia DeJesus and I am from the Bronx (and yes, the tone of her voice was a proud one)

EA: What inspired you to write this production?

DD: My family. Family is very important to me, even with all we go through. In fact, at the time that I was writing this, I was having problems at home. I guess it helped. I also tried to put a funny spin to it to show others that this is something we can laugh at because in the end, we will rise above the problems we face.

EA: Who is involved in this production and why? Why are they important to the production?

DD: Well, I guess I can start with the heart of the family. The character of "Esperanza" (played by Deidrian) is the spiritual grandmother in the family. To her, *Todos con Dios*, everything with God, is the motto of her being. She is modeled after my great-grandmother who is very much the same way. Latinos always have that one spiritual person in the family, who usually happens to be the Grandmother.

EA: Don't I know that!

DD: The grandmother in the play is "Gladys", played by myself. Gladys is the glue of the family, the foundation of what keeps us together. She is always there to help anyone in the family, and she always lent a helping hand out to us and others who were close to us. She never settled for second best, and always wanted the best for her family. God bless her soul.

EA: That's important.

DD: Juan played "Felipe" in the production and he was basically the grandfather in the family. He drank like a camel, but somehow, was one of the most inspirational people I have met. He will speak with you and make you think about your life, even if he had a little *cerveza* on his breath. "Gigi" was the family hoochie. Even though this character is not a direct reflection of someone in my family, she was in this scene because many households do have this person in the family. Lorena did a great job playing her.

EA: The family Hoochie. In my family, his name was "Papi", but that is beside the point.

DD: "Angel", played by Anthony, was the kleptomaniac in la familia. The man will take anything he feels can walk away with, but will be the first to preach about providing for his kids and being a family man. He has 4 kids at 21 years of age and he does not have a diploma. This is a reflection of someone in my family who has been like a big brother to me, even though he is incarcerated right now. "Clara" is the over-achiever of the family. She is a lawyer, and is one of those people who always needs to have something that is better than yours. It does not matter how small. If you mention it, she will say she has something better. Natalie played the role wonderfully.

EA: Yeah, I remember that. Let me ask you, who was the flamboyant one?

DD: (Laughing) Oh, that was "Raymundo", played by none other than the charismatic Jian. Raymundo is the stereotypical hairdresser – very flashy, very flamboyant, with the thickest spanglish accent you will ever hear, and is more feminine than any woman in your family. Every salon has one.

EA: Yeah, it was very interesting.

DD: The bride and groom were "Maria" and "Jose", played by Dina and Terrain (she couldn't figure out the spelling. Sorry if we got it wrong, playa). There weren't many

similarities between them and my family members, but they were the reason this was even going on. The story is centered around them and the reunion they caused with their wedding. "Papo" is the typical broke uncle who doesn't mind gambling no matter how broke he is. Aaron did his thing and portrayed this character nicely. Cassandra and Jocelyn played the two badass kids. You know you have some badass kids in the family.

EA: If I didn't, I would have thought something was wrong. This is all too familiar to me. Now, what are some of the stereotypes you illustrated in this production?

DD: Wow, where do I start? Ok, with "Gladys", she spoke no English and when she tried, only spanglish came out of her mouth. The same goes for "Felipe". "Gigi" is the hoochie like I mentioned before, but she also a surprising character. Knowing she has these kids, and knowing the family is looking down on her actually fuels her drive to well. In the production itself, she went on to college, of course through EOP. "Clara" brings out an issue that Latinos and minorities face as a whole. When you make it out there, you are looked at as if you "sold out" your heritage in order to succeed. We all know this isn't true, but the feeling is out there, and Clara embodies that. "Maria" and "Jose" set up the scene with their wedding, but also bring out a big issue within Latinos. For some reason, Latinos that are light-skinned seem to have a problem with their women marrying dark-skinned Latinos, or anyone who is dark-skinned for that matter. This isn't in every family, but there are some people that just do not want to see their sisters, nieces, granddaughters, or even daughters marrying a darker toned person. It's crazy, but it's out there.

EA: That's true. I don't get it myself. How do you feel about the stereotypes facing Latinos today?

DD: Honestly, I think half of them are true. Some of the things in our families just define the stereotypes that are out there. However, I think we need to look at them, accept them, and flip them, so people can see that we are not what they think we are. If we make it out there, that will be a great way to show them that we can do things, despite what they think we are.

EA: You seem to have a passion for this. Do you focus much energy on productions like this, and do you plan on taking this to a higher level?

DD: Actually, I love this stuff. In fact, next semester, I'm planning a "Part 2" for this skit. I want to eventually write a book that will start with "Esperanza's" life, and lead up to the present day with my life.

EA: Wow, I want to be the first with a copy of that. Finally, I wanted to know if you had any last words about these stereotypes.

DD: Yes, I do. We need to use these stereotypes to move forward. I was told that I was given a chance and that this was the only way I could go to college, yet I am currently on the Dean's List. Latinos are too often a victim of the self-fulfilling prophecy, where they end up going down the road people say they will, rather than trying to rise above it and achieve something in their lives. What doesn't kill us makes us stronger. We need to use this to fuel us to the top.

The other program was part of an ongoing series of events representing different nations throughout the world. The Stimson International Living Learning Center event was called "Puerto Rico: La Isla del Encanto" and was produced by four Stony Brook University students, streamlined by Kimberly Herrera with the help of other students and Stimson College (Thanks, Natalia).

The four students put together a skit depicting the traditional Puerto Rican home. This is not to say that every home is like this, but I feel every Puerto Rican knows a little something about the characters in the skit. Like "Hangin' con la Familia", the skit focused on the family with a little humor mixed in. The skit featured a grandmother who held the family together, a drunken uncle, two sisters who fight over the same man, and some badass kids. Coincidence? You make the call.

The many stereotypes involved in these programs were used to show others what people think of us and how we feel about it. We take these remarks about us in jest because we know we are striving to transcend above them. Whether it's a book written by Delia DeJesus or Kimberly Herrera winning the title of Homecoming Queen, we are all doing our part to make new standards for which we can be looked at.



## Spanglish: The debate over its validity

Written by Kevin Illes

Over the summer I took SPN 322. One of the topics, which were debated heavily, was whether or not "Spanglish" should be considered an official dialect. As part of our assignment we read articles by those who thought Spanglish was on the verge of becoming a full fledged dialect and that we should accept it as inevitable. Then there were those who thought that it was the worst thing to happen to the language. When I joined En Accion I thought it would be the perfect topic to take on. During Hispanic Heritage Month, some of the discussion sessions put together by such groups as L.A.S.O. and Omega Phi Beta also included whether or not Spanglish is a good or bad thing. In these discussions I saw passionate arguments for and against it. Though not as heated as what I read during the summer, the level of argument in the discussions made me think twice about doing this article. However, if I were to let that stop me, I would not be doing any good for the paper, so here it goes.

First let's start by defining what Spanglish is. Spanglish is when words from Spanish and English are combined to form a hybrid. For example, vacunar la carpeta is supposed to be saying in English vacuum the carpet. It has been said that since the time after the Mexican-American war in which the southwest was "won" by the U.S., this mixing has been going on. This form of speaking has become more popular as the Spanish speaking Latino population of the U.S. has been growing. During this growth different forms of Spanglish have popped up in the southwest, in Miami, New York and other such heavily populated Latino areas.

In the last decade or so there has been a significant increase in using Spanglish in such publications as Latina magazine, Urban Latino, and the Miami publication Generation N. It is used very frequently on the Internet. It is used in songs by many of the Latino artists in hip-hop as well in some poetry and novels by such people as Sandra Cisneros, whose works include "Woman Hollering Creek and other stories" and Julia Alvarez, whose works include "How the Garcia Girls lost their Accents". These are known for using a mix of Spanish and English for what they feel to be a form of creative expression. If anyone listens to the Mega 97.9FM morning radio program "Vacilon de la Manana", they will hear the Disk Jockeys constantly using Spanglish. It's being used so much that there are some who feel that Spanglish is on its way to becoming a new dialect. One such person is Ilan Stevens, professor of Spanish and Creative Writing at Amherst College. He is the first person to have written and published a Spanglish-English dictionary. Mr. Stevens has been saying for some years that Spanglish will become a separate dialect.

Then there are those who see this phenomenon as nothing short of a threat, or an invasion by the English language on Spanish that can only lead to the devaluation of the language. I have to mention, during my research it was much easier to find arguments against Spanglish. Fernando Lazaro Carreter was the former director of the Real Academica Espanola de la Lengua Espanola from 1991-1997. This institute has been the official monitor and regulator of the Spanish language for some time, and it makes sure that the language is taught in a unified way. In an interview two years ago he called Spanglish a "disgrace" and that it was the result of "Mexicans who were disgraced because they are not living in their own country," that they were doing this because they are "defeated and tratedrado, and were looking for something to unify

under", obviously referring to the U.S. conquest of half of Mexico. Xose Castro, writer for the Spain based web site "El Castellano" attacked the idea of Spanglish in one article in which he wrote, "Spanglish is just a medium, to give it the category of a dialect is to make it a bother. This would separate the U.S. from speaking Spanish in its true form." One of the most vicious arguments against the use of Spanglish has been by Robert Gonzalez Echeverria, a Yale professor of Hispanic literature and comparadas. In an article in the New York Times in 1997, he wrote that Spanglish was an "Invasion of the English language on Spanish." And that it is "Spanish of the poor uneducated Hispanics to adapt to a different culture." He also said " Educated Hispanics do this for other reasons; because they are ashamed of their heritage. They do so in hopes that they can recapture a status of being part of the mainstream society", all implying that using words that sound like English will make them sound less foreign and thus more acceptable. A constant theme among all of these and other arguments like them is that they are blaming the Internet for the rapid increase in Spanglish. They say the popular use of the technology has led to several web sites which use Spanglish which are being seen by more and more people which in turn is allowing it to spread further than it ever could have in the past.

Now that I have presented both sides to this argument, I will say a few things. First, I thought long and hard about whether or not I should present some sort of suggestion to how to solve this debate and present something that people will like no matter which side you agree with. I came up almost completely blank. This problem is much bigger than any one individual person trying to come up with a solution. What I personally plan on doing is to expose my children to the proper way of speaking. By teaching them both languages at the same time, encouraging them to read in Spanish at a young age, and by putting on some of the cartoons on Univision (one of the Spanish television stations) for them to watch.

Secondly, there are so many different angles to this debate it would make your head spin. For instance, what if you have to move to a place where there are not many Latinos? How will your children learn to speak Spanish properly? It would be very hard to keep the language when they don't speak it outside the house as well. What if Spanglish is the only way for them to hold on to the language? Let me throw something else out to you; what about those of us who just got here and don't know English too well? What if speaking Spanglish is a stepping stone for them to learn to speak in English? Here is something else; what if Spanglish does become an official dialect and it becomes taught in our schools?

Finally, although I said what I plan on doing, I am not going to say that everyone should do it. That is not why I'm doing this article. My purpose was to get you to talk about it. The more we start talking about with each other the more likely some idea can come up to bring both sides of this debate to a mutual agreement, or at least come close. See, if all we do is talk than nothing will ever be done. As we continue to grow this will become a bigger debate. You're in college now, and this is time to figure out how to contribute to society, no matter how minimal it may be. There are some of you out there who feel very strongly on this issue, on both sides. What do you plan to do about it? What are you going to do about it? What do you think should be done?

## Hispanic Heritage Month Ends the Way it Started: With a Little Recognition and Mucho Sabor

Written by Kevin Illes and Eusebio Martinez, with the valuable assistance of Ms. Norma G. Reyes

The Hispanic Heritage Month Committee closed out the month long celebration that is Hispanic Heritage Month with an award ceremony acknowledging those students and faculty members who have demonstrated their drive and ambition to enhance the Latino presence and consciousness on campus. With this year's theme being "Unification through Education/Unificacion atraves Educacion, several students of Stony Brook University were awarded for their academic excellence. Other awards were received by those who exhibited leadership and community service and helped to raise the Latino voice above its current state. Recognition was also given to faculty and staff members of the university who have made outstanding contributions in assisting and serving the Latino community on and off campus.

Opening the ceremony was a presentation displaying the pictures that have captured the last 13 years of Hispanic Heritage Month. This presentation was larger than life, being presented on the large screen in the Student Activities Center Ballroom A. After the presentation, the awards ceremony began in front of a completely packed Ballroom A, which was filled with Latinos from all walks of life, and from all places in and out of the university. Most of the presenting was done by Ms. Norma Reyes, Assistant to the Director of the Writing Program at Stony Brook University. The awards and their recipients are as follows:

### -Student Awards-

Community Service - this goes to the student who has demonstrated tireless dedication to helping others as well as a need to make a positive impact in people's lives on and off campus in the Latino community. RECIPIENT: Silvia Castro

Academic Award - this goes to the student who has maintained outstanding academic achievement while also becoming an example to others on how to conduct himself or herself as a good student. RECIPIENT: Dinah Felipe

Leadership Award - this goes to the student who has become a positive role model on campus by making him/herself active in such places as clubs, sororities & fraternities, organizations, societies, and associations. RECIPIENT: Alexis Simeonidis

Rafaela Luna Abreu Memorial Scholarship - dedicated to the memory of the mother of Stony Brook alumnus Dora Maria Abreu who died of breast cancer. This award is given to the student who serves the Latino community diligently as well as achieving great academic standing, much like Rafaela Luna Abreu. RECIPIENT: Julia Salas

Jarelyn Lopez Memorial Scholarship - dedicated to the memory of Stony Brook student Jarelyn Lopez who died in a tragic car accident with one of her brothers before she could achieve her goals. Ms. Lopez was a major in the School of Social Welfare who was hardworking, intelligent, and extremely dedicated to helping those in need. She was well on her way to becoming a positive elder woman role model in the Latino community. This award is given to the student who demonstrates these qualities. RECIPIENT: Carolina Ramirez



**Continufrom Page 5**

Sigma Lambda Beta (Victor Coreas) Scholarship - created by the brothers of Sigma Lambda Beta in honor of one of their fallen brothers who passed away in a tragic swimming incident where there was no lifeguard available to rescue him. Victor Coreas was an Engineering student at Stony Brook who was also on his way to a bright future before being tragically taken. This award is given to the student achieving great academic success as well as showing the same drive in the same field. RECIPIENT: Alexis Simeonidis.

**-Faculty and Staff-**

Madrinas/Padrinos Award - Madrina is Spanish for Godmother and Padrino for Godfather. They are names that symbolize those who serve the Latino community on as well as off campus with a great sense of purpose. These are people who give guidance to Latino students who need direction not just in academics but also in other life issues. They have shown to be invaluable to our community on campus and have done service above and beyond the call of duty. RECIPIENTS: (this year there are two Madrinas instead of one of each) Tania Ortiz, Dr. Harriet Waters.

Faculty & Staff Award - this award is given to the member of the faculty/staff who has contributed to educating others of our culture as well as serving as an extension to our community. RECIPIENTS: Paul Gootenberg, Carlos Burgos.

En Accion would like to congratulate all the recipients of these outstanding achievements. Although all of the nominees could not come away with awards, they have all been acknowledged by simple virtue of their nominations. You all deserve an award for your efforts in helping the Latino community transcend above all that has stood in our way, all while raising the awareness for our inevitable success. Congratulations.

# En Accion

(The only Latino Based Newspaper on Campus)

*is looking for writers!!!!*

We are accepting articles, poetry, pictures or any other contributions you would like to make.

Please e-mail us at [enaccion@ic.sunysb.edu](mailto:enaccion@ic.sunysb.edu) or contact Junior at 631-216-3203.

## Who is En Accion? A Brief Summary of our Brief History

Written by Eusebio Martinez

With this issue, En Accion is making a return from its hiatus for the third time in four years. We hope the long battle with inconsistency is one we have finally won. To fuel my drive to help revive this on-and-off paper, I took a look back through the years and gained inspiration from the work of those who came before us.

After a long search to find when En Accion was discovered, I got my answer from the person who was there to give birth to this paper. I recently had the pleasure of meeting the founder of En Accion during the closing ceremonies of Hispanic Heritage Month. Fernando P. Tirado created En Accion back in 1994 and with it he had a vision. He wanted to create a place where the Latino voice can be expressed for the entire campus community to experience. He wanted for there to be a place where Latinos can come and share their thoughts on several issues that affect them, both here and abroad. He felt Latinos needed to show the campus community and beyond that we are conscious of our surroundings and the world we live in and that we are an integral part of the history and culture of the soil we walk on. When it was all said and done, En Accion was born.

The next few years were very important to En Accion with respect to their staying power. For the paper to be a success, it needed to be able to withstand many pressures and many obstacles and still be the voice of all Latinos. Although other editors were a part of En Accion, the editors I will mention are those that I witnessed putting an all out effort into the paper. During a time when I was still high school, Vanessa Marrero held the reigns of En Accion. While being a student at Stony Brook University, as well as an employee of Student Union and Activities, Vanessa worked tirelessly and made the great issues she did with what seemed to be minimal effort. Having known her, I knew all the sacrifices she made and the hard work she put in. She was one of the first people to tell me what I needed to know for the paper when I was a part of the staff in 1999. Vanessa Marrero paved the present road for En Accion and bridged the gap between the old paper and today's publication. On a side note, I would like to wish Ms. Marrero the best of luck in all her endeavors and the best of health. May God bless you, your daughter, and your family.

When Ms. Marrero's time was done at En Accion, there was a brief hiatus. However, in 1999, under the leadership of Lissette Negrón, En Accion was back in form. I was a part of this reemergence, serving as the Managing Editor under Negrón. With good coordinating skills and unmatched dedication and ambition, we were able to put together some issues. However, with so many things on everyone's plate, a halt to production and another hiatus was inevitable.

In 2000, En Accion began a new millenium with a new board and a new focus. Susan Lorias streamlined En Accion in a direction where Latinos had a voice in issues that did not have Latinos as a focus, but affected us nevertheless. With our 2000 voting issue, we addressed the candidates and what their ideas did for or against Latinos. We addressed issues that are considered "world issues", but looked at them from a Latino perspective. En Accion's history and focus has all culminated in the present day view of "The New" En Accion.

The present day En Accion consists of a staff and contributors totaling double digit numbers, all with one focus in mind: Let the people know who we are! We are impor-

tant, we do have a voice, and we will express it. The following are just some of the characters who are instrumental in the pursuit of the desired goal for this publication.

- **Jonathan Marrero** is a senior at Stony Brook University, majoring in both Psychology and Sociology. He, along with only 3 others, holds the highest-ranking position that an undergraduate can have at his place of employment. As an Events Manager, he is responsible for overseeing any major events that occur within the walls of the Student Union and the Student Activities Center. Marrero also hopes to be a guidance counselor and is currently working on the experience needed to do so. A Jack of all Trades, Marrero has many interests and skills, all of which are helping him to get to the summit, a place where all Latinos need to strive to get to.

- **Roseanne Solano** is also a graduating senior at Stony Brook University. She is majoring in Psychology, with a Grade Point Average well within the range needed to make it to medical school, where she hopes to attend to become a psychiatrist. She is currently working over at the daycare center with children with hopes of gaining insight on their behavior and development so she can excel at her craft later in her career. She is also a member of the Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-Med Honor Society and is well on her way to representing our elite group of Latino medical professionals.

- **Kimberly Herrera** is a senior on campus and has served on many boards and committees during her time here. She is currently a Resident Assistant in Stimson International Living Learning Center and is a co-chair for the Student Activity Fee Committee, where she has helped to organize many campus events, including the first annual Block Party/Pep Rally for the new stadium and Homecoming festivities. This year, Herrera had the distinction of being elected Homecoming Queen and will run the course of this duty through next year. She displays leadership qualities and is an advocate for school spirit, participating in anything she possibly can.

- **Kevin Illes** is a senior and has been involved with Latino activities since he transferred here two years ago. He shows a spirit for Latino consciousness and awareness and has worked tirelessly to achieve this across campus. He has served as an E-Board member for the Latin American Student Organization and is currently the Copy Editor for En Accion.

- I really love the support you have given me, but I really can't remember your last names right now. Melissa and Steven, your contributions are priceless and the articles and ideas you have brought to the table are going to be staples for En Accion. Thank you for the support and thank you for being leaders among the Latino Community.

From here, I hope to keep En Accion alive and functioning through the support of my fellow Latinos and the spirit of the Latino consciousness. I hope to inspire others to be involved with this publication so they too can keep the Latino voice alive.



## Stony Brook Students Hook Up and Stay Up Til Dawn... for a cause

Written by Kevin Illes

This year the Inter-Fraternity Sorority Council (IFSC) decided on an extraordinary cause for their philanthropy. Last year one of the Assistant Directors of Fraternity/Sorority Life, Tasheka Sutton had gotten the idea to get involved with the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. She in turn organized a subcommittee to handle the operation of the fundraiser here at Stony Brook. It is currently being handled in a joint effort with the subcommittee as well as Campus Residences. Recently I sat down with two of the members of the subcommittee, its Executive Director Miriam Rios II and its Patient Relations chair Sasha Volcy, who are also members of the Lambda Fe Uson Sorority, Inc.

Before the interview, I started out by asking about the history of the St. Jude's hospital. According to Ms. Rios, "The St. Jude's Hospital was founded by 1960's sitcom star Danny Thomas in Memphis, Tennessee. His intentions were to create a hospital devoted specifically to the treatment of children with such serious diseases as cancer or leukemia, as well as a center devoted to the research of these diseases. For many of the children there, St. Jude's is the best and sometimes last hope on beating these diseases and leading a normal life." Ms. Volcy added, "It was his belief that no children should ever have to suffer the anguish of these diseases."

As a way to keep this private hospital running, it relies heavily on fundraisers to recruit money so the children can have one of the premiere treatment and research centers open. When asked how their efforts assist the hospital, Ms. Rios said "Up till Dawn is the organization in Stony Brook that helps to raise money to give assistance to such a noble cause. What we do to help raise money on campus is that we have penny drives and we have letter writings." Ms. Volcy explained the letter writings as "getting the quads on campus to organize writing teams to help write about St. Jude's to the public in hopes of educating them on its purpose as well as its importance and to ask for donations to help keep the hospital alive." Ms. Rios then added, "This is a program which will go on for the whole school year. Our goal is to raise \$15,000 by the end of the year. The culmination of the year-long drive is Up till Dawn which will go on April 11, 2003 in the SAC ballrooms A & B from 9 p.m. - 3 a.m." Ms. Rios and Ms. Volcy couldn't stress enough the importance of getting the campus community to support this fundraiser, and that they are looking for all the help they can get.

The Up till Dawn foundation is always looking for donations and help. If you are interested in contributing in any way to this noble cause, you can contact Miriam Rios II at 216-1352. A web site was under construction at the time of this article.

## WUSB knows about Latinos. Just ask "Felipito"

Written by Eusebio Martinez

WUSB has been providing news and tunes to the campus and all of Long Island, among other areas, for over 25 years. There are all genres of music being played at the station, from Folk to Jazz, to Hip-Hop, R&B, and Reggae. One show that has been on the air almost as long as the station has been in existence is a salsa show named "Nueva Onda". This show has a collection of salsa sounds from all over the Caribbean and even Africa. "Nueva Onda", however, would not be what it is without the direction of one person, the man everyone knows as "Felipito".

Felipito, born Felix Palacios, is a native of Brooklyn, being raised in the Sunset Park section of the borough. He got the name Felipito through his friends back in the streets. Latinos have a long tradition of calling each other by their last names, and someone had already been called "Palacios". While performing in a band as a drummer, he got his name from someone who was watching him. The name has since stuck and provided an identity for the man with the sounds of salsa from the entire world. I sat with Felipito and delved into his love of music, his work outside of WUSB, and his thoughts on the Latino community.

**EA:** How long have you been at WUSB?

**FP:** I have been at this great station for 24 years. I started on October 16, 1978, and have not left since. In 1974, I was in a funk band, of all things, and I attended Stony Brook University in 1976. I found out about the station and the rest is history.

**EA:** I wasn't even born. Wow. What is your focus on the radio? What do you hope to accomplish on the air?

**FP:** I just want to educate the community on music and its background. I want to share my understanding of Afro-Caribbean music and its connection to society. More simply, I just want to give people some good music. Non-commercial radio was a pioneer in salsa because it was the only place where you could listen to it regularly. Not until recently did stations like "La Mega" play salsa like they do today. Non-Commercial radio was it. I'm just glad to be a part of the movement.

**EA:** What are some of your off-air activities?

**FP:** Well, I work for an elected official. I work in and with community activities in Brooklyn and I have built a rapport with these types of groups in Brooklyn and Long Island. I am currently a member of the Task Force on reapportionment as the Director of Community Relations. I am working with the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund on a lawsuit against the State of New York. We feel that there is an inappropriate redistricting in the city and in Long Island and Latinos cannot have an impact in voting if they wanted to elect a Latino into office. We feel this is a violation of voting rights.

**EA:** Good luck with that. What motivates you to stay on the air?

**FP:** The music. The music is my energy. I started off as a drummer and recorded my first record at 13 years of age with Fonseca Records. We paid so many dues. We used to roll our equipment down Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn just to get to our gigs. Like I mentioned before, my mission is to put forth good music, and the good music is what fuels me throughout my years here at WUSB. I feel passionate about Afro-Caribbean music with its purity and essence. That is my pleasure and my motivation.

**EA:** Where do you want to be five years from now?

**FP:** Well, alive for starters. Depending on my health, I would like to remain at WUSB, providing the music that I do to the masses. I am also working on a CD with live music from prior shows at WUSB that I would like to see produced. Away from WUSB I am working with a cultural organization in Long Island, as well as working with my own cultural organization which I call "Onda". I am looking to bridge all that is Latino and all that is American. We need to realize the similarities between us and enjoy the differences among us. I have already worked in Sunset Park with Arabic, Chinese, and Latino adolescents on cultural awareness programs and I am simply trying to expand on that.

**EA:** What advice do you offer to others with regard to their Latino consciousness?

**FP:** Be proud. Study your history, even though you're making it today. Learn about the past and how it effects you today. An example is like the struggle of Puerto Ricans to achieve independence. If Puerto Ricans fail to realize this, what can they be proud of? It's easy to throw a flag around, but you should also be able to understand why that flag is in your hands.

**EA:** Very good point. What changes would you make in the Latino community (on campus or in general)?

**FP:** I would urge people to get more involved in the political process. Know the issues, be more aware of everything that is being said, and be a skeptic. If you do not believe what these people are telling you, you have every right to think and say so. It is important to know what is going on around you as well to know where you are headed.

**EA:** Thank you, Felipito. Finally, what are some of your highlights at WUSB?

**FP:** Wow, I would have to say the "Nueva Onda All-Stars" is a beautiful thing. I started that in 1988 and brought together some of the top-notch "Vanguard Salseros" into the studios just to jam. I did this in the spirit of "Decarga", which is simply a jam session for people in this genre. With this, I have helped to bring the Afro-Puerto Rican art of Plena back into rotation at radio stations. Some of the artists I have dealt with include Ralph Irrazary, who has worked with Ruben Blades; Papo Pepin, Gil Colon, who is known from working with Tito Puente and Hector Lavoe; Martin Arroyo, Ricky Gonzalez, Luis Cruz, who worked with the Ray Barreto Orchestra, and Eddie Montalvo. From Long Island, I have worked with Vitin Lopez and Larry Belfort, to name a few. I have had some great times with "All-Stars". It's a good feeling.

And it was a good feeling hearing some of the things Felipito said. He helped me realize that Latinos can do great things and have a history that is bright, accomplished, and downright amazing. I want to thank Felix "Felipito" Palacios for all his time and energy. You can catch "Nueva Onda" on 90.1FM or channel 3 on campus from 3p.m. until 5p.m. on Saturday afternoons. You can also access WUSB online through [www.wusb.fm](http://www.wusb.fm)



# Latino

## A series of Haikus telling one story

Written by Eusebio Martinez

Latino all day	He tries to kill us	He cannot see us
Latino all through the night	He does not want us too near	Through His barriers we bust
Second-guessed on sight	We will persevere	In Dios we do trust
Latino I stay	We will rise above	We will celebrate
Latino, how I maintain	Fly higher than the skys' dove	We win, and will not debate
I cause the Man's pain	All with pride and love	The Man lost, don't hate

## Horoscopes

**Scorpio** (Oct 23-Nov 21)- Be very careful! Someone is watching you. Keep window shades and doors closed. You may be caught doing something naughty on camera.

**Sagittarius** (Nov 22-Dec 21)- You are too funny! Get with a cancer to lighten her attitude. There are many who hate you but just ignore them and keep smiling. Smack someone today if they get on your nerves.

**Capricorn** (Dec 22-Jan 19)- Vacation is in need. Take one far away from your location now. Take a friend along so you wont be the only one paying for the trip. Have fun!

**Aquarius** (Jan 20-Feb 18)- Your intelligence is well paid off. Many come to you for advice but don't let them take advantage of you. Use your brain. If they need advice, charge them for every second they take of your time.

**Pisces** (Feb 19- March 20)- You are a very attractive and sexy person. Everyone is in love with you. If only you knew how to dance. Go take some dance lessons so you can be loved even more.

**Aries** (March 21- April 19)- Someone who is a Leo likes you and wants to get to know you physically. Don't pass up that opportunity and go for it. But beware, the walls have ears.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20)- Today is your day. Someone thinks you are a good kisser but not a very good kisser down yonder. Work on it.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20)- Don't be known for your two-faced characteristic. Be true to others. Someone wants to invite you to the movies but they are too scared. Ask them. You will finally get an "A" in your worst class.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22)- Stop crying. Go to parties, get drunk. It's ok. Tell someone to buy you a clown for Christmas, it will help you dearly. Your partner loves you. Sex becomes hot and steamy.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22)- Less sex, more study. Your fire will burn out soon. You're going to trip tomorrow so keep shoes tied or don't wear any.

**Virgo** (Aug 23-Sep 22)- Leave your best friends partner alone. Stop trying to break them up. He/she is not yours so go find your own. You will have to read 100 pages for a class by this weekend.

**Libra** (Sept 23-Oct 22)- Something special is coming soon. Club life is becoming more and more a routine, but don't let it run your life. Keep track of appointments and dates.



## Good, Inexpensive Recipes for the Holidays

### "Perfectly Chocolate" Peanut Butter Cookies

#### Ingredients

2 \_ cups all purpose flour  
1/3 cups Cocoa  
1 tsp baking soda  
1/2 tsp salt  
1 cup butter or margarine (Softened)

\_ cups light brown sugar  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
2 eggs  
12 ounces of peanut butter chips

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees
  2. Stir flour, baking soda, cocoa, and salt in a medium-size bowl.
  3. In large bowl beat butter, granulated sugar, brown sugar, and vanilla with hand or on medium speed with a blender. Add Eggs, beat well.
  4. Add in flour mixture gradually, and then stir in peanut butter chips.
  5. Put rounded teaspoons of dough on an ungreased cookie sheet.
  6. Bake cookies for about 6 or 7 minutes.
- Makes about 5 dozen cookies.

### "Mixed Chocolate" Chocolate Chip Cookies

#### Ingredients

2 \_ cup all-purpose flour  
\_ cup of granulated sugar  
\_ cup light brown sugar  
1 cup butter or margarine (Softened)  
1 tsp salt

1 tsp baking soda  
2 eggs  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
\_ cup Milk chocolate chips  
\_ cup white chocolate chips

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
  2. In medium bowl, stir flour, baking soda, and salt.
  3. In large bowl, beat butter, granulated sugar, brown sugar, and vanilla extract. Stir in eggs.
  4. Gradually add flour mixture into the large bowl and mix thoroughly. Stir in both types of chocolate chips.
  5. Put rounded teaspoons of the dough on an ungreased cookie sheet.
  6. Bake cookies for 6 or 7 minutes.
- Makes about 4 dozen cookies.

### Death by Chocolate

#### Ingredients

1 case of brownie mix  
2 packets of Chocolate Mousse  
16 ounces of Hot microwaveable fudge  
Top with whipped cream

1. Make chocolate mousse according to the instructions on the packet. Refrigerate for 1-2 hours.
2. Bake brownies according to the instructions on the box.
3. After the brownies cool, top them with a layer of hot fudge.
4. Put chocolate mousse on top of the hot fudge and top with whip cream.
5. Serve cold.

### Chicken Parmesean

#### Ingredients

1 \_ lbs of thin sliced chicken breasts  
1 28 oz. Can of crushed tomatoes  
1 can of tomato paste  
1 lb of mozzarella cheese

1. Wash chicken thoroughly.
  2. Fry chicken in a pan on medium heat with a tablespoon of olive oil. Cut chicken to make sure that there is no pink in the middle.
  3. Place chicken in a baking pan lined up one next to one another.
  4. Pour sauce evenly over the chicken and in between the pieces.
  5. Using a cheese grater, grate cheese over the chicken evenly until chicken is almost totally covered.
- Tip: If you don't have a cheese grater, or don't have the time to grate cheese, buy pre-grated cheese.
6. Place pan in the oven at a temperature of 350 degrees until cheese begins to get a golden brown tint.
  7. Serve with pasta and/or garlic bread and enjoy.

### Spaghetti Sauce

1. In a sauce pan on medium high heat, pour can of crushed tomatoes and tomato paste. Add 1 teaspoon of olive oil and mix thoroughly.
2. Add seasoning to your liking and mix thoroughly
3. When sauce begins to boil, reduce heat to medium-low and cover. After about 4-5 minutes take off the stove, stir, and serve.

Helpful seasonings: Adobo, pepper, clove of garlic, garlic powder, old bay seasoning, oregano, bay leaves, and cumin.

### Arroz con Habichuelas (Rice and Beans)

- Four cups of rice
- \_ cup of oil
- Adobo
- One packet of Sazon
- 3 \_4 cups of water
- 1 can of tomato sauce
- 1 can of beans (either gandules or red kidney beans)
- Sofrito, either packaged or homemade:
- One large onion
- Half of a large green pepper
- \_ red pepper
- 4 cloves of garlic
- Cilantro

Preparation: Wash cups of rice. Chop onions and peppers. Peel and smash the garlic. Rinse the beans.

- 1) Heat up oil in the pot.
- 2) Add peppers, onions, garlic or sofrito.
- 3) Sauté for about 5 minutes.
- 4) Add the tomato sauce.
- 5) Add 1 packet of Sazon and add about 5 tablespoons of Adobo.
- 6) Let it simmer for about 5-10 minutes.
- 7) Add beans.
- 8) Cook for about 5-10 minutes.
- 9) Add the four cups of water.
- 10) When water comes to a boil, add rice (Hint: Take a big spoon and let it stand in the middle of the pot. If it does not stand, then you have too much water. If it does stand then you have enough).
- 11) Allow water to dry up and lower the flame.
- 12) Keep turning rice over.

## Time to Work off Those Platanos!!!

By Jonathan Marrero and Eusebio Martinez

With the holidays among us, we at En Accion understand the fight you will endure: Piggini out while having to watch your weight. Here are a couple of different exercises to do if you don't have the time to go to the gym and if you want to work off those rice, beans, platanos, and pernil. These are easy exercises that you can do in the privacy of your room and you don't need any weights to do them.

#### Squat

Stand with your feet at shoulder width apart and hands straight out in front of you for balance. Squat down until your thighs are almost parallel to the floor, keeping your back with a natural arch. Slowly come back up and repeat.

#### Stomach Crunch

Lie down on the floor with your legs bent so that your feet are flat on the floor. With your hands at the sides of your head, use your stomach muscles to help bring your shoulders and upper back off the floor. Keep your head in line with your back when doing this.

Slowly come back down while contracting your stomach muscles and repeat.

#### Dips

On the edge of your bed frame or a sturdy chair, hold yourself up with your hands while having your back face the bed. Keep your hands at shoulder width.

Keep your legs straight in front of you with your heels on the floor. Slowly let yourself down and then push yourself back up.

#### Repeat.

For these exercises you can do 3 sets of 20 repetitions with a 60 second rest in between each set about 3 or 4 times a week.

#### Shoulder Twirls

Stand with your feet shoulder width apart and your arm straight out to your side. Have your hands open and fingers pointed.

Twirl your hands in a circular motion forwards and backwards using your shoulders.

Do 3 sets of this exercise for about two minutes each set with a two-minute rest in between.

#### Other helpful hints to stay healthy

Take a brisk 30-minute walk around your neighborhood 4 times a week. If you are at school, walk around the outer loop for about 30 minutes.

Instead of using the elevator in a store or building, take the stairs (as long as it is not a 20-flight walk). This gives you a little cardiovascular workout while helping to strengthen your legs. Instead of drinking whole milk, use 1% milk and instead of eating cookies, eat yogurt or fig newtons. If you order pizza, use onions or peppers as a topping instead of pepperoni or sausage.

*Trust us, we know how difficult it is to eat Spanish food and stay conscious of your weight. With these exercises, you can burn that unwanted manteca and even have confidence in saying, ¡quiero mas comida!*



# I just don't give a f\*#@!! Apathy of the Latino Community

By Jonathan Marrero

If you care about the Latino Community, you don't have to read this, but you probably will anyway. If you don't care about the Latino Community, this article is very important for you to read, even though you might not even pick up the paper.

What is wrong with us? We all know that almost every Latino in this world is quick to be proud of and to shout out where they come from; but why can't we even try to help out the small community that we have on campus. I am not talking about everyone, because I know that there are a lot of people who work hard to try to help our community strive. But what I am talking about are the people who claim that nothing is being done for their community, yet won't lift a finger to try to help out because someone they might not like or used to go out with is part of a certain group on campus. Or what about the fact that same people run the same group year after year? Can we get over this already?

I understand how these people feel because at more than one time in my long career in this school, I have felt the same way. It is all right for people to not like each other; it's only human. When I was a sophomore and junior, I didn't go to L.A.S.O because there were people that I didn't like or was tired of. I realize that it seems like the same people year after year run the groups. I realize that it seems like the same fraternities and sororities go to these groups on campus. I've also realized something else. Maybe these same people who go to L.A.S.O. and organizations like it and the same people who run it are the only people that actually give a damn. If you don't want them to run the organizations make it your point to try to help run and take them in new directions. Latinos are going to be the majority soon, sooner than we think, and we are still looked at as unorganized and useless. So why don't we try our best to help our community strive? We are in college, we are adults. We should start acting so and try to do our best to help our community. I'm no saint either; I've done my share of hating, but I realize that I need to do my thing to help before it's too late, and so do you. This isn't meant to lecture you, or maybe it is. Take it as you want. If you feel offended by what little things I've said, sorry, but maybe you weren't doing your part. Prove everyone wrong and help out.

## Gracias

I would like to take this time to thanks a few people who made this paper happen. Without these people, there wouldn't be an En Accion.

First, I would like to extend my gratitude toward Norman Prusslin, who oversees everything that is media on this campus. Norm, you have been looking forward for something to happen with this paper for the past two years now. I hope you like it.

I would also like to thank Fianna Sogomonyan and Persephone DaCosta. You two ladies have been on my culo trying to keep me excited and focused about this paper. Thank you both for keeping the vision alive. Norm, you need to understand the value of these women.

The next group of people I want to thank number many, but they are worth mentioning. The staff and contributors of this paper have helped an enormous amount, and without them, En Accion would not be in your hands right now. On this note, I would also like to thank those of En Accion's past who have helped put papers together in years prior. I would like to thank Jonathan Marrero, Roseanne Solano, Kimberly Herrera, Kevin, Steven, Melissa, Susan, Marissa, Lydia, Lissette, and Vanessa, among many others, for keeping En Accion something I can put my work into, knowing something great will happen.

I would like to thank the Latin American Student Organization for all their support throughout the years. You have always wanted me to do big things with this paper and it starts here. Thank you for all your support. Look out for the L.A.S.O. spotlight in the spring semester.

Thanks goes out to all the newspapers on campus who have shown me that it does take hard work to produce something, but it is worth it when you get your voice out to the campus and beyond. Special thanks go to Shelanu for holding down our space. Brooke, I know you can handle your business. Make it happen. Do not let others tarnish your vision.

The Hispanic Heritage Month Committee gets the next set of props because you guys did a fantastic job with HHM this year and it was a privilege to be a part of it. Although we could not capture everything from the month, we did our best to make you shine.

I would like to thank all the organizations on campus, Latino-based or not. You guys give me the programs to write about, and the issues to think about. Each one of you is doing your thing in your own way. Look out for organization spotlights in the spring semester.

I would like to thank those who helped me out with all the paperwork needed up in the Polity Suite. Thanks for putting up with me and helping me when I needed it. Polity is very important and I want to see it back and rejuvenated.

I want to thank Webpro for making this paper look like it does. Bob, Vinny, from all the paperwork, to the layout, to the production, you looked out for us. Thanks a million.

Last, and most definitely not least, I would like to thank all the Latinos out there for giving me the inspiration I needed for this paper. Latinos, whether you're reading this or if you heard it from someone, a big Gracias goes out to you. Thank you for representing as hard as you can for the sake of being who you are. I love being Latino.

If I missed anyone, get at me (Christine Frank, you were clutch for me, and you know how valuable you are. Thank you). You can reach En Accion at enaccion@ic.sunysb.edu or in Union Room 073.

# Facts about Spanish Speaking Latin American Countries and Brazil



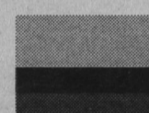
**1. Brazil**  
Capital: Brasilia  
Independence Day: September 7, 1822  
Interesting Fact: Except for Ecuador and Chile, all countries in South America border Brazil.



**2. Bolivia**  
Capital: La Paz  
Independence Day: August 6, 1825  
Interesting Fact: Bolivia is one of the two countries in South America that does not border an ocean and is completely landlocked. This country took the name Bolivia to honor South American independence leader Simón Bolívar.



**3. Paraguay**  
Capital: Asunción  
Independence Day: May 14, 1811  
Interesting Fact: Paraguay is one of the two countries in South America that does not border an ocean and is completely landlocked.



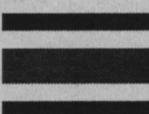
**4. Colombia**  
Capital: Bogotá  
Independence Day: July 20, 1810  
Interesting Fact: Colombia is the only country of South America with coasts on both the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Ninety percent of the world's emeralds are produced here.



**5. Peru**  
Capital: Lima  
Independence Day: July 28, 1821  
Interesting Fact: Peru has the largest Native American population in South America and among its official languages are Quechua and Aymará, languages of the Native Americans.



**6. Guatemala**  
Capital: Guatemala City  
Independence Day: September 15, 1821  
Interesting Fact: Guatemala has the largest population in Central America and the people who speak Spanish and practice European ways there are called "Ladinos".



**7. Costa Rica**  
Capital: San José  
Independence Day: September 15, 1821  
Interesting Fact: Native Costa Ricans are known as "Ticos" for their habit of reducing everything to "chiquitico" or "little, cute"



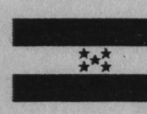
**8. Cuba**  
Capital: Havana  
Independence Day: May 20, 1902  
Interesting Fact: Russian is spoken and understood in major Cuban cities.



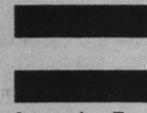
**9. Dominican Republic**  
Capital: Santo Domingo  
Independence Day: February 27, 1844  
Interesting Fact: In 1496, when Spanish colonists came to what is now called Santo Domingo they named it La Nueva Isabela and from 1936 to 1961, under dictator Rafael Trujillo, the city of Santo Domingo was called Ciudad Trujillo.



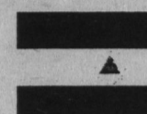
**10. Mexico**  
Capital: Mexico City  
Independence Day: September 16, 1810  
Interesting Fact: As many as 100 Native American languages are still spoken in Mexico.



**11. Honduras**  
Capital: Tegucigalpa  
Independence Day: September 15, 1821  
Interesting Fact: Columbus or a later explorer gave this country the name of Honduras, the Spanish word for depths, because of the deep waters off the northern coast of the country.



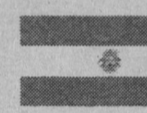
**12. El Salvador**  
Capital: San Salvador  
Independence Day: September 15, 1821  
Interesting Fact: The country was named El Salvador, which is Spanish for "the savior," in honor of Jesus Christ.



**13. Nicaragua**  
Capital: Managua  
Independence Day: September 15, 1821  
Interesting Fact: Nicaragua is the largest nation in Central America and is the first country of Central America to have a woman serve as president. The first woman president of Nicaragua and of any Central American country is Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, elected in 1990.



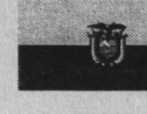
**14. Panama**  
Capital: Panama City  
Independence Day: November 3, 1903  
Interesting Fact: Panama is often referred to as the Crossroads of the World, because the Panama Canal connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, allowing for more efficient transportation of ships around the world.



**15. Argentina**  
Capital: Buenos Aires  
Independence Day: July 9, 1816  
Interesting Fact: The heritage of the population of Argentina is mostly Spanish and Italian.



**16. Chile**  
Capital: Santiago  
Independence Day: September 18, 1810  
Interesting Fact: Military service of one year in the army or two years in the navy or air force is obligatory in Chile for all able-bodied 18 or 19-year-old men.



**17. Ecuador**  
Capital: Quito  
Independence Day: May 24, 1822  
Interesting Fact: The equator crosses this country, which is why it was named Ecuador, the Spanish word for equator.



**18. Venezuela**  
Capital: Caracas  
Independence Day: July 5, 1811  
Interesting Fact: The first decisive attempt by a Spanish American colony to gain independence from Spain was made by Venezuela.



**19. Puerto Rico**  
Capital: San Juan  
Independence Day: July 25, 1898  
Interesting Fact: The Taíno Indians who inhabited Puerto Rico in the 15th century, called the island Boriken or Borinquen which means "the great land of the valiant and noble Lord" or "land of the great lords".



**20. Uruguay**  
Capital: Montevideo  
Independence Day: August 25, 1825  
Interesting Fact: The heritage of the population of Uruguay is mostly Spanish and Italian.



## He Said/She Said with Maria and Pepe, En Accion's Spin-off of "Dear Abby"

**WARNING:** Any similarities between these situations and real life persons or events are purely coincidental...although we do hear bochinche!

Dear Maria and Pepe,

Help! When I found out what was happening, I knew I had to come to you. I'm going to get straight to the point. My girlfriend is cheating on me! I caught her outside the Student Union making out with some radio guy with dreads. She always told me she had a thing for dreads. I want my girl back, or do I? Help me please!

-Hope I'm Seeing Things  
Stony Brook, NY

**Pepe:** Dump the slut! She's like all girls...expendable!  
**Maria:** Wait, wait, wait! How are you sure it was her? Maybe it was somebody who looked like her.  
**Pepe:** Yo, it was her. If you know what you saw, get rid of her. She's a no good whore!  
**Maria:** Well if it was her and you're 100% positive you know she was making out with this guy, then you need to definitely leave her.  
**Pepe:** Damn right!

Maria and Pepe,

I hope you guys can assist me with this one. I have been with my man for about nine months now and things are great. I love him to death and I have never cared for anyone in my life like I do for him. There is one problem though. He is Hispanic, so you know orally he is like a god in bed. The thing is that he, how can I put this...doesn't size up to my expectations in another department. It's only becoming an issue because I have my needs and sometimes the oral stuff just doesn't do it for me. I love him a lot but I don't know how long this can go on. What should I do?

-Looking for Pleasure  
Bronx, NY

**Maria:** I can totally understand how you feel. Having an inadequate man can be frustrating.  
**Pepe:** Hold on. Obviously if he's Hispanic he must not be inadequate. What do you expect him to be hung like a donkey?  
**Maria:** Well, he's Hispanic isn't he?! He damn well should be!  
**Pepe:** Ask him his background. Maybe he's half Hispanic. Maybe that's why you feel he's inadequate. I'm 100% Hispanic and I've received nothing but compliments. Isn't that right Maria?  
**Maria:** Well, from your performance, I wouldn't think you had one drop of Hispanic blood in you! But that's beside the point. Let's help this girl out.  
**Pepe:** You weren't screaming that last night! But you're right, let's help her. If he can't measure up, find it somewhere else.  
**Maria:** You can't just resolve the problem like that. If you really love him the way you say you do, you need to get to the root of the problem. If he's worth staying with, find a solution.  
**Pepe:** Hey, if he's pudgy take him to the gym. It's scientifically proven that for every 35 pounds of bodyfat you lose, you find an inch of your penis.  
**Maria:** You and your stupid scientific facts! Don't listen to him about this. Bring it up to him carefully though, because you know how the men's egos are. Try to find other ways you can find satisfaction.  
**Pepe:** Yeah, I guess Maria's right. Go talk to him.  
**Maria:** Yes, I am right...as usual!

Hey Maria. Hey Pepe.

I'm a sophomore at a university and being here for a year has taught me some things. Among them is the fact that there are many fish in the sea and I want to test my rod and reel, so to speak. I know I can have a lot of fun with these women that are always checking me out, but I have an issue. I am currently in a relationship with someone I met at freshman orientation last year and we've been together ever since. What should I do?

Mixed Feelings  
StonyBrook, NY

**Pepe:** Do you know the saying "Have your cake and eat it too"? You might as well add some ice cream to that too. You gotta remember, you have two people to satisfy-- you and your one-eyed monster.  
**Maria:** You disgust me! How can you be so insensitive?!? There are obviously real feelings involved here if he's been with his girl for a year.  
**Pepe:** Yeah, but he's gotta think of the feelings in his pants!  
**Maria:** Such a typical man! Anyway, ignore him please! You need to evaluate your relationship with your girl. If you truly love her and wanna keep her as your girl, resist the temptation.  
**Pepe:** Evaluate your relationship but always leave your options open.  
**Maria:** Evaluate? That's such a big word for you Pepe. I'm truly impressed! But yeah, you need to decide if you wanna stay in your relationship or not. If you realize your feelings aren't strong for her or that you wanna see other girls, do NOT do it behind her back. Break it off with her first. It's the least you could do.  
**Pepe:** Ha! So see, I was right.  
**Maria:** Wow, two for two Einstein. Too bad I said it first!

Dear Maria and Pepe,

This may be the most bizarre thing you may read, so buckle your seatbelts. My man and I have been going out for about two years now and things are wonderful. The sex is good, but something is strange about it. My man has these fetishes, which are all fine and well, but recently he has stepped it up a notch. Just the other day he wanted me to pluck his hairs (you know where) instead of shaving them. He likes the whole S&M thing, but it has gotten out of hand. I'm not even going to get into what he wanted me to do with a pair of pliers. I love him, but this can't progress. Any suggestions?

-Too Kinky 4 Me  
Brooklyn, NY

**Pepe:** What in the blue hell? Next thing you know he'll be asking for fingers in the culo!  
**Maria:** That's just nasty! Take him to a psychiatrist or something. That's just not normal!  
**Pepe:** Hey, if you need something less freaky, you can always come to me and Maria...we could always use a third partner!  
**Maria:** Hmm...doesn't sound like such a bad idea. Maybe you can provide me with the satisfaction this guy can't seem to provide me.  
**Pepe:** Funny! Anyway, tell him that you're not down with that. Then tell him "Adios loco!"  
**Maria:** I hate to say it, but Pepe's right. If he can't accept that you're uncomfortable with this, you need to get rid of him and find somebody worth your time.

Maria. Pepe. Really quick. I am ashamed. I can't get it up. She hates it. I think I have been cursed. Don't want my girl to leave. Help me guys!

-Limp Biscuit  
Queens, NY

**Pepe:** Ha ha! You sissy!  
**Maria:** Shut up Pepe! This is a really sensitive situation.  
**Pepe:** Well, he's a wuss. He can't get it up.  
**Maria:** You're hopeless Pepe. But anyway Limp Biscuit, there could be many reasons for this. It could be a psychological problem. According to Dr. Garcia, experiencing anxiety over wanting to perform exceptionally well is very common among men. This anxiety can lead to you not getting it up.  
**Pepe:** Hey, if all else fails, you could always stock up on Viagra.  
**Maria:** Actually, as a last resort, that's not such a bad idea. First, consult your doctor about it and get checked out. It could be a physical thing, but if not, it's most likely a psychological issue. If it is, you need to relax and be confident that you can perform well.  
**Pepe:** Yo, do what you gotta do, but it's something you have to fix.

Hey Maria and Pepe,

Oh boy, oh boy! I am so torn right now. I have been with my boyfriend for six months now and things are normal. At least they have been. A week ago I got a call from my ex-boyfriend who came back from being transferred by his job to Spain. We split up three years ago, but it was because he wasn't supposed to come back. I loved this guy so much. He came to visit yesterday and he is gorgeous! What am I going to do? My relationship is fine, but I don't know if I can control myself if I keep seeing my ex. Get me out of this one!

-Torn Apart  
Manhattan, NY

**Maria:** Damn, that's a tough situation.  
**Pepe:** I understand you gotta do what you want, but you don't want to be like Jennifer Lopez and go with any dude that catches your eye. That's being a true slut!  
**Maria:** Unfortunately, Pepe does have a point. You gotta figure out your feelings for these two guys and decide which one you wanna be with. Don't be a slut and try to have your cake and eat it too. It WILL catch up with you and you'll just end up all alone with no man.  
**Pepe:** Yup yup. I'm right. I know. But you know...you can always have both of them at the same time. You know...the Triz Nathaniel.  
**Maria:** Aye Pepe. stop thinking with the little head for once! Try to use your brain once in a while...please! She's gonna end up hurting both guys if she's with both of them. Torn Apart, you obviously care about both guys or else this wouldn't be an issue for you. What you need to do is figure out which guy you truly love, care about and wanna be with. Then let go of that other guy.  
**Pepe:** Yeah, I guess that's a good answer...por una mujer!  
**Maria:** ¡Cuidado con lo que dices Pepe! This is the mujer who will not hesitate to say that she admires Lorena Bobbitt for what she did! Now there's a Latina! But on a different note, do you know that Latinas have big asses? Unfortunately mine is sitting next to me...

Dear Maria and Pepe,

My friend is an idiot. He and I were speaking the other day and he asked if I was still with my girl. When I responded "Yeah", he asked if I had cheated on her yet, almost in a tone that was expecting me to say "Yeah". I gave him an emphatic "No" and he asked "Why?" He then says, "Sex has nothing to do with love. You have your girl and you have your piece. It's cool." I think he's an idiot. I want to know what you guys think. Thanks!

-In it for the Long Run  
East Patchogue, NY

**Pepe:** Yeah! That's my kind of friend!  
**Maria:** Figures you'd say that Pepe. But for you, In it for the Long Run, I say you find new friends. He sounds like an idiot who knows nothing about love or relationships.  
**Pepe:** Yeah yeah, I guess. But I don't think that's such a bad idea. You could always find some girl who you could have fun with and keep it on the low.  
**Maria:** That's the opposite of what you wanna do! I commend you for not cheating on your girl. It's hard these days to find a guy who doesn't think like Pepe! If you love her, what's the need for having someone else on the side? If you love someone, you shouldn't ruin your relationship for mere pleasure with someone else. Sex doesn't always have to mean love. That's pretty obvious by one-night stands. But if you have sex with another girl, you'll ruin the love within your relationship. So continue doing what you've been doing, follow my advice and find new friends!  
**Pepe:** Nah, honestly, I see how your friend thinks. Sex has nothing to do with love. But...I have to agree with Maria. If you love her, you won't cheat. I love sex and I am a god when it comes to performing, but I gotta say, I love my Maria more. Just make sure with your girlfriend that you let her know how much you love her...if you know what I mean!  
**Maria:** Oh my God!!! Who are you and what have you done with Pepe?!? For what you just said, you'll get a little present later...if you know what I mean!



# What is En Accion?

## *En Accion is...*

- The voice of the Latino community on campus
- An outlet for Latinos to express their views on world and culture issues
- A forum for Latinos to inquire about their roles and/or place in this society
- Where Latinos can express their creativity to promote the Latino consciousness  
(through poetry, comics, spoken word, etc.)
- A hub where information pertaining to Latino and world issues can be reached  
and accessed, as well as distributed and released
- Where campus activities and events are promoted to increase Latino awareness  
and support
- Overall, the publication of the Latino. You will get the world through our eyes  
and the voice of our soul, all with a little sabor
- Still want to know what En Accion is? We are looking for writers, artists, photographers, poets, and anyone who wants to promote the Latino voice on campus
- [Enaccion@ic.sunysb.edu](mailto:Enaccion@ic.sunysb.edu), Student Union Building Room 073