

# Stony Brook

en

# ACCIÓN

May 9, 1994

The Latino Student Feature Magazine of USB

Spring 1994

## Acceptance vs. Retention

Latinos and the  
education system

## Latinas and HIV/AIDS

Study places them  
in high risk group

## Dominicans getting ready to vote

National elections  
spur heated contest



## Latin Week '94

Celebrating Latin Unity,  
Stony Brook style

# Editor's Note

It's hard to let go of something you've put in so much time and effort for, but it's time to move on. I am very happy to see the paper evolve in the last two years to this stage, and I hope that it continues to progress. *En ACCIÓN* would not have been possible were it not for the hard work of its staff, whom I am very grateful to have had working with me, particularly this semester. Their diligence and patience is what has made this special edition possible.

Many Latinos in Stony Brook have been waiting for a special edition of *En ACCIÓN* like this one. I have been constantly asked why an issue like this one has not come out sooner. It takes a lot of hard work and time to do what the staff has done this year. Unfortunately, many Latinos are not involved with the media in the real world, so there are few role models that are available to students. Hopefully that will change in the near future as more Latinos are expressing interest in such a career.

Latinos have been a silent minority, and many times our concerns go unheard. In this silence, many of us have "come together", each waving a separate banner of unity. Whether it be because of nationality, gender, color, affiliation or simply a difference in ideas, we have learned to "discriminate" against each other, fragmenting our community. When we "unlearn" how to separate ourselves and put aside the petty issues that separate us, we can accomplish many great things.

Hopefully *En ACCIÓN* will be there to continue to voice these concerns as well as the positive accomplishments that Latinos have made as well as a channel for self-expression. Despite what some critics have said, *En ACCIÓN* is the voice of the Latino community at Stony Brook and invites everyone to participate.

Once again, I say good bye to all those who have helped with the paper and wish them the best of luck with *En ACCIÓN* next semester. To them I would like to leave this last message of inspiration:

*¡Luche para la vida, porque la muerte es segura!*

Sincerely,

Fernando P. Tirado  
Editor, 1994

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# Stony Brook

# en ACCIÓN

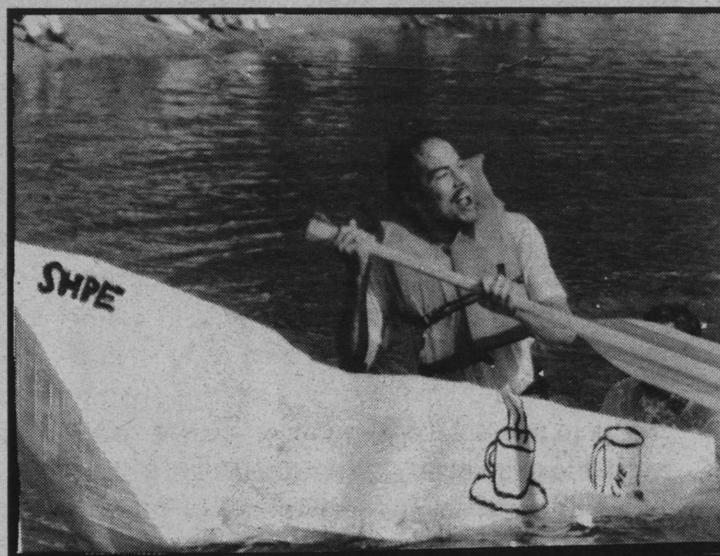
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*Photo of Jose Grullon in LASO's and the Society of Hispanic Engineers' boat, "Cafe con Leche"*



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# Campus Spotlight

## Julie Castaño, one of our overachievers.

On April 27, 1994, Julie Castaño received the Mentor Program achievement award. Sought out by many students within the mentor program, the award is given annually to only one recipient.

On her first year at Stony Brook, fresh from Brentwood High School, Julie Castaño takes one of the most prestigious awards that is given by the university, along with a cash prize of \$500. She is also the recipient of a \$2000 scholarship from the Research Career for Minority Scholars which she won back in March of this year. She will also be given a \$1000, stipend to come to summer school and develop analytical skills in math, (all expenses paid). She is part of the honors program and on her second semester at Stony Brook boasts an impressive G.P.A. of 3.67. Julie Castaño can truly be called an overachiever. An adjective that is becoming more and more associated with

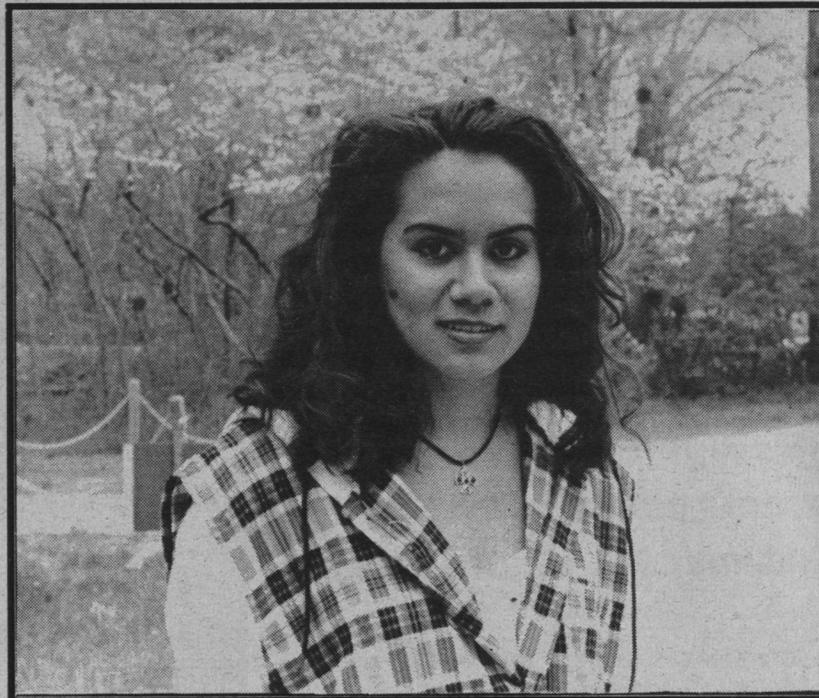


Photo: F. Tirado

Julie Castaño, recipient of the Mentor's Excellence Award, 1994.

our Latino brothers and sisters.

For if in the past, other less glorifying adjectives have been reserved for us, Julie Castaño truly breaks from those aging stereotypes and through her accomplishments, enrich and empower our race. Our only misfortune is that we won't enjoy her example for much longer. Ms. Castaño's family plans to permanently move to Columbia in January of 1995. We wish her and her family happiness in their future new home and hope that those of us that will remain here at Stony Brook can continue, through her example, to strive for excellence.

*Gustavo Ordóñez*

## Did Latinos affect the vote?

### *Election survey results get an unexpected response*

The survey conducted by Acción and Blackworld was an attempt to gauge the voter turnout in certain ethnic groups. At the polling station in the Union voters were asked to check which of six ethnic groups they belonged to. The setup of the survey was simple and would have taken less than 30 seconds to fill out. The survey itself was a good idea and its simplicity eliminated the possibility of it being a hassle to fill out. What it didn't allow for was the response from the Latino and Black voters. Many who were asked to fill out the survey refused because they felt that they shouldn't have to be put into a "category". There are many Latinos and Blacks that feel that if they write which ethnic group they belong to they will be discriminated against. For this reason the purpose of the survey was defeated. The only conclusion that can be decisively drawn from the survey is that in general more women voted than men.

From my observations as a poll watcher, I saw that most Latinos and Blacks had a problem with filling out a survey which categorized them. The White ethnic group, which had the highest voter turnout according to the survey, had the least problems with the it. My reasoning for this is that they are not usually

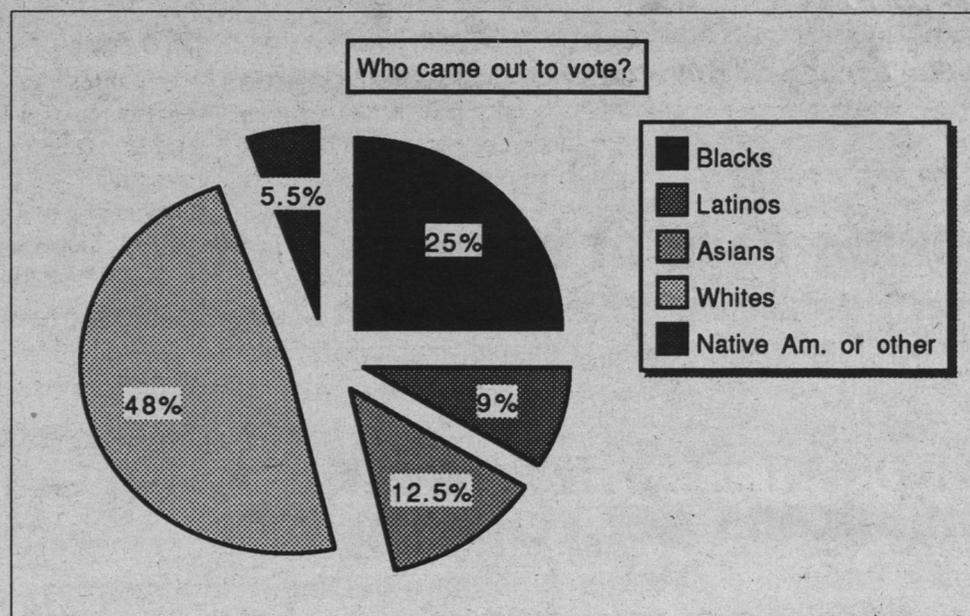


Chart: F. Tirado

In an independent survey conducted by Acción and Blackworld, Latinos were found to have had the nearly the least amount of impact on this year's Polity elections. Nearly 1300 of the 2300 students that voted participated in the survey. Of those that participated, 9% were Latinos, 12.5% were Asian, 25% were Black, 48% were white, and 5.5% claimed to be American Indian or other ethnicity. Of the 9% of Latinos that participated 5.3% were women and 3.7% were men. Women of all ethnicities outvoted men by a margin of 1.5% with the exception of Black women, who composed more than 2/3 of the Black vote.

discriminated against, but are the ones who discriminate. Discrimination is something Whites usually don't have to deal with and when discriminated against are outraged and confused whereas other ethnic groups have become accustomed to it and may not fight back because it has become a norm of society. This attitude is a dangerous one to take because although there are

many who will fight against bigotry, there are many more who will not do anything about it. Many feel that society will never change and that they alone can't make any significant changes. What these individuals don't see is that if we come together and present a united front change is inevitable.

*Romina Herrarte*

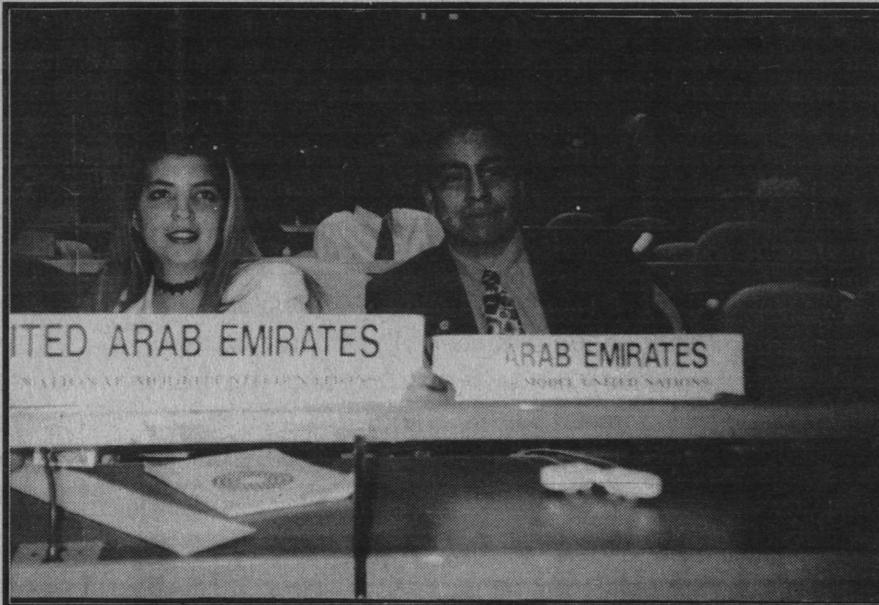
# Stony Brook students get a taste of the world

The National Model United Nations Conference in New York City offers students a unique opportunity to increase their understanding of the United Nations and the dynamics of international diplomacy. At this year's conference 22 delegates, including myself, represented the United Arab Emirates in five General Assembly committees and one Intergovernmental.

Preparation for the conference included several months of research in the procedures of the United Nations and on the positionings of the United Arab Emirates. The results of our project show that the United Arab Emirates as a Muslim state strongly oppose all violations of international law, whether they be of a racial, ethnic, religious, or territorial nature. However the work of writing resolutions in our six committees not only made it clear how fine the line is between national policy and belligerence, between rational compromise and irrational concession, but also how that line must be found and followed. Two committees in which our delegates participated received awards because of our outstanding performance in representing our countries' policies in a most accurate fashion, especially in view of the fact that these policies could run counter to our personal opinions. Participation in the conference gave our delegates great insights into the critical issues which confront the world today and how the United Arab Emirates are helping to resolve these issues. With this in mind, we hope to double the number of members in our club for next year in

order to represent a bigger country, especially a Latin-American one. Our

La Conferencia Nacional Modelo de las Naciones Unidas



María Elizabeth Cordero and Herman Zarante, two of the twenty-one students involved in the National Model United Nations Program.

club is composed of many people from different backgrounds; there are Latinos, Afro-Americans, Jews, Palestinians, French, and Germans among others. It is our wish to show to the rest of the Stony Brook community that it is possible to work together; race, religion or gender do not matter and this is why we invite you to participate next semester in such an extraordinary and unforgettable experience.

*María Elizabeth Rodríguez Febres-Cordero, Head Delegate*

(NMUN) ocurre durante la semana de vacaciones de primavera en la ciudad de Nueva York. Durante esa semana 180 universidades representan a diferentes países del mundo. Este año 22 estudiantes de esta universidad representamos a los Estados Unidos Arabes. Durante el otoño nos tocó investigar y estudiar a fondo el funcionamiento de cada comité dentro de las Naciones Unidas y con ello los diferentes procesos que envuelven las escrituras de resoluciones así como el buen conocimiento de los reglamentos de conducta. En la primavera

estudiamos la historia, economía, política y problemas sociales que afectan a este país. Sin embargo, nuestro énfasis de estudio tuvo que ver con el papel que desempeñan los Estados Unidos Arabes en cuanto a problemas internacionales como la violación de derechos humanos en Bosnia. Después de muchos meses de estudio e investigación nos tocó desempeñar nuestro papel como verdaderos representantes de este país Musulmán en la Conferencia Modelo de las Naciones Unidas, en donde pusimos a prueba nuestros conocimientos adquiridos. En esa semana nos convertimos en verdaderos diplomáticos, escribiendo resoluciones, negociando con otros países hasta altas horas de la noche e incluso muchas veces hasta el día siguiente tratando de buscar soluciones a problemas que afectan a todo el planeta. Es por ello que decimos que no es trabajo fácil, ya que toma tiempo, dedicación y paciencia, pero al final, como dicen en mi tierra, se le ve el queso a la tostada. Nuestra delegación obtuvo dos premios; el primero fue otorgado a los diferentes miembros participantes en la Conferencia de países Islámicos y el segundo en el Segundo Comité de la Asamblea General, la cual tiene por función buscar soluciones a problemas económicos globales. Además de ello, el nombre de Stony Brook quedó en los diez primeros lugares de excelencia debido a nuestro buen trabajo.

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## Latinos in U.S. Literature

*A historical look at Latino culture in America*

The University will be offering a class about the Latinos in the United States from a literary perspective, CLS 361.

I had an opportunity to speak to the professor that will be teaching the class, Román de la Campa. I asked him for information on what direction he would take with the class. He said that the purpose of the class was to explore and get to know better, the culture of the Latinos that is developing in the U.S.

This culture is independent of the one in our native countries, but it somehow manages to stay in touch with it.

This phenomenon has become very diverse and complex since there are now more Hispanic groups in the U.S. that define themselves as different ethnic groups. The course will help distinguish a Latino from a Latin American through literature written in English by Hispanics.

*Charlie Castro Gómez*

## College Aid Help

*Ayuda Financiera para la Universidad*

The New York State Higher Education Service Corporation (NYSHESC) is offering a Spanish language information sheet for students applying for financial aid their parents. For more information or a copy of "Como solicitar Ayuda Familiar Para 1994-1995" contact Ms. Susan Picard at 518-474-8644.

*La Corporación de Servicios para educación superior de Nueva York esta ofreciendo una carta de información en español para estudiantes aplicando para ayuda financiera y sus padres. Para mas información o una copia de "Como soicitar Ayuda Familiar Para 1994-95" llama a Ms Susan Picard, 518-474-8644.*



# National Hispanic Scholarship Fund

## 1994 Application

### General Information and Instruction

The purpose of National Hispanic Scholarship Fund (NHSF) scholarships is to assist Hispanic American students in completing their higher education. NHSF scholarships are available on a competitive basis to undergraduate and graduate students of Hispanic background. Awards normally range from \$500 to \$1,000.

#### ELIGIBILITY

- You must be a United States citizen, or a permanent resident of Hispanic parentage, who has completed at least fifteen (15) units of college work in the U.S. prior to submission of this application. You must also be enrolled in college for the Fall of 1994 and enrolled and in attendance through the Spring of 1995.
- Applicants are expected to be attending an accredited college or university in one of the fifty states or Puerto Rico as full-time day-time students. A full-time undergraduate student must be carrying a minimum of twelve units. A full-time graduate student must be carrying a minimum of six units. Students must be enrolled in programs eventually resulting in a baccalaureate or higher degree.
- Current graduate/professional school eligibility limits applicants to fields beyond the baccalaureate level. Generally, these students are attending traditional universities that enroll both undergraduate and graduate students.
- Community College applicants must be enrolled in majors transferable to a four-year institution offering a baccalaureate degree. Of the community college units completed, fifteen (15) must be transferable.
- Due to limited resources, NHSF is unable to make awards to fully employed persons, practicing professionals, students pursuing second degrees, or others pursuing an education through extended day, night school, part-time, special week-end or other non-traditional degree programs.

#### APPLICATION PERIOD AND DEADLINE

April 1 to June 15, 1994.

Postmark by June 15 insures acceptance. Regular mail is preferred and there is no need for certified or other special mailings that delay the review process. If a receipt is desired, a self-addressed stamped envelope must be included.

#### SELECTION

NHSF Scholars are recommended for selection by review committees which represent different sections of the United States and evaluate applicants on the following criteria:

1. Academic Achievement
2. Personal Qualities and Strengths
3. Financial Need
4. Letter of Recommendation
5. Consideration is also given to factors which insure national representation of scholars by state, college and major.

#### \*\*\* IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS \*\*\*

IT IS THE APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ARE SUBMITTED IN ONE PACKAGE IN THE ORDER NOTED BELOW BY JUNE 15. NO EXCEPTIONS OR EXTENSIONS WILL BE GIVEN.

- |                             |          |                                    |
|-----------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Application Form          | Send To: | Selection Committee                |
| 2 Transcript                |          | National Hispanic Scholarship Fund |
| 3. Letter of Recommendation |          | Post Office Box 728                |
| 4. Personal Statement       |          | Novato, California 94948           |

Verification of attendance and enrollment may be requested from your college.

Successful and unsuccessful candidates will be notified of their application status after February 1, 1995. NO PRIOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ARE MADE TO APPLICANTS AND ALL NOTIFICATIONS ARE FINAL AND IRREVOCABLE. Due to student mobility, notifications will be sent to the permanent address. Please keep in mind that the number of applications received exceeds the number of scholarship funds available. Last year, the ratio of selected students was three out of ten applicants.

# Acceptance vs. Retention

## *Latinos and the education system*

By Romina Herrarte and Fernando Tirado

*Although more Latinos are going to college than ever before, a greater proportion nationwide fail to graduate. This is according to a study released by the American Council on Education (ACE).*

The study claims that, nationwide only 41% of Latino college students graduate from a four-year institution; these graduates, it is estimated, complete their education in six years. These figures are compared to the proportion of Whites, Blacks and Asians also attending college.

Stony Brook had more Latino students graduate in 1992 than in 1987, but they still fall short as compared to other ethnic groups. The facts, according to Institutional Services at Stony Brook, are that between the years 1984-1987 roughly 50% of Latino students enrolled, received their Bachelor Degrees within six years (The graduation rate for the entire student body being well over 55%).

And while the decrease in the Latino dropout rate is encouraging, enrollment has only increased marginally. On average, the freshman enrollment rate of Latinos has only been 121 students between 1984-1993. The first noticeable increase in enrollment occurred in 1993 when it went up to 163. The reason the Latino freshmen enrollment appears to have increased is due to a decrease in White freshmen enrollment. Data from Institutional Services at Stony Brook shows an 18% drop in White freshman enrollment while Latino and Black freshman enrollment has increased by only 4.3% each. Despite claims by USB officials that the University has become a more diverse community, the Latino student population has grown less than 3% in the past decade. This is due to problems they face getting into and staying in the higher education system.

Ana Maria Torres, Director of Financial Aid, cites several of these problems. One reason why so many Latinos leave Stony Brook, according to Torres, is due to personal problems at home. Many Latinos also leave because Stony Brook does not offer the major they want.

However, the situation is much more complex. Many of the Latinos coming to Stony Brook today graduated from public schools in and around New York City. "In general, the current public school system in the city of New York does not prepare students well enough for a school as competitive as Stony Brook" says Mrs. Torres.

She then went on to say that the University bureaucracy impedes student progress on the academic level. "When students are worrying about how to pay for college, they have to take time out to remedy the situation, usually at the expense of their education."

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Other factors that were mentioned were the lack of bilingual services on campus to help out those students whose primary language is not English. These students find it difficult to take care of their personal matters and feel alienated by student services that are supposed to help them.

Mrs. Torres concluded that the financial situation of many Latinos gives them the most difficulty in staying in college. Many Latinos, and other students as well, end up getting a full-time job or second part-time job to pay for tuition. That combined with the limited classes being offered makes it tougher for students to graduate in four years. Students that stay longer end up paying for the added expense. Latinos and

many other students, especially from the inner city, don't have the resources to continue with their education in this

life or not at all.

Carmen Vasquez, Director of Student Union and Activities, adds that

difficult adjusting to the greater freedom that campus life allows.

Is Stony Brook and the rest of the higher education system deliberately built to hinder Latinos and other minorities? Most likely not, although it may seem that way. Administrators do not seem to be concerned with solving the current academic and bureaucratic dilemma that plagues the system. It is much more costly for the University to modernize and create student services that cater to students needs than to let the wasteful bureaucracy continue on.

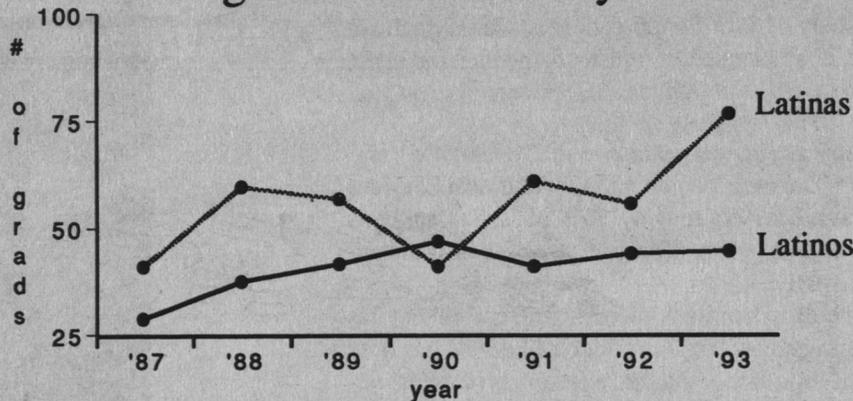
Latinos are growing very fast in the United States, but the number of Latino college graduates and professionals is not proportional to this growth. Although Latinos need to concentrate more on their academics, Stony Brook and the higher education system in general also need to become more accessible to ensure they get the education they deserve and want.

**"In general, the current public school system in the city of New York does not prepare students well enough for a school as competitive as Stony Brook"**

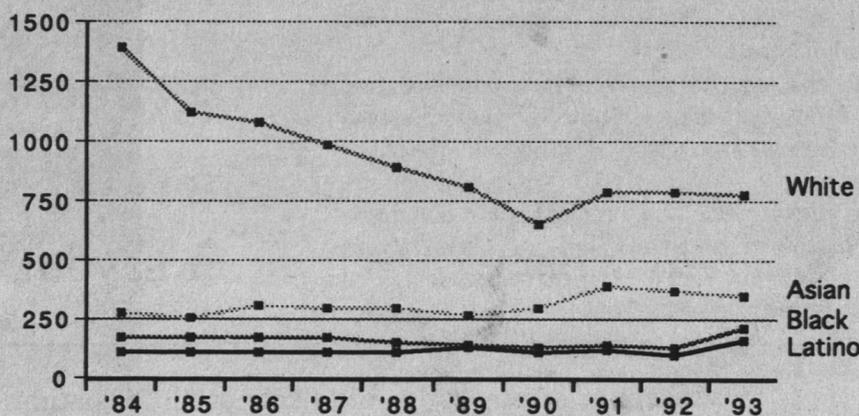
manner. Many end up leaving school and join the work force, vowing to return. This is seldom the case. Latinos fall into the same cycle as students before them, returning to school later in

many Latinos make socializing their first priority instead of academics, although both are important. The social life at college is a great contrast to their life at home and some Latinos find it

How many Latinos (as) graduate from Stony Brook



Freshman enrollment rate by ethnicity



Top: More Latinas have graduated from Stony Brook than Latinos according to Institutional Services. This pattern has been consistent as far back as 1984.

Bottom: According to Institutional Services, Latino freshman enrollment is the lowest of the four major ethnicities. 1993 saw the highest enrollment rate for Latinos, a mere 163 freshman. The average enrollment for the last 10 years for Latinos is 121.

**Hispanic task force establishes intern program**

*Program will allow more Latino interns to be recruited than ever before*

By Susan Gonzalez of The Latino Journal

In addition to the over 100 interns roaming the halls of the State Capitol, 11 more have been added to the pool of college students gaining practical political experience at the New York State Legislature. The first class of interns for the New York State Assembly Puerto Rican Hispanic Task Force launched the first year of the Task Force's own internship in February.

The internship which is coordinated through the Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LCS) Department at the University at Albany, State University of New York is the brainchild of Latino legislators on the Task Force who decided to implement it because, "Current internships were not really available to Latino students and not many students are aware of the other internships," stated Dave Fernandez, Council to the Task Force.

He added that the Task Force wanted a medium through which Latino and other students could see what was happening in their communities." Each of the 11 Puerto Rican State Legislators are assigned an intern through the program.

The idea for the internship got its first push when Dr. Carlos Santiago, professor of economics and former chairman of the LCS Dept. got a phone call from Dr. Manuel Alguero, Director of Hispanic American Affairs for the State University of New York, who had heard of the idea and convinced him to get involved. "They[legislators] wanted it organized really quickly and they really wanted the students to start for this Legislative Session but the interns didn't start until February because of all the paperwork involved," said Santiago.

"At first they wanted the internship to encompass all of

# LatinoLine

## The On-line Latino News Service

• Finally, a news service dedicated to reporting news important to the Latino community. LatinoLine is the only news service of its kind and by using the latest in information technology it will empower a community because, knowledge is power.

• LatinoLine is a ground-breaking news service providing valuable insight on how Latino communities are affected by government policies and politics in New York State. This service will bring valuable information wherever you are; via a fax machine or computer and modem.

• LatinoLine will bring you, every month, page after page of research information, news stories and interviews with Latino policy makers, community leaders from throughout the state, and polls on what the average Latino has in mind as well as a state-wide community calender. This is information that you cannot get anywhere else.

• In a society where the Latino community is considered the silent minority and news coverage is limited, LatinoLine will bring you information and viewpoints of the diverse Latino communities into your homes, buisnesses or office every month; keeping you aware of vital information you should not be without.

• In the age of rapid technological changes and "information overloads", LatinoLine will bring you the news relevant to your daily life and vital to the progress of the Latino community. And best of all, this information is at your fingertips and only a phone call away. Keeping you informed is that simple and that easy.

• LatinoLine will be delivered to your home or office, 12 times a year, via fax or modem for only \$24.95. For additional information, just call 518-482-0049 or 718-469-7429. When you call on-line, you will utilizing a network that is designed to inform and empower. Call now!



Fire up your Saturday afternoon with Stony Brook's own Salsa and Latin jazz radio show

Featuring "Felipito" Palacios  
WUSB 90.1 FM  
Saturday, 3:00pm-5:30pm

Stony Brook

en **ACCIÓN**

Is looking for students and faculty that are interested in participating in Stony Brook's only Latino student newsletter.

☆ Photographers

☆ Editors

☆ Writers

☆ Artist

☆ Typist

☆ Layout

If you are interested or would like more information pertaining to En Acción, please call Romina Herrarte at 632-3238 and leave a message.

# Latin

by Martha Tobar

The week of April 18-24 was the annual Latin Week here at Stony Brook. LASO, along with the other Latin organizations, sponsored many events that

week to show and celebrate our Latin culture. Throughout the week, many aspects of the Latin culture were shown. There were Latin foods available at various events, as well as live Latin music.

The first event to occur was after LASO's general meeting on Tuesday, April 19. LASO held its meeting at the UNITI Culture Center at 9 p.m. After a brief but productive meeting, the Latin American Poetry Society (LAPS), which consists of members Charlie Gómez, Eriberto Cruz, José Villalón, Leonardo Amaya, Elizabeth Monasterios, Gustavo Ramirez and Sonia Trucco, sponsored a poetry reading and a short story play. The poems, read by Charlie Gómez and Eriberto Cruz, sparked a lot of attention and laughs. Everyone seemed to enjoy the poetry a lot. The skit, called "Estudio En Blanco y Negro", was a charming, yet funny play. The play was about people misunderstanding each other and fighting over ideas that others do not agree with. They were also contradicting each other on their ideas of the statue that everyone was arguing about. There was also a lot of confusion among the characters and what they were arguing over. Everyone enjoyed the play and many applause's were heard after the play was finished. LASO would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the members of LAPS for performing for us that night. We would also like to thank everyone who came to the meeting that night to show your support.

The next event that was scheduled to occur was on Wednesday, April 20 at the Fine Arts Plaza. During Campus Lifetime (12:40-2:10), LASO along with other organizations participated in Culturefest. The line was long but people did not seem to mind. Whether you were on line waiting for food or sitting down eating and relaxing you heard the sounds of the charanga band, "La Tipica Novel", which was sponsored by LASO. They played while everyone enjoyed the beautiful spring day with their friends. Some people were even dancing to the beat of the

## "Mundo Latino"

music, which is a combination of Afro-Cuban rhythms, jazz and salsa.

The next event that occurred was the Roth Quad Regatta. This event took place on Friday, April 22 at Roth Pond. On Thursday night, Joanne Guzman, Martin Rodriguez, Orlando Rodriguez, Fernando Tirado, Abel Torres, Jose Grullon and Martha Toabr, stayed up all night painting and adding the finishing touches to the boat. The boat, sponsored by LASO and S.H.E., named the boat "Café con Leche". The showing of the boats was at 3 p.m. and the race began at 4 p.m. The boat, which could only be built out of cardboard and duct tape, was supposed to stay afloat from one side of the pond to the other. Once the boat was pushed into the water, the crew members, both members of LASO and SHE, Alex Saviñon and José Grullon, began to paddle their way to the other side of the pond. After about five minutes and tipping over a half a dozen times, "Café con Leche" came in at second place. Everyone cheered the crew members on until they crossed the finish line. Unfortunately, one of the crew members, José, was injured while trying to pull the boat out of the water.

The annual LASO semi-formal, in conjunction with MPB, SAB and Student Union and Activities, was the next event to occur. Set-up for the dinner and dance began at 9 a.m. in the ballroom. When all the decorations were put up the ballroom was transformed into a different place. The dinner began around 7:30. After the dinner came the awards ceremony and the speaker, Oscar Camacho. A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to him by Jessica Gonzalez, vice president of LASO. Following the speaker, awards were given to other people as well. The LASO executive board presented Martin Rodriguez, president of LASO, with a clock for all the dedication and hard work he has put into LASO. The LASO E-board also presented Fernando Tirado with a plaque for all his dedication and hard work to both LASO and En Acción. Both Fernando and Martin will be graduating this spring and we would all like to extend a warm congratulations and good luck to both of them.

After the dinner, the tables and the dance floor were cleared for the entertainment to begin. The party was packed with people waiting to dance and enjoy themselves. The first band to perform was RAVEL, a merengue band which played two sets of live music within an hour. The second band to perform was Johnny Ray y Salsa con Clase. They also performed two sets of live music within an hour. After the band performed the DJ. for the rest of the night, electrifying the dance floor with the best in salsa, merengue, hip-hop and reggae. The semi-formal was a big hit and

# Week '94

## Celebrating Unity

Photos: F. Tirado



José Villalón, Leonardo Amaya, Elizabeth Monasterios, Charlie Gómez, Sonia Trucco, Gustavo Ramirez and Eriberto Cruz of the Latin American Poetry Society performing "Estudio en Blanco y Negro."



Willie Ellis and "La Tipica Novel", performed live at the Staller Pit with the best in Charanga and Salsa for the Stony Brook community.



Johnny Ray y su Orq. at the Latin American Students Organization's Annual semi-formal performing "Lejos de ti" and other hits.



Ravel y su Orq. also performed live at LASO's Semi-Formal performing "El Guineo" and other smash merengue hits.

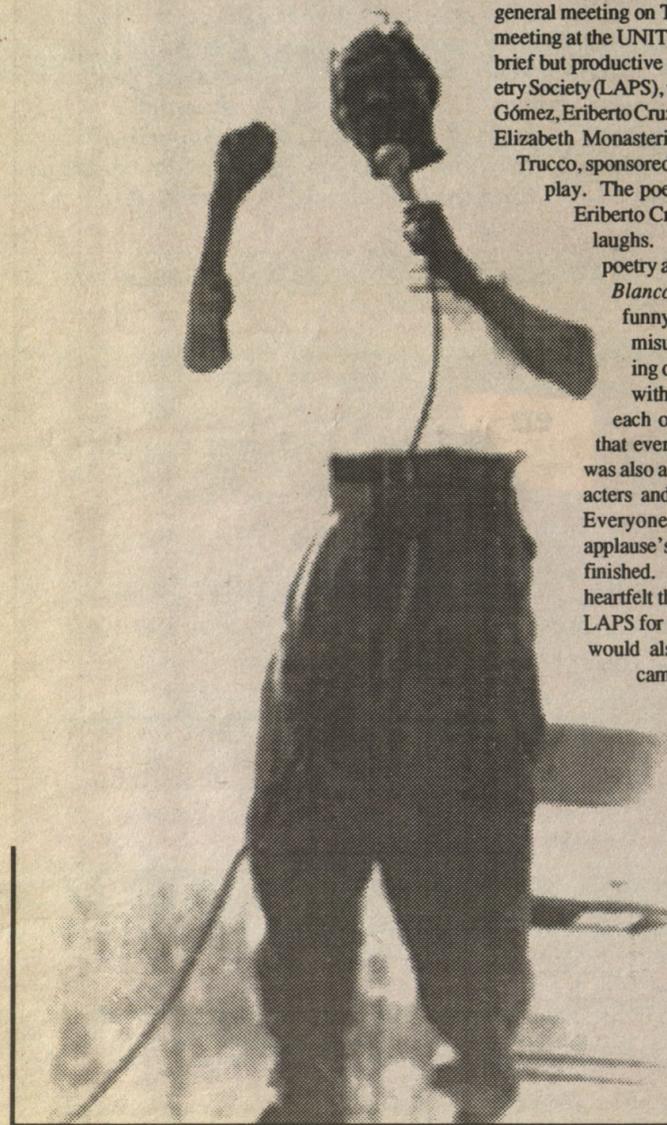


Photo: F. Tirado

Comedian/actor Rick Aviles performing live at the 2nd annual Latin Block Party.

everyone danced until 2:30 when the party ended. LASO would like to thank everyone who showed up to the semi-formal.

The final event that ended the Latin Week festivities was the Latin Block Party. This event, hosted by Gamma Ce Upsilon Sorority Inc. and Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity Inc., in conjunction with SAB, MPB, LASO and AASO, began around 12. The event featured a live comedian, Rick Aviles, a volleyball game, a softball game and a dominoes tournament. By

the time everyone arrived the food was set up and the music was playing. Everyone was having a good time on this hot and sunny day, and the temperature reached almost 90°, and everyone was either playing softball, volleyball or just hanging out laying in the sun eating or sun bathing. The comedian Rick Aviles came on around 5:30 and he performed for an hour. He picked on a lot of people in the audience, but it was a fun day and no one seemed to get mad at him picking on them. He got a lot of laughs and applause from all who were

there. The theme of the event was "Latin Unity" and that is what came out of the event. It was not only Latin unity but it also represented unity of all cultures.

The week was filled with fun events for all. Everyone who attended the events seemed to enjoy themselves. We would like to say thank you to all the people who helped out during these events and to all those who came to support us at these events.

**ADVERTISEMENT**



**La Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha Inc.**

La Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha Inc. is a latin cultural-based sorority. The history of this organization goes back to 1985 in Troy, New York. The sorority itself was founded on September 29, 1990 by 13 aspiring young women in the state of New York. Through the encouraged awareness of the latin culture, the sorority hopes to educate and unify those of the diverse latin cultures as well as those of all ethnic groups and also to provide a sense of pride for those who have a latin background.

The sorority is dedicated

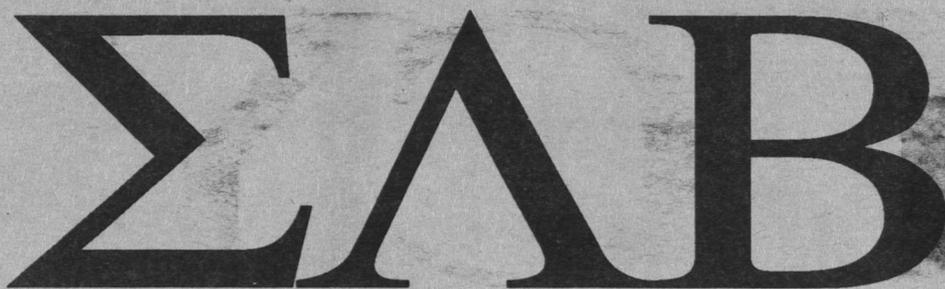
to promoting the awareness of the latin culture to the diverse cultures in the community at large. At the moment, La Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha is composed of eight chapters in the New York State area as well as four chapters out of state. These chapters include: University at Albany, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (R.P.I), University at Stony Brook, New Paltz College, University at Pennsylvania State, Western Illinois University, Hofstra University, Adelphi University, Old Westbury, University of Illinois at Chicago, Temple

University, and SUNY at Oswego. The sorority also has an Alumni board. All of the chapters are composed of undergraduate, graduate and professional women.

The sorority takes pride in getting involved in the community by providing community service internationally as well as locally. The organization gets involved in different endeavors to help the needy in different causes.

Our goals are to constantly strive toward the expansion of the awareness of diverse cultures especially the latin cul-

ture to the community at large; to promote sisterhood and leadership amongst ourselves and to stand for excellence in academics and achievements among women. Although we endeavor to constantly work as sisters unified in these common goals we value personal identity and individualism and in doing so developing leadership, scholarship, sportsmanship and friendship. Our official colors are Red, Gold, Royal Blue, White and Black. And our motto is "Semper unum et Inseparabilis" - Always One and Inseparable.



**Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity Inc.**

Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity Inc. is a Latino fraternity that emphasizes brotherhood, scholarship, service and cultural awareness. In order to advance the human rights and general welfare of the Latino population, the fraternity promotes these functions on a local, regional, national, and international level.

The fraternity colors are purple and white and its motto is "Opportunity for Wisdom, Wis-

dom for culture." Sigma Lambda Beta fraternity was founded on April 4, 1986 at the University of Iowa. Although they are a young fraternity, they have accomplished much in the seven years of their existence. Sigma Lambda Beta is the largest Latino-oriented fraternity in the U.S. and has chapters across the country from coast to coast from Los Angeles to New York as well as in Puerto Rico. Sigma Lambda Beta is a member of the Latin National Greek

Council (NLGC).

The Pi chapter at Stony Brook is the first chapter in the Northeast region, and was recognized by its national on April 15, 1992. Recognition from the University came in early October of the same year. Since then, they have grown to be very strong organization.

Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity strongly believes in brotherhood, intellectual excellence and its role in the decision-making

process of the future. This fraternity is committed to developing individuals to their fullest potential in order to help better serve the needs and wants of our people. Each member has the responsibility to develop and utilize his own skills and assets in any way that may contribute to the overall success of the fraternity, and more importantly help as a whole. Sigma Lambda Beta welcomes those who are willing to aspects of the rich Latino culture.

# BMT

## Balaam Mu Tau Cultural Fraternity Inc.

Balaam Mu Tau Inc. came into existence in the minds and aspirations of a handful of Stony Brook students in the Spring of 1991. It later became alive in August 5th of the same year through its legal incorporation into the State of New York. About a half-dozen Stony Brook students rejoiced at the realization of parenthood. As proud founding fathers, they now have high aspirations and goals for their infant organization environment in which this new fraternity may mature.

The name of our fraternity was an issue of much discussion and debate in the weeks prior to legal incorporation. The final decision was Balaam Mu Tau. The word Balaam comes from one of the components of our diversified eth-

nic culture. It was chosen for stemming from our most native element, though it is not our intention to lessen the importance of the other two major ones. In one of the Mayan dialect, the symbol of strength and power to these ancient people was the jaguar. It is also an animal native and exclusive to Central and South America, therefore an icon of our culture and heritage. The Greek letter Mu is also a work in this ancient dialect and it signifies people. And last but not least the letter Tau represents the word treasure. So being faithful to the tradition of fraternity organizations and loyal to the purpose of our intuition we arrive at our present name, and though the order of the words is the result of the idiosyncrasy of the members, the meaning

of Balaam Mu Tau (The treasure of the Jaguar People) represent that which is most sacred to us: OUR CULTURE.

Balaam Mu Tau Fraternity is an organization geared towards the development of the Latino culture. Our organization was founded with the purpose of serving the community. We also seek a philanthropic relationship to assist Latinos and expand its influence. Our colors are navy blue and deep burgundy, and our creed is *solidaridad, lealtad y enseñanza* (solidarity, teaching and loyalty).

As Balaam Mu Tau keeps growing, it gives each and every member of the organization an array of duties and responsibilities that makes us grow and mature as individuals and

leaders of our community. For every new member of Balaam Mu Tau, this is one of the many privileges and challenges that our organization will offer. The brothers of Balaam Mu Tau do not believe that going back to our culture is to solve every single problem of the Latino people. David Perez, a member of the controversial and famous revolutionary group (the Young Lords Party), said: "We have to use our culture as a revolutionary weapon to make ourselves stronger, to understand who we are, to understand where we came from, and therefore to be able to analyze correctly what we have to do in order to survive in this country." Balaam Mu Tau follows these and many other similar ideas.

# ICY

## Gamma Ce Upsilon Sorority Inc.

In the Fall of 1989, three undergraduate women and one graduate woman came together to discuss the issues surrounding the Latin community. It was at this meeting that these four women decided that the Latino community was at a loss by not having a sorority that was based on Latin concerns. The sorority's founders which included one Dominican, one Colombian, and two Puerto Rican women, felt it was vital to begin to look at the beauty of all Latin countries and attempt some sort of unification. Consequently, in 1990, Gamma Ce Upsilon be-

came incorporated and was approved by the University for a 5-8 week pledge process. New members would need this time to learn the goals and objectives of our organization. The purpose for which Gamma Ce Upsilon Sorority Inc. was formed are: A) to provide a Latin woman's struggle, sisterhood, and pride through educational means, to excel in all areas, B) to function as a base socially while receiving support and understanding from other women with similar experiences, and C) to provide community service in the form of volunteering,

organizing, and assisting various groups for various causes to enhance the community and its people socially, politically, and culturally.

Gamma Ce Upsilon Sorority Inc. is not exclusively Latin! They believe that their organization will prosper with their growing membership of women who identify with, and who are dedicated to their struggle.

Gamma Ce Upsilon participated and continues to participate in various community services, such as Youth Empower-

ment Day, Alcohol and Drug Awareness Week, Project Outreach, S.E.F.A. Campaign, Special Olympics, and the list continues to grow. They are sponsored by the National Association of Puerto Rican and Hispanic Social Workers; and their campus advisor is Anna Maria Torres, Director of Financial Aid at the University.

Gamma Ce Upsilon colors are red and black; their flower is the red rose; their insignia is the swan; and their motto is "Through Innovative Thought Come Progressive Ideas".

# Looking back at a success story

*Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies to enter its second year.*

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Stony Brook was launched during Hispanic Heritage Month, in October 1993. The opening ceremony began with a parade of the flags of the Latin American nations organized by the Latin American Students Organization and the Hispanic Heritage Month Committee.

In line with current Stony Brook thinking, the Center has focused on improving the quality of undergraduate education on campus. The Center is organizing a variety of new courses, and is working closely with the student organizations on campus to develop events of general interest. The staff of the Center have been busy putting together the framework for an undergraduate Major and Minor in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The aim is to provide a multidisciplinary introduction to the region, integrating language and literature, history and social sciences, and the arts. This new program should appeal to the large and growing population of Latino students on campus, as well as to those students with an interest in international issues. While this proposal is going through the lengthy process of gaining approval from SUNY Central at Albany, Stony Brook undergraduates will be able to do a major or a minor in Latin Ameri-

can and Caribbean Studies through the Multidisciplinary program. The first step towards developing Latin American and Caribbean studies on campus was taken in the Spring, when the Center organized a Federated Learning Community on Latin America and the Caribbean. The Federated Learning Community is one of Stony Brook's efforts to create a stimulating and rewarding educational environment for its undergraduates. The FLC is a way for students to study a subject intensively from an interdisciplinary point of view. Students in the FLC took three courses on Latin America and the Caribbean: the new introductory flagship course, LAC 200, a course on Brazilian History, and a literature course on Women in the English-speaking Caribbean. The new course, "Introduction to Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC 200) is a specially-designed "gateway" course for students interested in the region. It is taught by two professors from different departments (in the first year, Professor Brooke Larson from History and Professor Antonio Vera-Leon from Hispanic Languages and Literature) so that students are exposed to different approaches to the subject. In addition to the group of three courses, FLC students also met every week in a seminar with

the teachers of these courses to integrate the material across the three courses. On the faculty side, one of the teachers, Professor Helen Cooper, attended all the classes and coordinated the FLC program as a whole, ensuring a considerable degree of integration between the three courses.

During the academic year 1993-94 the Center also began its program of inviting a wide range of speakers from outside Stony Brook to give talks and lectures on campus. The inaugural lecture was given by the distinguished historian of Cuba, Louis Perez, who talked about the role of baseball in the formation of Cuban national identity during the war for liberation from Spain at the end of the nineteenth century. This was followed by a poetry reading by Nicaraguan poet, Ernesto Cardenal. An early advocate of liberation theology, Cardenal fought for political liberation through his work as a priest, and was declared an outlaw in 1977. After the triumph of the Sandinista revolution of 1979 he served as Minister of Culture. Cardenal is the author of some of the most distinguished contemporary Nicaraguan poetry. One of his books include *Cosmic Canticle*, translated by Stony Brook faculty Jonathan Cohen. Cardenal's visit to Stony Brook was sponsored by the University's Distinguished Lecturer Series.

In the Spring semester the Center hosted a lecture on Latin American literary studies and postmodernism, by Ricardo Kaliman, Professor in the Universidad Nacional de Tucuman, Argentina, a poetry reading by Caribbean poet Ramabai Espinet, a talk by Alba and Asa Zatz entitled "Reminiscences: Politics and Art in Mexico during the 1940s", and a seminar by British sociologist Neil Harvey on the Chiapas uprising in Mexico in January 1994.

In addition to these events, the Center also co-sponsored a talk in the Music department on Andean music and Nationalism by Tom Turino of the University of Wisconsin and (together with Women's Studies) two lectures in the Humanities Institute. These were the most visible side of the Center's activities during its first year of operations. Behind the scenes there was also a lot

of basic work to set up the Center. The management team comprised of Professor Ian Roxborough, Director of the Center during its first year, Nadeja Skrabitz, graduate student in History, and Fernando Tirado, a senior in Political Science. When they started in September 1993 they began with three empty offices, no experience and a lot of good-will. The first tasks were to get phones, stationary and equipment, and in the process learn the complex purchasing procedures of the State University. They began making lists of faculty and students interested in the region, started the cumbersome procedures for getting the LAC Major and Minor approved and began work on generating outside sources of funding for the Center. The Center is located on the north side of the third floor of the SBS building, where students are encouraged to stop by.

The immediate future of the Center looks good. The University is giving solid backing to the program and has guaranteed enough funding so that there can be a similar level of activity during the coming academic year. Starting in September, there will be a new management team, led by Professor Brooke Larson. At the moment the Center is planning its academic activities for the coming semester and expects to have a lively and diverse program. Says Director Ian Roxborough, "In the new age of increased international competitiveness, a major university like Stony Brook is doing the right thing by emphasizing international and regional studies. Over the next couple of decades there will be increasingly close ties between the United States and the other nations of the hemisphere. We must begin to teach our students to think internationally so that they can properly understand America's place in the new world order. This is an important part of the Center's mission. We are also keenly aware of the large Latino community in Long Island, and intend to develop a number of programs to reach out to them. I'm very excited about these new developments at Stony Brook."

*This article was contributed by Prof. Ian Roxborough and Fernando Tirado*



Photo: F. Tirado

Prof. Ian Roxborough and Nadeja Skrabitz of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies



*The Corporation for National  
and Community Service*



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**COME AND JOIN VOLUNTEERS FROM ACROSS THE NATION  
"GETTING THINGS DONE IN THE ENVIRONMENT".**

# Clinton, Latinos and Health Care

By Guillermo A. Martinez and Sandra Paolasso of The Latino Journal, courtesy of LatinoLine News service

Perhaps no other group in the American landscape has so much to lose as do Hispanics in the present debate over the health care crisis facing the nation.

Because of the particular make-up of Hispanics in the United States; migrant workers, legal permanent residents, residents of Puerto Rico, and the undocumented, the Clinton health care proposal, has to be examined carefully because each group is taken into consideration. However, not all the details in 1342 pages which comprise President Bill Clinton's Health Security Act fall in line with the need of Hispanics.

According to data from the Census Bureau, the United States General Accounting Office and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, an estimated 6.9 million Hispanics (32.4% of the Hispanic population) are uninsured, compared with 26.9 million Whites (12.9%) and nearly 6.1 million Blacks (19.7%). Combine these statistics with the fact that Hispanics are less likely than Blacks to receive Medicaid and the health care crisis for this community is acute.

Hispanics, in the United States, have been locked-out of access to adequate, health care and the socioeconomic char-

acteristics of this group also contribute to the problem caused by being uninsured. Hispanics are a young population, have very high labor force participation rates, are heavily represented among the working poor who can not afford private health insurance and most often live in states which provide very limited Medicaid coverage.

So, what does the President's plan propose as remedies for this group? What is presented below is a brief outline of the impact of the Clinton health care proposal on the nation's 30 million Hispanics.

Providing health insurance coverage for all Hispanics is critical to ensuring access to health care. Without health insurance, most Hispanics are unable to afford even basic medical care. But the Clinton health proposal does not serve all the Hispanic groups appropriately. More than 3.5 million Americans live in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and should have the right to participate fully in a national health care program. Unfortunately, the Clinton health care bill continues the policy of limiting federal health care, matching funds to Puerto Rico and requires Puerto Rico to provide health care with less federal money than any state. In view of the fact that Puerto Ricans seeking

medical care not provided to them on the Island travel to the mainland to receive such care; the costs are only being passed along to the local economies of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

An estimated 3.2 million undocumented immigrants live in the United States. Although the major portion of undocumented immigrants are employed and contribute positively to the U.S. economy the Clinton health care bill denies coverage to men, women and children who are undocumented. Under the employer mandated coverage for all employees, working undocumented immigrants would not be prohibited from participating into a health care system they are paying into. However traditional patterns of exploiting immigrant labor could lead to employers forcefully negating this group of health care benefits.

Hispanic families are poorer than either White or African American families, whether they are headed by two parents or one. Among men working full time, Latinos have the highest rate of low wages. The same is true for Latinas working full time. Low income Hispanics who are unable to afford their health plans co-payments or premium obligations will not receive timely and

appropriate health care. Under the Clinton plan, low-income people are asked to make the same co-payments as other HMO enrollees with much higher incomes. Low income workers will face having to pay 20% to 80% of their premiums.

The lack of interpretive services deters Spanish-speaking patients who are in need of medical care. Similarly, the lack of translated health information, forms and legal documents serves as a deterrent to the patient and impedes the delivery of appropriate care. The Clinton health care proposal prohibits discrimination by health plans on the basis of language. However, alliances and health plans are not required to provide consumer information in languages other than English and states are not required to pay for translation and interpretation services or collect data to monitor the appropriate delivery of such services to patients. The Clinton bill forbids health plans from adopting policies that have a discriminatory impact and permits victims of discrimination to seek full compensation and enforcement in court. However, the plan does not require a federal civil rights review of state plans before approval.

## Changing voices in America as immigration rises

Courtesy of Latino Village Press

New Census Bureau reports make clear the trend in the rise of immigration. Not only are increasing numbers of immigrants arriving from Latin America and Asia, but more of them are speaking their native tongues at home - some by choice, but most because they cannot speak English. A Census report released this past year, shows that one in seven U.S. residents, or 14% of the population speak a language other than English at home in 1990, on increment from 11% in 1980.

Obviously, the rise in immigration - immigrants accounted for 37% of the population growth in the 1980's - has resulted in language-related tensions, most notably in school districts struggling to educate children with little if any proficiency in English.

Whether today's experience is different from previous waves of immigration in the 1800's and 1900's is un-

clear. Before 1980, the Census Bureau did not ask people what language they spoke at home. An independent, non-partisan research organization in Washington, the Urban Institute, finds no evidence that recent immigrants from Latin America or Asia are any less inclined to learn English than earlier immigrants from Europe. "People who speak English earn more than people who don't. This information is well known among immigrants" said demographer Jeffrey Passel of the Urban Institute.

Problems of time to receive instruction, levels of education, age, and attitudes are inherent in the process of stimulating immigrants to overcome the language barrier, but the potential for enhancing some of the good sides are also clear, such as the opportunity to develop a multilingual work force that is better prepared to compete in the increasingly global market place.

## A criminal runs for the U.S. Senate

Courtesy of The Latino Journal

Only in America. They usually become criminals after they win office, but not in Virginia. Oliver North, the former white house aid who destroyed public documents, lied to congress under oath, and received illegal gifts from an organization that supported his genocidal tendencies, is running for the United States Senate.

Because of the political nature of his crimes and the support of officials within the Bush and Reagan administrations, he got away with what the average citizen would still be in prison for. Knowing this, there are many out there too willing to give him money and time to promote his self-righteous propaganda — including CNN where he has been a guest commentator many times.

The United States Marine Corps pressured him to stop wearing their uniform during the 1987 Congressional hearing in which he perjured himself and discredited our democracy. On

...North directly contributed to the murder and campaign of terror directed at the Nicaraguan people.

a more ethnic note; Oliver North directly contributed to the murder and campaign of terror directed at the Nicaraguan people. In a country

where over 50% of its four million people are under the age of 15 and another 3% are over the age of 65, he is a wanted criminal and mass murderer.

And so we speak for those who cannot and for those whose lives were cut short under the direction of this Christian banner-waving should-be convict. His campaign for the Senate will spell out more than the current condition of American politics.

# Dominicans get ready for election

## *Balaguer set to face his biggest challenge*

Written by Mark Holston courtesy of New York Latino

For months leading up to the national election day on May 16, the streets of Santo Domingo and other cities of the Dominican Republic have been alive with one of the most passionately played out presidential election campaigns in recent memory in this Caribbean nation or anywhere in Latin America. Carnival-like political rallies of major parties have become weekend social and media events, while day-to-day campaigning by convoys of banner-festooned, campaign slogan-blaring vehicles has brought the messages and images of leading candidates to even the most remote pueblo and poorest big city barrio. From slick, U.S. - style television commercials to games of one upmanship in the daily press and endless political discussion programs on national TV channels, few stones are being left unturned as Dominican politicians of every stripe are jockeying for leadership in what is arguably the country's most important presidential election in its history.

The leading protagonists in this democratic drama are two aging leaders whose longevity and tenacity place them in rare company in the history of Twentieth Century politics.

The six term incumbent, Dr. Joaquin Balaguer, remains amazingly active in the daily affairs of the country, undeterred in his ambitions by the realities of being 87 and nearly blind.

His arch rival, a mere youth by comparison at the age of 84, is Dr. Juan Bosch. The fiery intellectual, whose leftist rhetoric as the nation's first democratically elected chief-of-state after the assassination of dictator Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina in 1961 led to his ouster via a military coup after just seven months of service, has been an irritant to Balaguer's camp ever since.

The personal rivalry between Balaguer and Bosch remains so strong that the active political participation of one automatically draws the other into the fray. Many Dominicans had been hopeful that Balaguer, who would be 91 at the conclusion of his next term if re-elected this year, would stand aside and anoint a younger leader to head his Partido Reformista. Such a move would likely have resulted in Bosch's Partido Liberación Dominicano adopting a similar strategy. But like two battle-hardened warriors whose thinking has been conditioned by too many years of bitter combat, the octogenarian candidates are

once again nose-to-nose, and their insistence on continuing their political roles could have profoundly negative consequences for Dominican society as a whole.

What's at stake is the orderly transition from an aging, political hierarchy to a new generation of leadership and a new way of addressing the many pressing problems the nation will have to cope with in coming years.

Arrayed against the political organizations of Balaguer and Bosch are an astounding total of 25 other registered political parties. In contrast to neighboring Haiti, which shares the island of Hispanola with the Dominican

What's at stake is the orderly transition from an aging, political hierarchy to a new generation of leadership and a new way of addressing the many pressing problems the nation will have to cope with in coming years.

Republic, nearby Cuba and a host of Central American, Caribbean and South American nations, the Dominican Republic has managed to foster a vital, broad-based political process that encourages direct political involvement at every level of society. Given over three decades of political repression under the Trujillo dictatorship, the intervention of Organization of American States military forces in 1965, and frequent examples of political corruption in the years since, the country's success in establishing a viable democratic tradition is enviable when contrasted to the examples of many nations in the region.

What remains to be seen in the May 16 balloting is whether Dominicans will choose to make a clean break with the past as represented by Balaguer and Bosch and seek their collective future with one of several prominent opposition parties, or if they will once again yield to the promise of security

that Balaguer's paternalistic Partido Reformista has provided for so many years.

The candidate who may best be positioned to challenge the incumbent is yet another contender with bankable intellectual qualities, the unofficial leader of the Dominican Republic's black population, Dr. Jose Francisco Peña Gómez, head of the centrist Partido Revolucionario Dominicano. A decade after the PRD was tainted by a scandal that doomed the presidency of the party's last successful presidential candidate, Salvador Jorge Blanco, the PRD seems well positioned to successfully challenge Balaguer's PR and other pre-

Jacobo Majluta, a Dominican of Turkish descent, is making a strong bid to establish his Partido Revolucionario Independiente as a palatable alternative to the more left-leaning parties of Bosch and Peña Gómez. Some Dominican political observers have suggested that Majluta may ultimately be drawn into an alliance with Balaguer's PR if the polls indicate the incumbent's reign is in serious jeopardy. Meanwhile the charismatic Majluta, known to his followers as simply Jacobo, is continuing to build a power base that extends from sweltering working class neighborhoods to the air conditioned suburban retreats of the country's business elite.

In the meantime, despite the fanfare and superficial evidence of widespread public involvement in their country's political process, many Dominicans remain as cynical about this year's election as they have about the electoral battles of the past.

"They're all crooks, says an influential businessman who, for obvious reasons asked not to be named. "I know Jacobo—he would be an OK president. I know them all, and each has his strong points. But there will always be a lot of corruption, no matter who is in the Presidential Palace. For the voter, it comes down to which crook will do the most to help them."

Examples of how the system works can be seen in virtually every Dominican town, even traditionally poor backwaters like Jimani on the border with Haiti. Although the Balaguer government would automatically deny that the approach of election day has accelerated the pace of public works throughout the country, the facts suggest otherwise.

New streets, sidewalks, water systems and blocks of tidy public housing are sprouting up in even the most distant hamlets. "Balaguer," exclaims an ardent supporter of the incumbent in the southwestern city of Barahona as he points at a hillside with new concrete apartment building. "¡todo es Balaguer" And that's a sentiment that cuts across all age groups to even the youngest Dominicans who see in the president's hands the power to directly effect their quality of life through his administration's efforts to improve the country's infrastructure.

The country of nine million

continued on next page

tenders on election day. Peña Gómez's hopes have been buoyed by recent polls that suggest an upset is in the making.

"I'm for Peña Gómez" is a response likely to be heard from any Dominican who identifies with their African heritage. A champion of the country's downtrodden, the unemployed and underpaid working class, the candidate has successfully combined populist rhetoric with an academic approach to solving the country's growing inventory of problems. The involvement of popular musician Johnny Ventura—a former vice mayor of Santo Domingo and congressman for the party—has given the Partido Revolucionario Dominicano an added appeal.

Rounding out the top four political parties is a middle-aged candidate with an outside chance to become the country's next president and more than enough popular support to at least play a power broker's role. Licenciado

## Intern from pg 8

SUNY and CUNY but of course that requires a lot of work," he continued.

"I think they came to us because we are here and available and they know us," said Santiago. He added that he would eventually like to see the program expand.

The internship, targeted for but not necessarily restricted to Latino students, is in fact open to anyone who is a junior or senior at the University and is in good academic standing. Applicants must be full time students.

"The task force was looking for people with cross-cultural skills, who were not necessarily bilingual," said Dr. Santiago. "People with some sense of what the Latino community is about."

The interns, who are all from SUNY this year, are assigned to the offices of Latino Legislators and in addition to their legislative duties they have to fulfill a number of academic requirements overseen by LCS faculty member, Lilliana Librada a graduate student.

To compensate them for their work Students are awarded a \$1500 stipend granted through Somos el Futuro, Inc. and receive 3-6 college credits for the semester long internship.

Dr. Santiago hopes to keep the program in the University curriculum and establish an internship course with the possibility of expanding it into the grad level.

"I think it is an exceptional program. We were very lucky to have someone approach us with this program and with the money to fund it," said Santiago who seems very pleased with the internship.

Future plans for the program, according to Fernandez, involve expanding it into the fall semester and opening it up to the whole SUNY system.

## continued from pg 5

Es nuestro deseo que el año entrante podamos multiplicar la participación y con ello tener más delegados para así poder representar a uno de los países latinoamericanos. Además, queda importante subrayar que nuestra organización acoge y da abrigo a todo tipo de persona. Actualmente hay latinos, afro-americanos, judíos, palestinos, iraníes, alemanes, norteamericanos, franceses, entre otros, por consecuente esperamos que toda la comunidad de Stony Brook se de cuenta que sí es posible trabajar juntos, no importa la raza, religión o sexo y es por ello que los invitamos a participar el semestre que viene en esta fascinante e inolvidable experiencia.

# The birth and transformation of "Salsa"

By Charlie Castro Gómez

Salsa is the current name of what was known before as Latin music. It has its roots on Afro-Caribbean rhythms, especially from Cuba. The term "salsa" became widespread in the 1960's. We can distinguish salsa from the earlier rhythms of Latin music by defining it as a "New York thing". Even though it was developed in New York, primarily by Puerto Rican New Yorkers or Nuyoricans, Cuban musicians have always been there with them, most of whom left after Castro's rise to power. There are other influences that also contributed to the development of what we today call "salsa". Influences from Puerto Rico, Cuba, Brazil, and even the United States were important factors in the making of salsa.

All Cuban musicians and many Nuyoricans felt that Cuban music was the only way to go. They went back to the roots of Afro-Cuban music. Their contribution to salsa was guided by an ethnic influence. In fact, many people viewed salsa as a movement to forge the roots of Cuban music such as: rumba, mambo, cha cha chá, pachanga, el son, etc. When the Fania All-Stars went to Cuba, the first New York band to play in Cuba, they were not received well and after ten or fifteen minutes the audience started to walk out.

It is ironic that in a music style dominated by Puerto Rican musicians,

the use of the folkloric music of Puerto Rico has not had a great influence. The greatest moments of Puerto Rican folkloric music, such as bomba and plena, reached its peak when Rafael Cortijo and Ismael Rivera, also known as "El Sonero Mayor", performed for large crowds in N.Y. in the late 1950's. Later on, these rhythms were incorporated into salsa by Willie Colón and Hector Lavoe, who also used the vocal phrasings of Puerto Rico.

There was a time, in which Brazilian rhythms also took part in the development of salsa. This movement was introduced by Willie Colón, whose lead singer was Rubén Blades at the time. They would not only include Brazilian rhythms in their music, but also adaptations of Brazilian songs. There could also be a combination of rhythms in one song. The song could start with a mambo, switch to a Puerto Rican bomba and then conclude with the same mambo or a Brazilian samba.

The United States has also had a great influence in the development of salsa in the 1960's. Some young musicians were interested in using musical genres associated with non-Hispanic inner-city Americans, especially jazz, rhythm 'n blues, and bugalú. Joe Cuba's "Bang Bang" started the Latin bugalú in 1966. It originated from a Black American style known as "boogaloo",

also popular in the 1960's. Most of the bugalú songs were in English. The jazz influence on salsa was introduced by Eddie Palmeri and Papo Lucca.

Besides cultural entertainment, there was also a political motive for the development of salsa. Salsa was used as cultural resistance, and the songs spoke of Latin pride and identity and the struggle of the Latinos to overcome poverty. It is sad enough that the rhythm of salsa has changed, but what is worse is that the message has also been lost.

The new salsa that is coming out today, however, is just a "balada", with a few trumpets and some percussions along with some electrical instruments. The message of unity, social change and cultural resistance has been substituted by erotic and romantic lyrics that don't Latinos focus on who we are and how to become one people, regardless of the differences between our Latin-American countries. We should have one common goal, that is to overcome all the injustice and the unfortunate situations we are in and still be able to remain together as ONE. Let's remember what Rubén Blades, one of the few salseros that reflects the culture of the old salsa, says in one of his songs:

*"Usa la conciencia Latino  
no la dejes que se te duerma  
no la dejes que muera".*

## Balaguer to continue to head the Partido Reformista in D.R.

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that the new president inherits is one of staggering economic and social problems but one of significant promise as well.

The flight of several million Dominicans to the U.S.—almost 800,000 reside in New York alone—speaks volumes about the country's chronic double digit unemployment rates, and political leaders and the business community alike are predicting negative consequences from the recently approved North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which they believe will further relegate emerging economies like the Dominican Republic to permanent third class status.

The country is also in a slow and somewhat painful transition from an economy based on agriculture and light industry to tourism, which now accounts for 13 percent of the national economy, although the Dominican Republic attracts fewer than two million foreign tourists annually and finds many of its inventory of 24,000 hotel rooms—the largest in the Caribbean—going wanting for guests.

On the positive side of the ledger are the Dominican Republic's efforts to preserve vast tracts of its rain forests and other natural assets through a system of national parks and a bid to establish itself as the leading Caribbean des-

tinuation for alternative tourism, as represented by the recent completion of its Columbus Lighthouse memorial, state of the art National Aquarium, and on going efforts to preserve its substantial collection of colonial-era cultural sites.

The 1994 election may prove to be more than a political process for the Dominican Republic. Through the participation of candidates whose personal experiences touch every aspect of the country's political history and social fabric, Dominicans have also embarked on a national soul-searching exercise of profound and long-ranging ramifications that extend far beyond the selection of a new president.

# Latinas and HIV/AIDS

## As numbers increase, so should awareness

By Vanessa Nuñez

**T**here is a problem in the Latino community concerning Latinas and the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). There is a misconception that the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is the same as the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). This is especially true in the inner-city Latino population. Unfortunately, this misconception has caused the loss of many lives. Since many Latino students on this campus are from an inner-city, the information in this article is especially pertinent to them.

To set the record straight, and to prevent any more lives lost, more people need to educate themselves. According to an article published in an issue of Hispanic magazine (Sept. 93), "since 1981, 74 percent of all reported cases of AIDS among women are from Hispanic and Black women." This means that Latinas and Black women make up the majority of women infected with AIDS in the United States. "AIDS is now the leading cause of death among Hispanic women ages 25 - 44 in New York City."

There are many reasons why this is so. Despite what many might think, the increase of AIDS in the Latino community has nothing to do with ethnicity. However, culture does play an unfortunate role in the spread of this disease in the Latino community. Sex is a cultural taboo. Part of this fear comes from the idea that sex is only for procreation and not for pleasure. This attitude towards sex ignores reality. Because of this sexual taboo, sex education in the Latino community is non-existent, es-

pecially when it comes to women and adolescents. This lack of information follows the Latino youth into adulthood, specifically into college, where sexual promiscuity is most likely to oc-

cur, many times with drugs and alcohol playing a role. The information Latino adolescents do not receive from their parents they get through hearsay and trial and error, usually from their peers. The sexual education that men and women do receive is archaic. Latinas are taught to be sexually passive and Latino men are taught to be "macho", meaning sexually aggressive. This creates a scenario where the Latinas do not enforce the use of a condom and the man out of machismo pride refuses to put one on, putting both at risk. Unfortunately it does not stop there. Drugs also play an important role in the transmission of HIV and AIDS. The frequent use of drugs in the inner-city by Latinas is very high. With this drug use comes the sharing of needles, which results in the transmission of HIV and AIDS. This is why inner-city Latinas are the fastest

growing group testing positive to HIV.

The presence of AIDS in the Latino community has become a slow but effective elimination process. The number of Latinos born in the United States is increasing with rapid speed, but it will not matter if most die of AIDS. The key to change is through sexual education in the Latino community. There needs to be a change in how Latinos

deal with the topic of sex and AIDS. AIDS doesn't seem to be leaving anytime soon, and we must accept this reality. The only way to battle with this disease is through knowledge.

By definition, HIV is a virus and is not the same as AIDS. HIV can lead to AIDS, but it is important to understand that if a person is HIV positive it does not mean that he or she has AIDS. AIDS is the breakdown of the immune system where the body slowly loses the ability to fight off other diseases. This means that the body is not able to protect itself.

How is this deadly disease acquired? According to the American Journal of Public Health (Jan 88, Vol.78, no.1), "AIDS is transmitted through semen, blood, blood products, and vaginal and cervical secretions. It is not transmitted through saliva,

sweat, tears or urine." This simply means that only through unprotected sex where bodily fluids are exchanged, sharing needles, open wound to open wound contact with an infected person, or prenatal transmission (mother infects fetus) can one become infected. AIDS is not a gay disease or a disease of drug users. Unlike people, AIDS does not discriminate, it is an equal opportunity disease. The only reason that AIDS may occur more frequently in one group than in another, is because of the habits and locations of that particular group, and the lack of information available to them on the subject. This should be a major concern for inner-city Latinas.

As stated earlier in this article, HIV can only be acquired through the exchange of bodily fluids. Ways to prevent infection are abstinence (no sex), monogamy (one sexual partner), if you choose to use drugs, do not share needles, and if you are sexually active, use latex condoms with nonoxynol-9 which is a spermicide that protects people against AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Both partners in a relationship, be it heterosexual, gay or bisexual, need to take responsibility when it comes to sex. Latinas especially need to make a greater effort in protecting themselves by insisting that their partners use condoms. It is important to remember that HIV can be transferred from an infected mother to her baby, therefore they need to do this for themselves and for the children they may choose to have later in life.

**"AIDS is now the leading cause of death among Hispanic women ages 25 - 44 in New York City."**

If you think there is a chance you may be infected because of your past or present lifestyle, there is **FREE** and confidential testing available. The number to call for the free testing is 1-800-541-AIDS. If you just want more information or want to talk to a counselor, you can call the Centers for Disease Control at 1-800-342-AIDS, or the Spanish-Language Hotline at 1-800-344-SIDA. If you think you might be infected it's a good idea to get tested right away. It takes 3 to 6 months after infection for it to show on an HIV antibody test. There are drugs that are now available that slow the HIV progression to AIDS. The sooner you get tested, the sooner you can start caring for yourself if you are infected. If you are infected, taking advantage of this opportunity could make all the difference in prolonging your life.



## **Hispanic Heritage Month '94 Call for Programs**

Dear Student:

The celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month will once again take place in October. Stony Brook has been celebrating Hispanic Heritage for the past four years. Students, faculty, and staff have been involved in the planning and coordinating of educational and cultural events that represent Hispanic culture. Highlights of this year's events will include distinguished lecture speakers, plays, dances, luncheons, art exhibits, cultural shows, a food fair, a bilingual liturgy, and an awards dinner.

We invite you to participate in the planning of the activities for Hispanic Heritage Month for 1994. This will be a great opportunity for you to work with other students, university faculty, and administrators. The planning of and participation in the events will enrich your experience at Stony Brook by meeting other people, learning new things, acquiring leadership skills, taking part in meaningful discussions, and simply having fun. We welcome your ideas and involvement.

If you wish to be a part of the planning of this year's celebration on Hispanic Culture, please call one of the following individuals who serve as chairs of four sub-committees.

Lynda Perdomo-Ayala Fund Raising Committee	Dept. of Pharmacology	4-3050
Dania de la Campa Programs Committee	Health Sciences Center	4-2111
Rebeca Paz Publicity Committee	Office of Special Programs	2-7090
Ana Maria Torres Dinner/Awards Committee	Office of Financial Aid	2-6840 4-2111

We hope that you are able to participate in the upcoming events. We need everyone's assistance to make this coming October Hispanic Heritage Month a successful program.

**Hispanic Heritage Month  
Planning Committee**

Querido(a) colega:

La celebración del mes de la Herencia Hispana se llevará cabo otra vez en octubre. La universidad de Stony Brook ha estado celebrando el mes de Herencia Hispana desde hace cuatro años. Estudiantes, profesores y administradores han trabajado juntos en el planeamiento y coordinación de eventos culturales y educacionales que representan nuestra cultura. Los eventos de este año incluirán: conferencias de personas destacadas en la cultura Hispana, danzas, almuerzos, cenas, exhibiciones artísticas, festivales culturales, venta de artesanías, comidas típicas, una misa bilingüe y mucho más.

Le invitamos a participar en el planeamiento de las actividades de la celebración de la Herencia Hispana de 1994. Usted puede participar dando charlas en un área de tema pertinente a la cultura Hispana, o participando en cualquier evento relacionado con tópicos Hispánicos.

Si está interesado(a) en participar en el planeamiento de la celebración de la cultura Hispana, por favor llame a una de las personas siguientes que están a cargo de cuatro sub-comités.

Lynda Perdomo-Ayala Comité de Recaudamiento de Fondos	Departamento de Farmacología	4-3050
Dania de la Campa Comité de Programas	Centro de Ciencias de la Salud	4-2111
Rebeca Paz Comité de Publicidad	Programa de Oportunidad Educativa	2-7090
Ana Maria Torres Comité de Cena y Honores	Oficina de Ayuda Financiera	4-2111 2-6840

Esperamos que pueda participar en la celebración del mes de octubre de este año. Necesitamos su ayuda y su presencia para hacer este mes de la Herencia Hispana un verdadero éxito.

**Comité Organizador  
Mes de la Herencia Hispana**