

La Fuerza

The Literary Magazine of Raices
Spring 2010



Hampshire College
Amherst, MA



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Queridos Compañeros,

La Fuerza has come to life again! After 18 years of hibernation, we have awoken what was once a great magazine. La Fuerza once emerged from a collective, cultural, and social consciousness. These thoughts were put forth to be heard and acknowledged by the Hampshire Community.

We now bring to you La Fuerza, as a medium for the Latino community at Hampshire to express issues of cultural and political wants, needs, and desires. We thank the people from the RAICES community that submitted work and helped revive this one great magazine!

Siempre en la revolución,

Geovanny Interiano

Editor



Diana Diaz

Editor

This issue of La Fuerza is dedicated to the 83 Mexican soldiers that risked their lives fighting against the French on May 5, 1862 at the Batalla de Puebla. 83 soldiers that defeated 462 French soldiers, showing us that with perseverance we can do anything.



We Are RAICES:

An organization for students who are interested in Latino culture and heritage and are concerned with Latino issues: sexism, homophobia, passing, racism, and classism within the Latino community in the United States. RAICES strives to promote the identity and unity of Hampshire College's Latino students through intellectual, cultural, academic, and social growth and to increase their visibility and involvement in campus and community activities.

*Arrancaron nuestras frutas
Cortaron nuestras ramas
Quemaron nuestro tronco
Pero no pudieron matar nuestras raíces*

*They plucked our fruit
They cut our branches
They burned out trunk
But they could not kill our roots*



YOU BRING OUT THE MEXICAN IN ME

SANDRA CISNEROS

You bring out the Mexican in me.
 The hunkered thick dark spiral.
 The core of a heart howl.
 The bitter bile.
 The tequila lágrimas on Saturday all
 through next weekend Sunday.
 You are the one I'd let go the other loves for
 surrender my one-woman house.
 Allow you red wine in bed,
 even with my vintage lace linens.
 Maybe. Maybe.

For you.

You bring out the Dolores del Río in me.
 The Mexican spitfire in me.
 The raw navajas, glint and passion in me.
 The raise Cain and dance with the rooster-footed devil in me.
 The spangled sequin in me.
 The eagle and the serpent in me.
 The mariachi trumpets of the blood in me.
 The Aztec love of war in me.
 The fierce obsidian of the tongue in me.
 The berrinchuda bien-cabrona in me.
 The Pandora's curiosity in me.
 The pre-Columbian death and destruction in me.
 The rainforest disaster, nuclear threat in me.

The fear of fascists in me.
 Yes, you do. Yes, you do.
 You bring out the colonizer in me.
 The holocaust of desire in me.
 The Mexico City '85 earthquake in me.



The Popocatepetl/Ixtaccíhuatl in me.

*The tidal wave of recession in me.
The Agustín Lara hopeless romantic in me.
The barbacoa taquitos on Sunday in me.
The cover the mirrors with cloth in me.*

*Sweet twin. My wicked other,
I am the memory that circles your bed nights,
that tugs you taut as moon tugs ocean.
I claim you all mine,
arrogant as Manifest Destiny.
I want to rattle and rent you in two.
I want to defile you and raise hell.
I want to pull out the kitchen knives,
dull and sharp, and whisk the air with crosses.
Me sacas lo mexicana en mi,
like it or not, honey.*

*You bring out the Uled-Nayl in me.
The stand-back-white-bitch in me.
The switchblade in the boot in me.*

*The Acapulco cliff diver in me.
The Flecha Roja mountain disaster in me.
The dengue fever in me.
The ¡Alarma! murderess in me.
it worth it. Brandish a fork and terrorize rivals,
female and male, who loiter and look at you,
languid in your light. Oh.*

*I am evil. I am the filth goddess Tlazoltéotl.
I am the swallower of sins.
The lust goddess without guilt.
The delicious bedauchery. You bring out
the primordial exquisiteness in me.
The nasty obsession in me.*



*The corporal and venial sin in me.
The original transgression in me.*

*Red ocher. Yellow ocher. Indigo. Cochineal.
Piñon. Copal. Sweetgrass. Myrrh.
All you saints, blessed and terrible,
Virgen de Guadalupe, diosa Coatlicue,
I invoke you.*

*Quiero ser tuya. Only yours. Only you.
Quiero amarte. Atarte. Amarrarte.
Love the way a Mexican woman loves. Let
me show you . Love the only way I know how*



THEY SAY I LOOK LIKE MY MOTHER
 GEOVANNY INTERIANO

*They say I look like my mother.
 The round cheeks, that only gets rounder when I
 smile.*

*That infectious smile that leaves my face and
 creeps around the room to others.
 The laugh that resonates throughout the room,
 leaving behind giggles like dust.*

*Truth be told, I am a lot like her.
 My hips move to the sound of meringue as it fills
 the room.
 Infectious like the smile that is still on my face.
 I move like the laughter that moves throughout the
 room, leaving behind happiness like dust.*

*I am just like her.
 Come into my home and you will have a plate of
 food.
 You take a bite and there is that taste you can't
 quiet identify.
 Look closer and you'll see that it is love.
 The ingredient that mixes oh so well with that
 adobo and sazón.*

*And if you only were there just a couple of hours
 ago you'd see the ingredients that I used.
 The mixing of chopped up garlic with the meat to
 the beat of Bachata.
 The one two three four of the tin tin tin tin tin tin
 tin tin
 Only then would you be able to identify what that
 mysterious taste was.*

*Yes I am like my mother.
 Come to me and I will listen.
 Listen as you lay down words of discomfort and
 disarray.
 In return I will offer the words that Mami passed
 down to me:
 "Dios aprieta pero no ahorca"
 God will apply pressure but will never strangle you.*

*I am blessed to be compared to such a woman.
 A woman who has spent 42 years raising 3
 children.
 A woman who has taken the food off her plate and
 given it to others, just so that they eat.
 Yes I am blessed to compared to her.*

*More thankful than blessed I would say.
 I was raised with good morals.
 Never raise your hand at any woman no matter
 what,
 Remember that was once me.
 A lady is treated with respect,
 just like you would treat me.
 Y mira coño stand up straight.*

*They say I look like my mother.
 Truth be told I do her no justice.
 Look in my eyes and you will see her sincerity.
 Listen closely and you will hear her voice.
 Pay attention and you may walk away as blessed as
 I am.*



TODO CAMBIA
MERCEDES SOSA

*Cambia lo superficial
cambia también lo profundo
cambia el modo de pensar
cambia todo en este mundo*

*Cambia el clima con los años
cambia el pastor su rebaño
y así como todo cambia
que yo cambie no es extraño*

*Cambia el mas fino brillante
de mano en mano su brillo
cambia el nido el pajarillo
cambia el sentir un amante*

*Cambia el rumbo el caminante
aunque esto le cause daño
y así como todo cambia
que yo cambie no extraño*

*Cambia todo cambia
Cambia todo cambia
Cambia todo cambia
Cambia todo cambia*

*Cambia el sol en su carrera
cuando la noche subsiste
cambia la planta y se viste
de verde en la primavera*

Cambia el pelaje la fiera

*Cambia el cabello el anciano
y así como todo cambia
que yo cambie no es extraño*

*Pero no cambia mi amor
por mas lejos que me encuentre
ni el recuerdo ni el dolor
de mi pueblo y de mi gente*

*Lo que cambió ayer
tendrá que cambiar mañana
así como cambio yo
en esta tierra lejana*

*Cambia todo cambia
Cambia todo cambia
Cambia todo cambia
Cambia todo cambia*



LAS MUJERES EN MI VIDA
 GEOVANNY INTERIANO

*Las mujeres en mi vida siempre han sido
 luchadoras.*

*They fight and struggle everyday of their
 lives.*

*Para darle una vida mejor a los que la
 rodean.*

*The women in my life are warriors.
 Trabajan duro por lo que ellas tienen.
 They do not take things for granted, and
 cherish what they have worked for.*

*Las mujeres en mi vida han sufrido.
 Obstacles have been placed in their lives,
 making the struggle harder.
 Hombres abusivos, trabajos que gastan sus
 manos y ojos, hijos que no aprecian lo que
 le han dado.*

*A System that is built to keep them down.
 Pero ellas siguen*

The women in my life are an inspiration.

*Eh visto sus sacrificios, sus valentía, su
 determinación para progresar.*

The women in my life are heroes.

Heroínas que me han salvado.

Given me the strength to go on.

Ellas me han dado el ejemplo.

*Forcing me to see that there is no excuse
 for surrendering.*

*Las mujeres en mi vida son apreciadas
 Appreciated by me, and those who they have
 helped*

Apreciadas por los quien ellas han apoyado

*The women in my life will always live on in
 my heart.*

*Para todas las Madres, Hermanas, Tias
 For all the Friends, Girlfriends, Wives,
 Para las Primas, Abuelas, y Hermanastras.
 For all those strong women in my life who in
 some way touched my heart.*



REVIVAL OF RAICES



In the past, RAICES has been a student group that has educated the Hampshire Community about Latino/a culture through various events throughout the year. For the past year and a half, however, RAICES hit a dry spell, not being able to do what its predecessors had once been able to accomplish year after year. I

am proud to say that RAICES is back on track! This semester, RAICES was able to host events that brought together the SOURCE community and gave Hampshire a little taste of our Latino/a ritmo!

Our first event, The RAICES Bash, was a huge success. “This event put RAICES back on the map!” said one of our members during our weekly meetings in the culture center. Our very own Dre Woodberry DJed the awesome event, and at the end of the night he left people wanting more. “You guys should have this every month!” one excited party goer screamed in my ear, proving that the Hampshire community craves this Latino/a music in their life. The mix of Bachata, Merengue, Salsa, Reggaeton and a little bit of Reggae left people in corners trying to catch their breath.

Then came The SOURCE Café. This New York style program was meant to unite our brothers and sisters from the SOURCE community. While performances were limited to the SOURCE community, the event itself was open to larger Hampshire Community. Performances ranged from poetry readings to rapping and from drag shows to salsa dances, there were also pictures and art working on the walls of the Tavern. The SOURCE Café was our way to show Hampshire that SOURCE has talent! Performers and artist/photographers included: Sarah Roberts, Jorge Cruz, Diana Diaz, Dre Woodberry, Chen Chen, Eshe Shukura, Garfield Morrison, Nurse, Chez Ruiz, Ekiwah Adler-Belendez, Mel Mel, Brittney Sampson, Cyree Johnson, Stokely and our great MCs Sami Diaz and Monica Soto. The show would have been nothing without them!

Last but not least, RAICES helped coordinate the annual five college Pa’Lante event. Pa’Lante gives the five student groups across the five colleges a chance to unite the Latino/a community as well as the bigger Pioneer Valley community. With the help of La Causa (Amherst’s Latino/a Student group) and

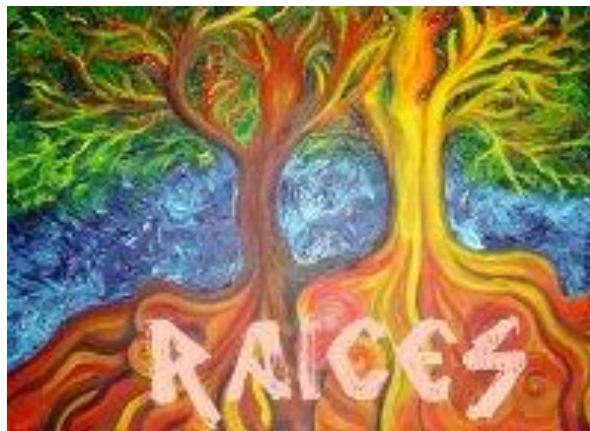


NOSOTRAS (Smith's Latina group), this year's Pa'Lante included a panel about domestic violence and women of color followed by a mixer that was also held at Smith College. The mixer included food from Fernandez Family Restaurant in Holyoke, MA and a special performance by Palo Santo, an Afro Cuban dance group that calls North Hampton home.

Through these events, RACIES was able to revive the Latino/a awareness across the five colleges and once again let their presence be known on the Hampshire Campus. A big thank you to all the members of RAICES who made this possible: Monica Soto, Florencia Salder. Sami Diaz, Melissa Flores, Diana Diaz, Jesus Macias, Jorge Cruz, Sophia Olkhova, Chez Ruiz and Barbara Dasilva. An even bigger thank you to my two fellow signers Anastasia Ramirez and Aura Dawson, with whom without I couldn't have done any of this. And of course thank you's are in order to Pam Tinto, Marie Johnson, Caroline Koske, Melissa Scheid Frantz, and the SGCs: Ria, Stokes and Steph.

As for you readers, keep out for more big events next semester, and another issue of La Fuerza!. Lots of love, and best wishes to you all!!!

Geoovanny Interiano
Editor



TWO LAWSUITS CHALLENGE NEW ARIZONA IMMIGRATION LAW

PHOENIX (AP) – An Arizona police officer and a Latino group filed the first legal challenges of Arizona’s sweeping new law cracking down on illegal immigration Thursday.

Fifteen-year Tucson police veteran Martin Escobar argues there’s no way for officers to confirm people’s immigration status without impeding investigations. The lawsuit, filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Tucson, alleges the new immigration law violates numerous constitutional rights and could hinder police investigations in Hispanic-prevalent areas.

A Latino Clergy group also sued Thursday in federal court in Phoenix. The National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian Leaders will seek an injunction preventing authorities from enforcing the law.

The group argues federal law pre-empts state regulation of national borders, and that Arizona’s law violates due process rights by letting police detain suspected illegal immigrants before they’re convicted.

Signed last week by Republican Gov. Jan Brewer, the law requires local and state law enforcement to question people about their immigration status if there’s reason to suspect they’re in the country illegally, and makes it a state crime to be in the United

States illegally.

Other Hispanic and civil rights groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, are also planning lawsuits, and U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder has said the federal government may challenge the law.

On Wednesday, a group filed papers to launch a referendum drive that could put the law on hold until 2012, when voters could decide whether it is repealed.

The legislation’s chief sponsor, Republican Rep. Russell Pearce, said he has no doubt voters will support the new law at the ballot box, which would then protect it from repeal by the Legislature. In Arizona, measures approved by voters can only be repealed at the ballot box.

At least three Arizona cities — Phoenix, Flagstaff and Tucson — also are considering lawsuits to block the law.

Meanwhile, the effect of the law continued to ripple beyond Arizona.

A group of conservative state lawmakers in Oklahoma are considering pushing a bill similar to Arizona’s. In Texas, Rep. Debbie Riddle, a Republican, said she will introduce

a measure similar to the Arizona law in the January legislative session. And Republicans running for governor in Colorado and Minnesota expressed support for the crackdown. "I'd do something very similar" if elected," Former Rep. Scott McInnis, told KHOW-AM radio in Denver.

Denver Public Schools is banning work-related travel to Arizona. Even though school employees are in the country legally, DPS spokesman Kristy Armstrong said officials don't want them to be "subjected to that kind of scrutiny and search."

Retired South African archbishop Desmond Tutu also chimed in, saying he supports the idea of a boycott of Arizona businesses, according to a letter he wrote that was

posted Wednesday on TheCommunity.com, a website for Nobel peace laureates that promotes peace and human rights.

"I recognize that Arizona has become a widening entry point for illegal immigration from the South ... but a solution that degrades innocent people, or that makes anyone with broken English a suspect, is not a solution," Tutu said.

Colombian singer Shakira planned to visit Phoenix on Thursday to meet with the city's police chief and mayor over her concerns that the law would lead to racial profiling.



*Source:

<http://www.mynews3.com/story.php?id=16016&n=5037> (article)

<http://blogs.newamericamedia.org/images/562.jpg> (Comic)

CINCO DE MAYO: WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

The 5th of May is not Mexican Independence Day, but it should be! And Cinco de Mayo is not an American holiday, but it should be. Mexico declared its independence from mother Spain on midnight, the 15th of September, 1810. And it took 11 years before the first Spanish soldiers were told and forced to leave Mexico.

So, why Cinco de Mayo? And why should Americans savor this day as well? Because 4,000 Mexican soldiers smashed the French and traitor Mexican army of 8,000 at Puebla, Mexico, 100 miles east of Mexico City on the morning of May 5, 1862.

The French had landed in Mexico (along with Spanish and English troops) five months earlier on the pretext of collecting Mexican debts from the newly elected government of democratic President (and Indian) Benito Juarez. The English and Spanish quickly made deals and left. The French, however, had different ideas.

Under Emperor Napoleon III, who detested the United States, the French came to stay. They brought a Hapsburg prince with them to rule the new Mexican empire. His name was Maximilian; his wife, Carolota. Napoleon's French Army had not been defeated in 50 years, and it invaded Mexico

with the finest modern equipment and with a newly reconstituted Foreign Legion. The French were not afraid of anyone, especially since the United States was embroiled in its own Civil War.

The French Army left the port of Vera Cruz to attack Mexico City to the west, as the French assumed that the Mexicans would give up should their capital fall to the enemy -- as European countries traditionally did.

Under the command of Texas-born General Zaragosa, (and the cavalry under the command of Colonel Porfirio Diaz, later to be Mexico's president and dictator), the Mexicans awaited. Brightly dressed French Dragoons led the enemy columns. The Mexican Army was less stylish.

General Zaragosa ordered Colonel Diaz to take his cavalry, the best in the world, out to the French flanks. In response, the French did a most stupid thing; they sent their cavalry off to chase Diaz and his men, who proceeded to butcher them. The remaining French infantrymen charged the Mexican defenders through sloppy mud from a thunderstorm and through hundreds of head of stampeding cattle stirred up by Indians armed only with machetes.

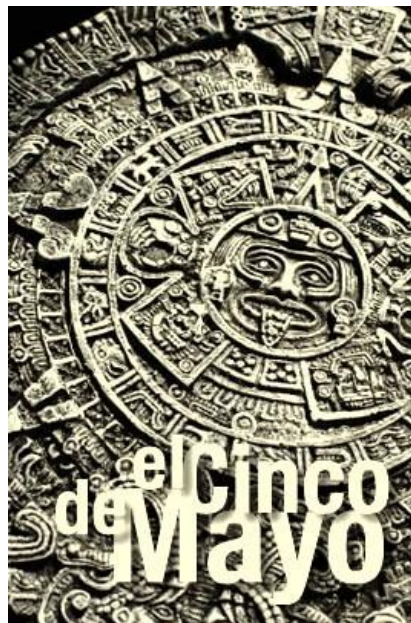
When the battle was over, many French were killed or wounded and their cavalry was being chased by Diaz' superb horsemen miles away. The Mexicans had won a great victory that kept Napoleon III from supplying the confederate rebels for another year, allowing the United States to build the greatest army the world had ever seen. This grand army smashed the Confederates at Gettysburg just 14 months after the battle of Puebla, essentially ending the Civil War.

Union forces were then rushed to the Texas/Mexican border under General Phil Sheridan, who made sure that the Mexicans got all the weapons and ammunition they needed to expel the French. American soldiers were discharged with their uniforms and rifles if they promised to join the Mexican Army to fight the French. The American Legion of Honor marched in the Victory Parade in Mexico, City.

It might be a historical stretch to credit the survival of the United States to those brave 4,000 Mexicans who faced an army twice as large in 1862. But who knows?

In gratitude, thousands of Mexicans crossed the border after Pearl Harbor to join the U.S. Armed Forces. As recently as the Persian Gulf War, Mexicans flooded American consulates with phone calls, trying to join up and fight another war for America.

Mexicans, you see, never forget who their friends are, and neither do Americans. That's why Cinco de Mayo is such a party -- A party that celebrates freedom and liberty. There are two ideals which Mexicans and Americans have fought shoulder to shoulder to protect, ever since the 5th of May, 1862. VIVA! el CINCO DE MAYO!!



**Source:*

<http://www.vivacincodemayo.org/history.htm> (article)

Diego Rivera

El desembarco de los Españoles en Veracruz



A Mexican muralist and active communist born in Guanajuato, Guanajuato on December 8, 1886. Between 1922 and 1953, Rivera painted murals in Mexico City, Chapingo, Cuernavaca, San Francisco, Detroit, and New York City. Rivera's murals reflected Mexican society and Mexico's 1910 revolution.



El Agitador

JOSE CLEMENTE OROZCO

Zapata



A Mexican social realist painter born in Zapotlán el Grande, Mexico on November 23, 1883. Orozco specialized in murals that started the Mexican Mural Renaissance together with Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, and others. Between 1922 and 1948, Orozco painted murals in Mexico City, Orizaba, Claremont, California, New York City, Hanover, New Hampshire, Guadalajara, Jalisco, and Jiquilpan, Michoacán.



Gods of the Modern

FRIDA KAHLO

Las Dos Fridas



A Mexican painter born in Coyoacán, Mexico on July 6, 1907. Kahlo specialized in self portraits that that symbolically articulated her own pain. She painted using vibrant colors in a style that was influenced by indigenous cultures of Mexico and European influences including Realism, Symbolism, and Surrealism.



Roots

MIGUEL CONDE

Hombre Con Dos Pescados



A Mexican figurative painter, draughtsman, and etcher born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1939. Conde is a self taught artist with the exception of his anatomy studies with Stephen Rogers Peck in New York. Recipient of a Guggenheim Latin American Fellowship and a grant from the French Government, Conde has been awarded various international prizes and is an appointed member of the Société des Peintres-Graveurs Français.



La Muerte do Patroclo