 ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF COLORADO STATE’S LATINO COMMUNITY.

“Helping You Achieve Your Educational Goals.”

NOT LATINO ENOUGH?

National Institute for Latino Policy (NILP) (Excerpt)

When Latinos turn on each other.

Latinos have a favorite parlor game that no one ever seems to win. It’s childish and cruel, and yet extremely popular. It could be called "I’m more authentic than you."

I know this game. In fact, at various times over the years, I’ve sat down on both sides of the board. When I was in college, and going through an identity crisis of my own as a Mexican-American at a predominantly white school, I looked down on Latino classmates who I decided didn’t sufficiently "identify" with their ethnic background. Maybe they spoke Spanish poorly, or wore blue contact lenses or came from upper-class families.

Now, in a kind of karmic payback, others will sometimes do the same thing to me. Latinos on the left will read a column detailing my criticism of President Obama’s cynical policy of deporting record numbers of illegal immigrants and accuse me of not being ethnic enough. Whatever that means.

Things take a turn toward the absurd when white liberals get into the act and eagerly try to assess my "Latino-ness." Recently, one Obama defender labeled me "an apologist for Republicum" and declared my ethnic identity "a bit tattered page and less-than-authentic."

That line of attack is racist, rude and condescending. I can’t imagine being so forward as to tell a black person that he isn’t "black enough," or a gay person that he isn’t "gay enough." But apparently, it’s fine to do that with Latinos.

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El Centro Retreat — 2012

8:00 a.m. Saturday January 21, 2012 El Centro staff gathered at Johnson hall. Many with their Coffee cups in tow; others seeking the bagels and OJ. Guest speakers and a wake up activity to get the morning started. Yea! Time for constructive reflection of the past semester and programming (the work begins). The staff was pushed through a rigorous examination of what works and what doesn’t in the El Centro office. Responsibilities were clearly established, and the staff was shown what is expected of them. Overall, the learning experience created a more efficient and highly effective staff.

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Graduate-Students-for-El-Centro/271383242889904
La Raza hosted its first annual member retreat on February 18, 2012. The main focus of the retreat revolved around the importance and value of *familia* (family).

As a student organization, La Raza prides itself on being a *familia* for our members as they transition into college life. We felt that it was important to hold this one-day event to support our growing numbers and experience. We invited guest: Rich Salas & Lupe Salazar from El Centro and Norberto Valdez and Jesse Ramirez; they presented information about Latino empowerment and identity. Throughout the retreat we focused our activities on our members’ values (*familia*, culture, empowerment, and academics) while introspecting about our individual strengths.

These are important components in their relationship with La Raza and how they can contribute in the future. It is our hope that those in La Raza will hold their strengths and values dear during their time in college and use them to prepare for their future.

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**How Our Youth Rank in Higher Education**

“The question I like to ask every child I visit in the classroom is, ‘Are you going to college?’ In this great country we expect every child regardless of how he or she is raised, to go to college.” — President George W. Bush, remarks at the Greigos Elementary School.

Albuquerque, New Mexico, August 15, 2001.

Latinos lag every other population group in attaining college degrees, especially bachelor degrees.

Many are enrolled in community colleges, many only attend school part-time. Others delay or prolong their college education into their mid 20s and beyond.

They finish high school but fail to earn a degree. These issues will be looked at in the next issue of FOCUS.

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**Upcoming Events**

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<td>March 6</td>
<td>Sala de Charla Symposium: Mexican Prints</td>
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<td>March 26—30</td>
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<td>Sala de Charla</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
<td>TILT: Academic Recovery</td>
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A recap by Phyllis Chacon

Cesar Estrada Chavez was born a humble man in Yuma, Arizona March 31st, 1927. A short 66 years later he died in the small village of San Luis near Yuma, Arizona.

What he learned early in his life was that it was unjust. His father worked hard clearing 80 acres of land in exchange he was to receive 40 acres of land that adjoined his home. But again as so many had previously experienced, the injustice of social economics and a capitalistic society that preys on the underclass (with the attorney fees and high interests) when the wealthy break their deals and are allowed to steal away another man’s property. So was the case with Cesar Chavez family.

Continued on page 7...
The $1000 GRISWOLD SCHOLARSHIP

2012-13 academic year scholarship that will be awarded to CSU student(s) contributing to international understanding & education on campus.

Criteria:
1.) Currently enrolled CSU student who will be continuing as a full-time student during the 2012-2013 academic year
   **Available to graduate and undergraduate students, including international students.
2.) Maintain a 3.0 GPA
3.) Academic courses in college-level Foreign Languages and History
4.) Involvement with international activities at CSU.

Applications obtained online:
http://isss.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=griswold

DEADLINE: All materials must be received by March 19, 2012 by 5:00pm. Electronic applications are encouraged and preferred.

Questions? Contact Jenn Christ
(970) 491-5917
Jennifer.Christ@colostate.edu
Written by Esmeralda in her own words:

My name is Esmeralda Rodriguez. I am a CSU Senior majoring in Social Work and graduating in May with a 3.5 GPA. I am originally from Denver, Colorado and graduated from Montbello High School in 2008. My family is from Chihuahua, Mexico. I have two younger brothers and I will be the first in my family to graduate from college. Growing up, life was not as easy as some might think. I was very shy and struggled to find my own identity. It was not until I joined the Upward Bound program in high school that I got motivated to go to college and found my passion for higher education and helping others.

As time is getting closer to graduation there are many mixed emotions going through my mind. I am very satisfied with all the things I have been able to accomplish during my time at CSU.

Some might say that I was too involved but I believe that every thing that I was part of made me a stronger and more confident woman. Some of the organizations and programs that I have had the honor of being part of include: Lambda Theta Nu Sorority Inc., Key Academic, the President’s Leadership Program, CSU/UADY Leadership Program, El Centro First Year Peer Mentoring Program, Council for Opportunity in Education Leadership Program (s), Teacher Assistant, Residence Hall Tour Guide, NASPA Undergraduate Felloes Program, Triunfo, Ram Welcome Leader, Daniels Fund and Puksta Scholar. I also studied abroad at the University of Barcelona, Spain for the 2011 Spring semester and the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom in the summer of 2009.

After graduation I plan to move back to Denver and hopefully find a job where I can help unrepresented students go to college. I also plan to travel/work abroad, specifically South America and Europe. In the future I do want to pursue my dream of attending graduate school for Student Affairs and Higher Education. I am very thankful for having the support of my family, friends, and advisors because they have helped me tremendously throughout these four amazing years in college.

Pieces of advice that I have for any college student are: get involved on campus, volunteer, study abroad, use the many resources that are offered on campus, set high expectations for yourself, be confident in yourself, and never forget the number one reason why you are in college; to get an education!

Go Rams!

Written by Mayra in her own words:

Plans for this semester:
-Earn good grades in all my classes. Prepare for graduation in May =]
-Continue to build new relationships with others and strengthen those I have already built
-Stay involved in my commUNITY
-Continue to support La Raza as we continue to grow as an organization and family
-Dedicate time to myself and work-out
-Establish good foundation for C.U.R.V.E.S (Community for Understanding, Respecting, and Valuing Every Soul)
-Plan & host a successful semester for our Sala de Charla discussions
-Continue to build relationships between El Centro and other offices/departments

I didn't go to the MLK march this year unfortunately, I was invited to lead it last year with some wonderful peers and it was amazing!

*My revolution is born out of love for my people, not hatred for others- Immortal Technique*
Written by David in his own words:

My name is David Gonzalez, I was born in Chihuahua, Mexico (Puro Chihuahua) in 1991. My family moved to the United States about a year later and we started in Nebraska and finished in Arvada, Colorado. I graduated from Arvada West High School in 2010.

I am an Environmental Health major hopefully graduating by 2014. In the future I wish to get into a Public health graduate program. This can be anywhere I get accepted, I do not really have a preference. I am in La Raza, a student organization that promotes Mexican culture here on campus. This year my sister got into CSU and the second semester moved in with me. I have a second sister probably coming to CSU in a year. I am slowly building my family up here in Fort Collins.

"I look to the future because that's where I'm going to spend the rest of my life."

George Burns

Written by Lupita in her own words:

My name is Guadalupe Mendoza and I am a second year undergraduate student in the Interior Design Program. I was born in Chicago but have lived in Colorado for 18 years. While being a first generation student has definitely been challenging because I am the first in my family to move out and live on campus. The transition was a great experience and has made me grow as a person. My family always encouraged me to continue to further my education in whatever field I chose. The high school I attended offered dual enrollment with CCD in Denver and by the time I received my diploma I already had my Associate of Science. Although my career plans from high school to now changed, I am very happy with the career I chose. My goal is to become a commercial interior designer who incorporates human psychology into the aspects of my design. As of right now I am part of the Key Plus Community.
Written by Ana in her own words:

Ana Escalante is a candidate for the Global Social and Sustainable Enterprise MBA at Colorado State University. While at CSU she is a Graduate Regional Fellow for RSF Social Finance, an impact investment firm based in San Francisco. She is also the co-president of Net Impact, a network of students, professionals, and entrepreneurs who believe that people, planet, and profit are important to successful business strategies. Prior to attending the MBA program, Ana was a manager in the Latin America & the Caribbean at Chemonics International, an international development consulting firm in Washington, DC. Before Chemonics, Ana was a full time staff writer for NextBillion.net an initiative of the World Resources Institute, where she focused on writing about business solutions for people living at the Bottom of the Pyramid (BOP). Ana has also worked as a volunteer for Kiva.org a microfinance web portal and at the Amy Biehl Foundation in Cape Town, South Africa. Ana Escalante is a graduate of University of the Americas in Puebla, Mexico and holds a BA in International Relations. She is originally from Merida, Mexico and speaks native Spanish and English.

Cesar Chavez

(Continuation from Page 3)

Cesar Chavez later went on to become an organizer. In 1962 Cesar Chavez founded the National Farm Workers Association, later to become the United Farm Workers - the UFW. He was joined by Dolores Huerta and the union was born. For a long time in 1962, there were very few union dues paying members. By 1970 the UFW got grape growers to accept union contracts and had effectively organized most of that industry, at one point in time claiming 50,000 dues paying members. The reason was Cesar Chavez's tireless leadership and nonviolent tactics that included the Delano grape strike, his fasts that focused national attention on farm workers' problems and the 340-mile march from Delano to Sacramento in 1966. The farm workers and supporters carried banners with the black eagle with HUELGA (strike) and VIVA LA CAUSA (Long live our cause). The marchers wanted the state government to pass laws which would permit farm workers to organize into a union and allow collective bargaining agreements. Cesar made people aware of the struggles of farm workers for better pay and safer working conditions. He succeeded through nonviolent tactics (boycotts, pickets, and strikes). Cesar Chavez and the union sought recognition of the importance and dignity of all farm workers.
Love from Cuba

Written by Rocio

Let me begin by telling you that few moments in my life have truly taken my breath away. Since I made it to this country everyday is an adventure, and everyday my perception on life is been shifted. Cuba is not just one big event in my life, but a series of events that constantly take my breath away. We can spend days talking about everything I have lived here, but the most important part of Cuba is not its political system, but its people. Cubans have shown me such kindness that it is like I am part of their families. Hanging out with Cubans is the ultimate get-together. Sometimes we get together after a local concert and sit in the middle of a plaza to play guitar and sing. Under trees and clear nights full of stars we talk about everything; from communism, to Cuban music, to art. I have learned things unlike any classroom I have ever been a part of. Anyone and anywhere can teach you things about Cuba you did not know before, or that you had misunderstood all your life. For example, La China is the Cuban lady that cooks for us some days of the week when all the students have a long day of class. She says she is our Cuban mother, and since the first time we meet her, she HAS been our mother. She only talks in Spanish and gives us kisses after yelling at us for doing something wrong. She is funny, a great cook, and utterly honest. Every day we meet new people we all engage in conversations that sometimes I find myself only being able to say “I did not know that!” and makes me want to look for more information about it all.

There are the Cubans that support the revolution and those that believe in the idea of the revolution but think that one man cannot do it all. One thing I have learned is that somethings are so complicated that one answer is never the whole story. A week has not been enough to completely understand the Cuban reality, but it has been enough to see the Cuban people in the eye and feel the warmth of their personalities.

If you have questions, if there is anything in particular you would like to hear about please send your inquiry to pcjustice@gmail.com. We will try to get them posted in the next issue.

Rocio is a Senior majoring in Spanish, and International Studies

Poema Yanqui con Soldado

Grave, junto a la puerta del yanqui diplomático,
vela un soldado el sueño de quien mi ensueño ahoga;
ese cangrejo hervido, de pensamiento hepático,
dueño de mi esperanza, del palo y de la soga.

Allí, de piedra, inmóvil. Pero el fusil hierático,
cuando terco me acerco su rigidez deroga;
clávame su monóculo de cíclope automático,
me palpa, me sacude, me vuelca, me interroga.

¿Quién eres? ¿A quién buscas? Saco mi voz, y digo:
Uno a quien el que cuidas, pan y tierra suprime.
Ando en pos de un soldado que quiera ser mi amigo.

Ya sabrás algún día por qué tu padre gime,
y cómo el mismo brazo que ayer lo hizo mendigo,
engorda hoy con la sangre que de tu pecho exprime.

When Latinos Turn on Each Other
(Continuation from Page 1)

Christina Aguilera knows exactly what I’m talking about. The pop diva turned reality-show star recently said in an interview that she gets criticized for not being Latina enough.

"I've dealt with that (criticism) my whole life," the co-host of "The Voice" said in an interview with Latina magazine. "I don't speak the language fluently. And I'm split right down the middle, half Irish and half Ecuadorean. I should not have to prove my ethnicity to anyone. I know who I am."

She went on: "I wouldn’t be questioned (about my heritage) if I looked more stereotypically Latina. Whatever that is. All I know is no one can tell me I’m not a proud Latino woman."

In 2007, Jessica Alba got in hot water with the culture cops after the third-generation Mexican-American - who also is part Dominican - appeared to downplay her ethnicity in an interview for a Spanish-language magazine.

"Alba is my last name, and I’m proud of that," the actress told the publication Para Todos. "But that’s it. My grandparents were born in California, the same as my parents, and though I may be proud of my last name, I’m American. Throughout my whole life, I've never felt connected to one particular race or heritage, nor did I feel accepted by any. If you break it down, I'm less Latina than Cameron Diaz, whose father is Cuban. But people don’t call her Latina because she’s blonde."

Latino bloggers went bonkers, viciously attacking Alba for not being Latina enough - and, more precisely, not proud enough of being Latina.

These are just two high-profile examples of Latinos who have had their ethnicity challenged. There are no doubt hundreds of thousands of other stories from everyday people.

Inter-ethnic-group squabbling is nothing new. It was going on hundreds of years ago, and it'll probably be going on hundreds of years from now. At the beginning of the 21st century, Latinos may be disappointed in liberals and angry with conservatives, but they still save the sharpest barbs for one another.

It's a ridiculous waste of time, and a distraction that Latinos can't afford right now. These are tough times for America's largest minority. Their numbers are growing, but so is the anxiety that other Americans are feeling about the idea that the United States is becoming a Latino nation. In Alabama, Arizona, South Carolina, and probably other states to come, the resistance is digging in by passing anti-Latino laws disguised as immigration statutes.

Just when the nation's 50 million Latinos should be feeling more empowered than ever, many of them are feeling powerless and picked on. Just when our institutions - media, government, academia, corporations, etc. - should be embracing diversity, many of them seem to be intent on preserving the status quo.

Against this backdrop, Latinos need all the friends, allies and partners they can find. So they can't afford to be at war with their own tribe. It’s time for a truce.
Saint Patrick was a religious patriarch that became a Catholic Saint; he is especially honored by the Irish. March 17th is celebrated in honor of Saint Patrick’s death and eventual canonization. Saint Patrick is indeed a celebrity in the Irish country, but the reasoning behind it is still a mystery. Many exaggerated stories describe the epic tales of Saint Patrick. However, the validity of the stories will always be up to the believer!

For those of Mexican decent, this might be more interesting:

**Saint Patrick’s Battalion**

During the Mexican-American War, Mexico recruited several foreigner to help fight against the U.S. Army. One of the more famous groups was the Saint Patrick Battalion. This group consisted of numerous Irish men, many of which were deported from the United States. This battalion was very skilled with its soldiers already high in various ranks.

El Centro Readers voted this couple: “Best Valentine Couple 2012”

They received a special prize for winning!
El Centro is one of the seven diversity centers at Colorado State University. A marker of efficacy for a diversity center is student outreach (attendance). On average, El Centro receives 63 students per day. This AMAZING number is evidence of the dedication of the staff and community of El Centro. The El Centro Staffs’ hope is to receive even more student engagement... So...

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DON’T BE SHY, STOP ON BY!

March birthdays

Edith       March 20
Mayra       March 21

“And in the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.”

-Abraham Lincoln (American 16th US President, 1861-1865)

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