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Pluma Fronteriza: Newsletter of Chicano(a)/ Latino(a) Writers of the El Paso and Cd. Juárez Border Region

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Pluma Fronteriza

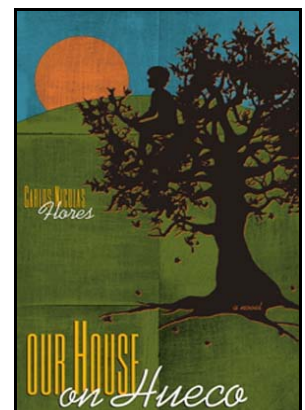
Newsletter of Chicano(a)/Latino(a) Writers of the El Paso and Cd. Juárez Border Region



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New books from El Paso, Las Cruces, Cd. Juárez:

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NEWS

The Newspaper Tree

The Newspaper Tree, an El Paso online news magazine, is soliciting poems for publication. Their poetry editor is Donna Snyder. Email submission to tumblewordsproject@yahoo.com. www.newspapertree.com.

Balcorta Interview

Check out The Newspaper Tree's interview with Salvador Balcorta:

www.newspapertree.com/view_article.sstq?c=2c317126a0ee4bdc.

Consider This!

Tanya Barrientos was featured on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* in a piece called "Looking for the Dark Side in Today's Bestsellers" on Apr 11: "What does it take for a book to make the bestseller list? Commentator Tanya Barrientos says that these days, non-fiction hits are about adorable pets and regrettable pasts, subjects that leave her yearning for a dark side. Barrientos writes for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Check it out at: www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5337271.

From: Jimmy Daze: Comic book hero from El Paso

Somebody emailed us this, so we're printing as is:

"Hi Everybody,

I'm not sure how many of you all care about comic book heroes. But just recently, DC Comics, famous for Superman and Batman, have introduced a new character into their universe. His name is Jaime Reyes and he is from our own El Paso, Texas. He is to become the third Blue Beetle after the second one was shot and killed. His first appearance is in *Infinite Crises* #3 (one of the hottest stories around), and his own comic book begins next week. (Here's a pic of him, with a pic of the second Blue Beetle being shot and killed.)

It's cool to see a Mexican character make a big splash. And if you think it's no

(Continued "News" on page 5)

Did You Know?

Luna and Ortego Enters the Blogosphere

Felipe Ortego has created a blog called the Chicano Critical Review. Check it out at: www.criticalblog.blogspot.com/post.mhtml?post_id=285003. Check out his "UTEP Library in Receivership." Sherryl Luna has entered the blogosphere. You can see her blog at: www.sherryluna.blogspot.com.

Life of Sánchez

Richard Yañez has been hard at work on his biography of El Paso poet Ricardo Sánchez. We met up for a *chela* at one of my last times in EPT.

WWII Story

Texas Western Press will be publishing part of Pete Flores' book *On the Wings of An Angel* in an upcoming book. It is the story of his half brother, who was a paratrooper in WWII.

Children of the Sun

Carlos Morton also has a new book he is preparing for Players Press, *Children of the Sun* due out next year. It consists of scenes and monologues for Latino youth, especially in Texas for the UIL competition. Morton has left his post as Director of the Center for Chicano Studies and says he is now "only a Professor and "mere mortal" in Dramatic Art at UC Santa Barbara. He tells *Pluma* that he can spend more time writing more plays.

Book a date in Mesilla

Chicano Literature is alive in Mesilla. The Cultural Center de Mesilla is hosting monthly readings and discussion groups facilitated by writer Denise Chávez. Chávez is the author of *A Taco Testimony: Meditations on Family, Food and Culture*, came out in April 2006, the novels *Face of Angel* and *Loving Pedro Infante*, as well as the short story collection, *The Last of the Menu Girls*. The first group meeting met in February at the Cultural Center de Mesilla, 2231 A Calle de Parian, a block and a half west of the Plaza, next to the Mesilla Post office. At that meeting, participants were introduced to Chicano(a) themes which included the discussion of classic and contemporary writing. The group will have special guests throughout the year, field trips, and other book related events. Donation is \$5 per meeting. Bring a notebook and your enthusiasm, as we explore the power of this great literature! For more information and for the next discussion, contact The Border Book Festival at the

(Continued in "Did You Know?" on page 16)

Cover: Hammet Blvd.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT EL PASO



OVER 30 YEARS OF MOVIMIENTO

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Chicano Studies

Trends and Chisme

Dear Friends,

Despite some computer glitches and my professional life, I did deliberately put off this issue until after the premiere of *Glory Road*. I did like the movie, but beforehand, the topic of the 1966 NCAA Basketball Championship enthralled me because of the race issues.

What was interesting was the way Adolph Rupp was being defended. I guess for you readers who read *Pluma* for it glorious incite into Chicano(a) literature and don't know a pinch about college basketball history, I should give you a lowdown.

Rupp is one of the coaching legends of college basketball. He's up there with John Wooten, Phog Allen, Dean Smith. Rupp coached at Kentucky for most of the 20th Century and was coach of the team in the famous 1966 game. Rupp had the reputation of being a White Supremacist, though it seems this is disputed. Past documentaries about the game did not make Rupp look good regarding race. *Glory Road* went to lengths not to portray him as a bigot I suppose partly due to pressure from Kentucky alumni, the Rupp family, and former players of Rupp (e.g. Pat Riley).

Pluma Fronteriza is 'Going to Kansas City' starting in May 2006. We'll be moving to KC. Please take note of our new postal address.

But most interesting is how white people defend racism. It is funny in a way. I was monitoring Kentucky blogs and websites because I was interested on how they were defending Rupp's alleged racism. Of course, like most, they never touched on the institutional racism that existed and still exists. Nevertheless, many excuses and defenses were used: "he was a man of his times," "he grew up a Mennonite, so he could not have been racist." My favorite is he had black farmhands on his family farm in Kansas, which is saying, "some of his best friends were black."

I am not here to take a stance on the issue, but the ways the white social construction tries to defend racism is amazing at times. Who knows what Rupp's real feelings were, but somewhere down the line, he got that reputation, warranted or not. Let's jump closer to home now. Just as Topeka, Kansas portrays itself as the home of *Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, instead of the actual defendant in the case, the event of 1966 took place around a change that was occurring in society.



It may have change basketball forever, but other things did not change. In '67, the first Chicano organizations, Alpha Beta was founded there and Chicano(a) students began their move into the student senate. The first extensive survey of South El Paso was done that year and a tenement fire killed four children in the Segundo Barrio, which triggered one of the first Civil Rights marches in El Paso. Lalo Delgado helped found the Mexican American Committee on Honor, Opportunity, and Service (MACHOS) and the UFW started some organizing of farmworkers in El Paso's agricultural valleys. Reies Tijerina staged his courthouse raid in June of '67 and Ernesto "Che" Guevara was killed by the CIA also in that year. Chicano(a)s would also walk out of a conference at UTEP sponsored by the LBJ administration on "Mexican Americans," and hold their own conference in South El Paso. Also in 1967, the Father Rahm Clinic was founded (later Clinica La Fe).

In 1968, when UTEP African American track team members refused to run a track meet on the day of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, they were kicked off the team. Black and Chicano student orgs boycotted the meet. Other grievances by the Black Student Union and MEChA (as well as MEChA's predecessors: NOMAS/UMAS and MAPA) was that black athletes were not allowed to wear their afros, although this may have been an NCAA rule. Another was the growing use of black athletes until they no longer were eligible and then leave them out to dry and drop out. In 1969, black and Chicano(a) students would disrupt a football game, UTEP v. BYU because at the time, BYU did not admit blacks.

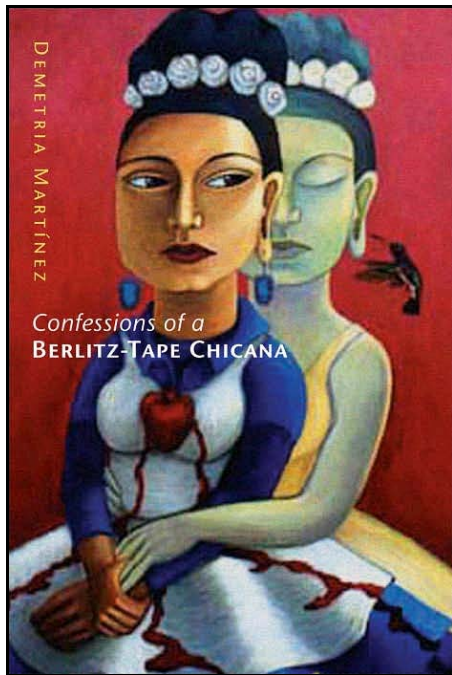
It is most interesting that we can put five black athletes on the court, but have so much trouble putting them on the rolls of tenured faculty. We can put more than one tenured Chicano(a) into specific departments. We cannot hire a Chicana to the executive librarian position because "our funders would not relate well to her," so the rumor was (in other words, our White funders don't like Mexicans). Even *mariachi*, which was featured in the movie *Glory Road*, was run out of UTEP's music department. Wait, now that I think about it, so was everything and anyone else Mexican after Abraham Chávez died. What was good about *Glory Road* was the use of Graham Hall. More than 30 years ago when it was thought that putting Chicano Studies in such an old building was an amusing put down, the building is highlighted in a #1 movie. How ironic.

Con la causa,

Raymundo Elí Rojas


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Time & Place



Demetria Martínez' latest book from University of Oklahoma Press, Oct. 2005.
www.oupress.com/bookdetail.asp?isbn=0-8061-3722-3

An El Paso Street by Night

Bronco Ballroom
Black Garter Lounge
Bueno Video
Wetbacks who scrounge
through two rusty trolleys
laid up on the tracks
touch this city's wet crotch,
you'll never go back.

Benzene dreams,
sweet sewage air,
blue motel sinkholes
choked with blonde hair.
in the next room a man
with another man's wife,
on this die of the border
she will recast her life.

She ends daylight savings,
turns back the hands,
an extra hour to fake
with this porcelain man.
Help Wanted he promised,
the fucked her backstage,
a Juárez extra scrubs sinks
at slavery wage.

- Demetria Martínez

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SIGN MY BOOK

PERFORMANCES, CONFERENCES,
BOOK SIGNINGS, READINGS &
OTHER NEWS

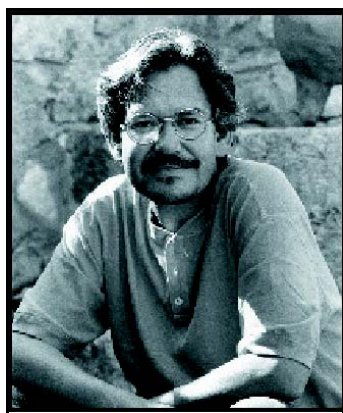
Benjamín Alire Sáenz reads from new book

In April, Benjamin Alire Sáenz read on the theme of his new poetry book *Dreaming the End of War* at El Paso Community College Rio Grande Campus.

Allatson Visits UTEP

In March, Paul Allatson from the University of Technology in Sydney, Australia gave the 21st Annual Literature lecture at UTEP on "Gone Global Riding the Boundaries of Latino Studies."

Connecting Lines



Serrano, and Benjamín Alire Sáenz.

News on the book **Connecting Lines and Líneas Conectadas**: In April, the UTEP Creative Writing Department, the Consulate General of Mexico, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Texas at El Paso hosted a reading of this book which is a two-volume bilingual anthology of contemporary poetry from Mexico and the United States. The reading featured **Elsa Cross, Pedro**

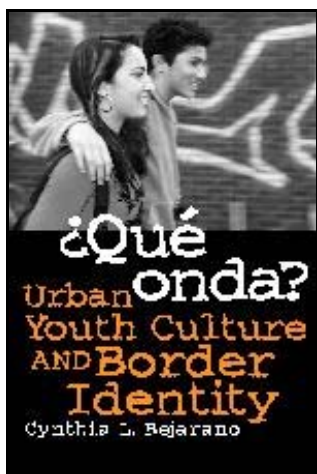
Huerta Visits UTEP



Jorge Huerta

Chicano Teatro guru **Jorge Huerta**, professor of Theatre Arts at the University of California at San Diego, gave a free workshop in April at UTEP

Bejarano crosses the line



In Feb, **Cynthia Bejarano** spoke at UTEP. She is an assistant professor of criminal justice at New Mexico State University where she directs a federal program assisting migrant and seasonal farmworker children who want to attend the university. She is also the co-founder of **Amigos de las Mujeres de Juárez**, a Non-governmental Organization dedicated to assisting the women of Cd. Juárez and Chihuahua City in their fight for justice. Cynthia is also a native of Anthony, N.M. The event was sponsored by UTEP Department of History, UTEP Center for Civic Engagement, and UTEP Department of Political Science.

(Continued from "News" page 2)

big deal, this has been one of the most anticipated comic books to come out this year. But what makes it bigger is that there are no Mexican Characters who have their own title. Hell, there are hardly any Mexican super heroes, if any. Whether you care about comics or not, it would be cool to check it out and spread the word. Just stop by your local comic book store and check it out. I hope it's cool. Take care everyone. Jimmy Portillo

P.S. A few months ago, there was a Wolverine story (Marvel comics) that took place in El Paso and Juárez. He went to El Paso to look for the coyotes responsible for killing Mexican immigrants coming into the U.S. I think they died while they were being smuggled. I haven't bought it, but it sounds interesting. Can you also send this Chicano Studies professors around campus? I don't remember all their emails. Thanks."

Renteria on Sáenz

Check out Ramón Rentería's article on Benjamín A. Sáenz in the *El Paso Times* at: www.elpasotimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2005509110303.



Border Book Festival

The 12th Annual Border Book Festival took place in Mesilla, N.M. April 21-23, 2006. This year is part two of a three-year project that will look into the theme of "world borders." "Re-Imagine La Frontera."

Paseños take on Osteen

This spring, many of our El Paso writers were at the Associated Writing Programs (AWP) Conference in Austin. El Paso writers participating in panels included Carolina Monsivais, Richard Yañez, Ray González,

(Continued on page 18)

Where Devils Fear to Tread: Barrio Del Diablo, Part I

It was El Paso's "East Side," at least at one time: "In east el chuco, there by the El Paso Coliseum was an old barrio — El Barrio del Diablo." (1)

These are the words of the poet Ricardo Sánchez describing part of El Paso's eastside, his *barrio*, *el barrio del Diablo*.

"Esos son del East!" recalled my grandfather Alejandro Rojas in a 2000 interview. (2) That's what they called them from the Eastside of El Paso. Nowadays, East El Paso is 6 miles east in an ever expanding urban desert sprawl.

The *barrio* in El Paso's old "East Side" had a long history, somewhat rebellious somewhat heavenly. Ricardo

Hammett Blvd., now on the other side of Highway 54.

It is difficult to imagine *Diablo* in our present day. However, those familiar with El Paso can just imagine driving across the Córdoba Bridge (the free bridge) into Cd. Juárez. On your right will be Zavala Elementary with its red brick facade and on your left will be a neighborhood surrounding St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church.

If you turn left on Paisano Avenue (Hwy 62) and head east, you will flow under Hwy 54 and hit Gateway North Blvd. Immediately to your south will be the old Woodlawn Addition. This addition reaches all the way south to modern-day Delta Drive. At the time of this writing, there was still some senior citizen housing waiting to be demolished.

South Boone St. is on the eastside of the Woodlawn Addition, which all agree to be *Diablo's* eastern boundary. Today, at the southwest corner of the Woodlawn Addition is some edifice part of U.S. Customs joined with an empty lot to the east.

La Migra has always been a daily presence near this area, either in person or with facilities. El Paso historian Fred Morales refers to there being a Border Patrol Detention Facility built in 1956 at 1401 S. Hammett near Tucson Street, a street that no longer exists... or is now in Mexico. Ironical. This used to be where plans were made to keep Mexicans out. Now it is Mexico.

Morales says that the Border Patrol once had its headquarters at 1400 S. Hammett. Here, Morales states, the U.S. Border Patrol had their academy until 1961.

To imagine the old *barrio* better, imagine the freeway complex of Hwy 54 not being there — a pre-Eisenhower, pre-military/industrial complex interstate era — and imagine the



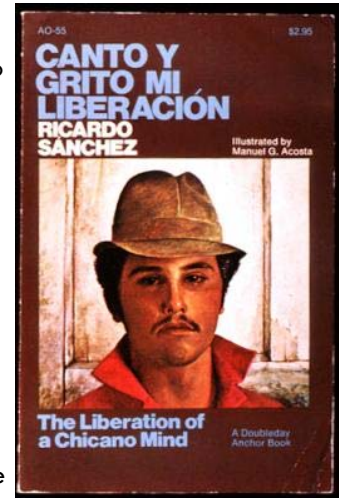
Woodlawn Addition: Modern day corner of Boone and Delta facing Mt. Franklin — the Paisano housing project once filled this lot that U.S. Customs now uses

Sánchez, in his essay "Mina o Quina," describes himself walking through the *Diablo* territory: "Allí en la mera esquina de las calles Hammet y Bush, cual hoy se llama Delta, me puse a chiflar y esperar." (3) (Sic.) Writer Al Soto, describes *Diablo* as "Hammett street on the west... and Boone St. on the east next to the El Paso Coliseum...on the south it was Delta Drive...on the north it was Paisano (Drive)..." (4)

However, Sánchez and Soto only described a part of *Diablo* that was post-1950.

Ester Pérez, long-time activist who lived in *Diablo* prior to the 1950s says the boundaries were Hammett Blvd. (running north-south), Boone St. (running north-south past Paisano Drive, Rivera Ave., past Alameda and the Franklin Canal, and into the Lincoln *barrio*). (5)

However, others extend *Diablo* to the area around St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, a little west of



Pioneer Renaissance Poet Ricardo Sánchez landmark book speaks of *Diablo*; illustrator Manuel Acosta was also from this *barrio*

(Continued in "Diablo" on page 7)

(Continued from "Diablo" page 6)

neighborhood near St. Francis Xavier just going on and on...until it hits South Boone St.

South of Delta Dr. (3900 and 4000 blocks) is another disputed territory. This neighborhood still exists right next to the water treatment plant. The neighborhood consists of South Martínez St. (north-south), the southern end of S. Boone St. (700-800 blocks), and the remnants of Oat Court and Laredo Ave.

I asked current residents living there about *El Barrio del Diablo*, but most have no recollection. Most families now living there seem to be more recent immigrants to the *barrio*. Other residents point to north of Delta Drive

as being *Diablo* territory. Al Soto said this neighborhood might have been called "Dizzyland," but its unknown whether when *Diablo* residents used the term "Dizzyland" referring to the neighborhood south of Delta.

When they used that term, were they referring to the water treatment plant and its pleasant Waldisneyesc stench or the nearby houses?

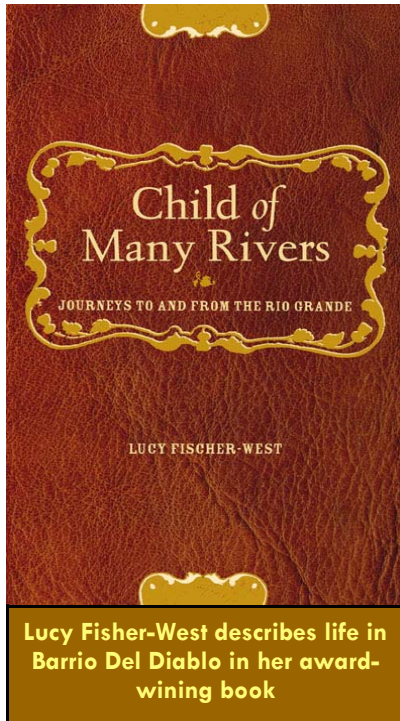
Morales claims that this neighborhood was indeed part of *Diablo* and that the El Paso Water Utilities had offices at 701 S. Boone St.

Hammett Blvd. was one of the main streets containing various grocery stores according to most historians and former residents. The street was named after Benjamin Hammett, one-time mayor of El Paso and a real estate dealer.

Hammett Blvd. had several groceries or *tienditas*, says Ignacio Tinajero, who was a long-time resident of *el Barrio del Diablo*. (6) In 1994, he was chosen as Texas Teacher of the Year and was a national finalist for the same title. Morales puts these *tienditas* at 501, 506, 701, and 706 Hammett Blvd. (7)

Ester Pérez remembers one "mom and pop" nicknamed "La Lonja." Tinajero places this store at the corner of Paisano Drive and Hammett Blvd. Another store was located near San Antonio Ave. and Rivera Ave. It was owned by *chinos*, says Tinajero, "Some called it 'La India.'"

According to Morales, S. Boone St. is named after a former sheriff or fire chief. (8) Morales also describes



St. Xavier's pier in the background from Paisano Drive One of the last remnants of Diablo

Hammett Blvd. as being one of the main streets and the streets Central, Córdova, Spruce, Bush, Fresno, and Oak Court intersecting Hammett Blvd. (9)

So detailed is Morales self-published *Córdova Island*, (10) he places other such structures and businesses in the area: "In 1954, the following businesses were operating on Hammett Boulevard: 501, Alfonso's Grocery; 505 Polo's Molino de Nixtamal; 704, the Hammett Bakery; 800, the Eight Hundred Barber Shop and 1103, the City Park Nursery near Toluca Street. At 3804 Córdova, was the Martínez Café...". (11)

Polo's Molino de Nextamal was the *tortilla*-and-*masa* headquarters of the surrounding *barrios*. Lucy Fischer-West, author of the recent memoir from Texas Tech University Press, *Child of Many Rivers: Journeys To and From the Rio Grande*, describes the *molino* "within walking distance if you had a craving to make *gorditas* or you own *tortillas de maíz*." (12) *Child of Many Rivers* won the recent Southwest Book Award.

In 1950, the new bridge into Cd. Juárez was built nearby signaling the beginning of the end of *el Barrio del Diablo*. Soon, the Chamizal Treaty and the Interstate system would follow. (13)

Sánchez said in his landmark book *Canto y Grito mi liberación*: "During my youth, I never saw gringos walk through that *barrio*. It was not until the mass media and the police destroyed us that gringos were able to walk those streets." (14)

The part of *Barrio del Diablo* today, directly west of the County Coliseum was on the Woodlawn Addition. Woodlawn was the name of a park that was south of Washington Park, a little west of Hammett Blvd. (15) South

(Continued in "Diablo" on page 19)

Barrio Del Diablo

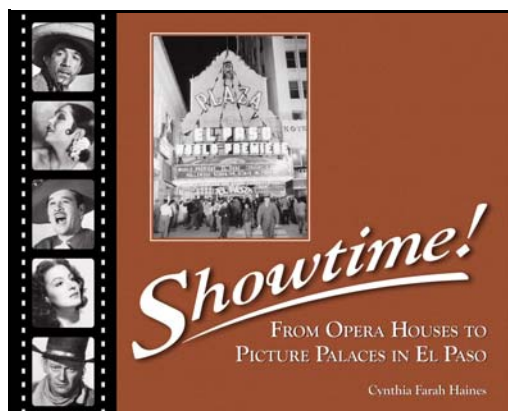


Map is a recreation and not to scale. C. 1950s

New books with an El Paso, Las Cruces, and Cd. Juárez connection

The Book that Started it All: REPUBLISHED

The Delgado family has republished the classic *Chicano: 25 Pieces of a Chicano Mind* by Abelardo B. "Lalo" Delgado. It is the first anthology of Chicano(a) poetry to be published during the Chicano Renaissance period. There are several copies of Lalo last two books, *La Llorona* and *Living Life on His Own Terms: The Poetic Wisdom of Abelardo "Lalo" Delgado*, still available for a \$12 donation to Lalo's wife, Lola Delgado. Send check or money order for \$12 plus \$2 shipping and handling to 6538 Eaton, Arvada, Colorado 80003. Make payable to "Dolores Delgado."

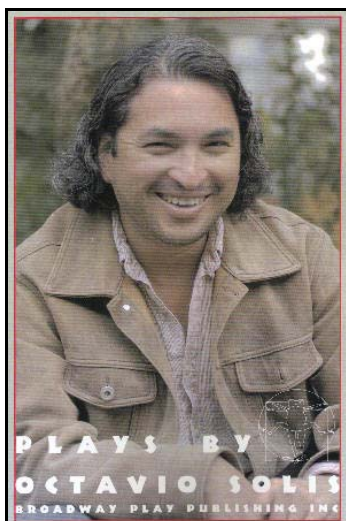


Cynthia's Theaters

Cynthia Farah Haines, former film and Chicano(a) Studies professor at UTEP, published a new book *Showtime!: From Opera Houses to Picture Palaces in El Paso* (Texas Western Press). A book release party was held in March at the Plaza Theatre.

The One We've Been Waiting For

Someone has published an anthology of **Octavio Solís'** plays. *Plays By Octavio Solís* is on Broadway Play Publishing Inc. (ISBN 0881452580). This collection contains three full-length plays: "Santos & Santos," "El Paso Blue" and "El Otro": "Solís' dark, rapturous look at the immigrant experience is not something you'll easily forget. Santos is an ambitious work filled with hard,



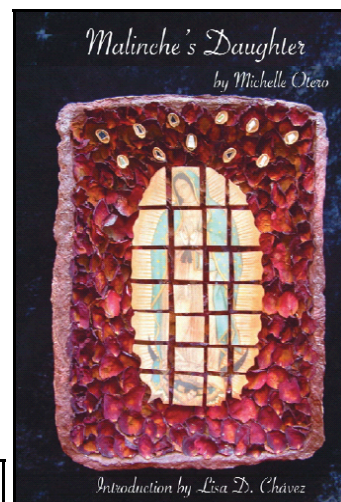
beautiful, and profane language.... Sometimes I voluntarily stopped breathing for a few seconds so I could better hear the monologues of the three brothers," says Nora Fitzgerald of *The Observer* (Dallas). "SANTOS & SANTOS...wrings you out with the thoroughness of a plot that leaves no-one unscathed by 'the wounds that bind us'. The play remains fascinating and surprising to the end. It's a gripping, dismaying and bleakly funny vision of how much America offers and how much it can take away," says Steven Winn, *San Francisco Chronicle*. "EL OTRO...is...brightly nightmarish, frighteningly comic, mystifying and downright entertaining...Densely but colloquially poetic, convoluted but eerily straightforward, filled with delightfully unexpected turns of plot and phrase, it's yet another impressive outing from one of the Bay Area's most reliably inventive playwrights...like most of Solís' plays, deeply concerned with issues of identity, on ethnic, family and purely personal levels. It's frightening, in its off-handed. Incidents of domestic abuse and fatal violence, and excruciatingly funny at the same time." - Robert Hurwitt, *San Francisco Examiner*. www.broadwayplaypubl.com/Solis%20cover.htm.

Otero's new book

Michelle Otero's essay collection *Malinche's Daughter* was published on Momotombo Press (www.momotombopress.com). She hosted a book signing in EPT in April. A portion of the proceeds will go to **Amigos de las**



Michelle Otero



Mujeres de Juárez, www.amigosdemujeres.org. She also read in April at Notre Dame University with other Momotombo Press authors, at Clínica La Fe in EPT at a Tumblewords workshop, at UTEP in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and at the Border Book Festival (www.borderbookfestival.org) in Mesilla, NM where she read with **Christine Granados** and **Carolina Monsivais**.

(Continued in "New Books" on page 10)

New Books with an El Paso Connection, continued from P. 13

Solis' plays published

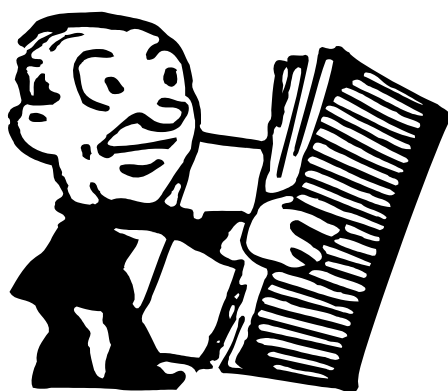
Broadway Press published two of **Octavio Solís'** play in trade editions: "La Posada Mágica" and "Man of the Flesh."

EPT Historian Puts Out Another One

El Paso Historian **Fred Morales** has self-published a history of Aoy School in El Paso, titled by the same name. The book opens with a biography of Olivas Villanueva Aoy, who arrived in South El Paso in 1877 and opened a school for children. See Leon Metz' review at: www.elpasotimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050627/COLUMNISTS20/506270314/1072/ARCHIVES. Other self-published titles from Morales include *History of Transportation in the El Paso/Juárez Region*, *Dates and Events in Chihuahuita History*, *El Paso and Juárez During the Mexican Revolution*, *Smeltertown*, *El Segundo Barrio*, *History of Downtown El Paso*, *Ciudad Juárez (El Paso del Norte)*, *A Short History of South El Paso*, and *The Mexican Revolution Trail of El Paso and Juárez*. Morales is quickly becoming our best underground historian.

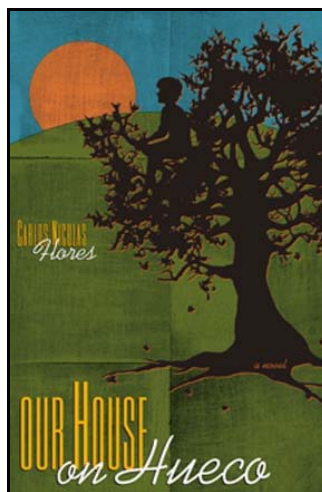
Flores' First

In March, Texas Tech University Press published El Paso native Carlos Nicolás Flores' first novel, *Our House on Hueco* (2006 ISBN 0896725731). In this book, 10-year-old Junior is thrilled and a bit nervous about moving from an El Paso *barrio* to the house his father purchased in an Anglo part of town. His mother, who speaks only Spanish, is somewhat less thrilled, especially when she finds out the family will be living in the *subterráneo* — a dark, unfinished basement — until the white family renting the house above moves out. As the ever-optimistic Pop works to improve his family's situation by adding an apartment to the back of the house, Junior and his little brother make friends with Tim and Kim, the children living above them. But soon tensions erupt and these conflicts reshape Junior's relationships with family and friends, and threaten the new world his father is striving to create. www.ttup.ttu.edu/BookPages/0896725731.html.



Granados' First

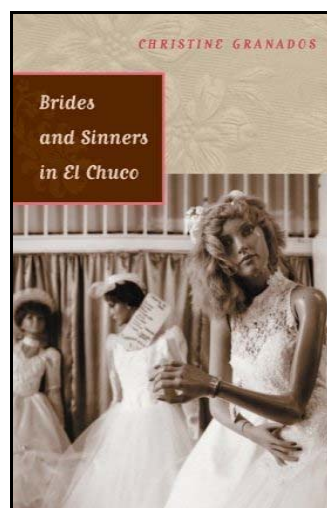
Christine Granados' first book *Brides and Sinners in El Chuco: Stories* (Univ. of Arizona Press February ISBN 0816524920) is out. Brides have their dreams, sinners



their secrets, but sometimes it's not so easy to tell them apart. In the border town of El Paso — better known to its Mexican American residents as El Chuco — dramas unfold in humdrum households every day as working-class men come home from their jobs and as their wives and children do their best to cope with life. Granados' book has 14 stories, many fictional accounts of *barrio* life, play up tradition and nostalgia. Some are true-

to-life stories told in authentic language about young women, from preteens to twenty-somethings, learning to negotiate their way through troubled times and troubled families. Granados was also in a Texas Observer summer reading issue. See more at: www.invisibleinsurrection.org/catfight/granados.html and www2-english.tamu.edu/pubs/bigtext/Fall2004/christinegranados-viejachueco.php. Granados was born and raised in El Paso. She is a mother of two sons. She is also a freelance journalist and graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso. Her MFA is in creative writing from South Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, where Dago teaches. See Rigoberto González review at: www.elpasotimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060402/LIVING/604020308/1004. Christine read from her new book at El Paso Community College in April.

Another UTEP MFA Gem



Selfa Chew has just got her MFA thesis published, *Azoque en la raíz* on EON. Here's what critics are saying: "Nada de estos mundos y de estas fronteras parece resultarle ajeno a Selfa Chew. Las experiencias del mero vivir cotidiano se unen a la experiencia extraída de la literatura, de la multiplicidad cultural (China, México, Estados Unidos) y de la

(Continued "New" on page 11)

(Continued from "EL PASO CONNECTION" page 10)

formación académica. No hay en *Azogue en la raíz* un discurso metafórico paralelo a los avatares sociales, sino que los busca y los traspasa, porque se halla enraizado en ellos: es así que el protagonista lírico ejerce una voz poética fuerte, decidida, inclusiva." - Saúl Ibargoyen, México, D. F.

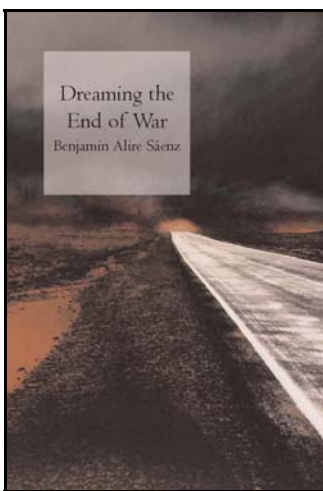
"A través de un examen incondicional de la memoria, este poemario descubre con gran acierto, los significados marginales de ciertas fronteras. Soledades que se desdobl原因 en despedidas, ausencias y demoras junto a antepasados chinos y mexicanos. Con una pasión recóndita, logra la hablante de estos textos disfrazarse de amores y muertes, balcones y bambú. Estas coordenadas fraternales o familiares en *Azogue en la raíz* propician cohabitar con ilustraciones de objetos, pequeños insectos o pedazos de brazos, como "vuelos de las horas" Sin distancias, profundamente próximo, este poemario es una rara y entrañable cosecha de la palabra." - Reseñó: Lourdes Vázquez de Nueva York



Sáenz' Dreams

Copper Canyon Press has just put out ***Dreaming the End of War*** (2006 ISBN 1556592396) by Benjamín Alire Sáenz. This gripping suite of 12 dreams, infused with the conflict along the border of Mexico and the United States, traces humanity's addiction to violence and killing--from boys stepping on ants to men shooting animals, men shooting women, men shooting enemies. The dreams begin in a desert landscape where poverty and wealth grate against each other, and the ever-present war becomes "as invisible as the desert sands we trample on." The dreams, however, move toward a greater peace, with Sáenz providing an unforgettable reading experience.

www.coppercanyonpress.org.



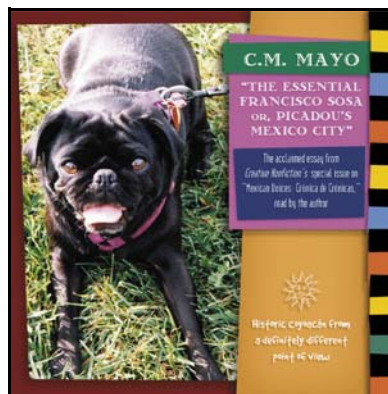
New from C.M. Mayo

C.M. Mayo has a new audio CD out. It is on Dancing Chiva Literary Audio. On the CD, she explores new territory in audio of creative nonfiction magazine essay on Mexico City. She unearths the hidden side of a storied neighborhood as she personally reads her lively account of a stroll through Coyoacán. The recipient of the Lowell Thomas Award for Travel Journalism, Best Personal Comment (2005) and the Washington Independent Writers Award for Best Essay (2005), Mayo captured the attention of readers and critics alike with her acclaimed essay, "The Essential Francisco Sosa or, Picadour's Mexico City," published in Creative Nonfiction's special issue guest-edited by Ilan Stavans, "Mexican Voices: Crónica de Crónicas" (#23, 2004). The 35 minute-long audio CD is available for \$10 from www.cmmayo.com.

A portion of all proceeds benefit Presencia Animal, a Mexican dog and cat rescue organization, whose website is www.presenciaanimal.org. For more about C.M. Mayo's work, and to read the full text of "The Essential Francisco Sosa or, Picadour's Mexico City" visit www.cmmayo.com.

Travel Mexico with C.M. Mayo

C.M. Mayo just published an anthology that features many very wonderful yet little-known Mexican writers. ***Mexico: A Traveler's Literary Companion*** (Whereabouts Press ISBN 1883513154), edited by **C.M. Mayo**: "Mexico has long been the top travel destination for Americans. But until now, there has not been such a panoramic vision of Mexico offered by some of Mexico's finest contemporary writers of fiction and literary prose. Here are writings, many translated for the first time, that bring you to the people of the beaches, the deserts, jungles, mountains, and mega-cities. The voices are rich and diverse, enthralling, and strange. These writings shatter stereotypes as they provide a rollicking journey from the Pacific to the Gulf, from Yucatán to the U.S.-Mexico border, from humble ranchos to a fabulous mountain-top castle. www.whereaboutspress.com. Read more at www.cmmayo.com. Also, check Mayo out on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* at www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5317783.



www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5317783.

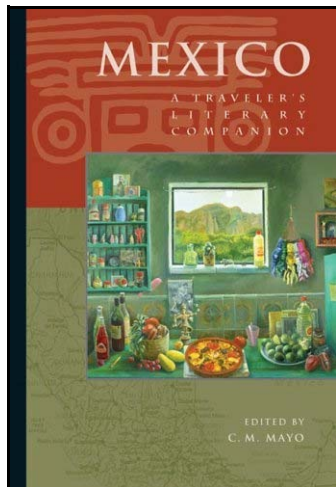
Poemas from Pat

Pat Mora published a Spanish-language edition of her book ***Confeti: Poemas Para Niños*** (Lee & Low Books. Illustrated by Enrique O. Sánchez). Pat's first poetry collection for

(Continued in "EL PASO CONNECTION" on page 12)

(Continued from "EL PASO CONNECTION " page 11)

children was published in English in 1996. Last year, it won the Arizona Governor's Award. The book was given to



every first grader in the state and performed as a musical with original music by an Arizona theater troupe.

Further down the road, Mora's book **Abuelos**, (illustrated by Lucía Angela Pérez) will be published in English and Spanish on Groundwood Books. She will also come out with **America's Sproutings: Food Haikus** (illustrated by Pura Belpré). This poetry book for children celebrates

some indigenous foods of the Americas. The book will also visually explore how food delights and unites us. Her book **My Family / Mi Familia**, a four-book series of bilingual books, illustrated by Mirabel Suárez, will be publisher by HarperCollins Children's Books.

Also, Mora published **La noche que se cayó la luna** (Libro Tigrillo) (Paperback)(Groundwood Books 2006 ISBN: 0888994575). One night a gust from her grandfather's blowgun causes Luna, the moon, to tumble from the sky and fall into pieces in the dark ocean below. With the help of the little fish and her own wiles and strength, she rises, beautiful and round once again, taking her new friends with her to create the Milky Way.

www.groundwoodbooks.com.

Taco Testimony from Chávez

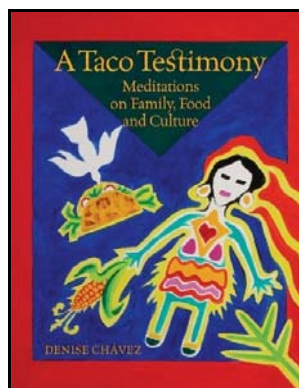
Denise Chávez released **A Taco Testimony: Meditations on Family, Food and Culture**. Acclaimed author/actress Chávez explores the history, lore, and preparation of tacos — and other art forms — in a warm and exuberant memoir, with recipes. "Tacos are sacred to me," writes Chávez, who's set many a fictional scene in a Southwestern restaurant or around a dinner table. And here are her special recipes, including her mother's Tacos a la Delfina ("I swear these tacos are really good cold!") and Granma Lupe's Pasta (not macaroni but a savory mincemeat-like taco filling). Here, too, are tips on shopping, cooking, and serving: "Offer up the meal with gratitude and remember: Tacos are one of life's greatest things!" "We live in chile country," she adds. "We are blessed to be here. Food is more than food; it's a culture. And tacos are more than tacos." Chile country is the setting for Chávez' magical, tragicomic fiction. Moreover, in *A Taco Testimony* she tells wonderful stories that connect literature with culture and food with life along the Mexican-American border. "Time and love are the essence of all Mexican cooking," Chávez says — including her spicy, juicy writing, and this feast of a book.

New One from Veteran Historian

Mario T. García has published a new book *Padre: The Spiritual Journey of Father Virgil Cordano* (Capra Press). It chronicles the life story of a beloved Franciscan at Santa Bárbara Mission who served his church and community for over half a century. Father Virgil is 86 years old and comes from a poor Italian immigrant family in Sacramento. The book mirrors some of the significant changes in the Catholic Church in the 20th century.

Vila's Book Focus: EPT

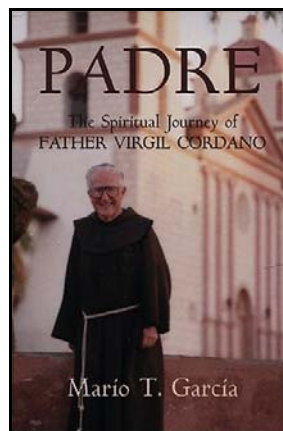
In Sept., Pablo Vila published *Border Identifications: Narratives of Religion, Gender, and Class on the U.S.-Mexico Border* (Univ. of Texas Press Inter-America Series Sept 2005 ISBN 0292705832). The book description reads in part: "People living near the border, like people everywhere, base their sense of identity on a constellation



of interacting factors that includes regional identity, but also nationality, ethnicity, and race. In this book, Vila continues the exploration of identities he began in *Crossing Borders, Reinforcing Borders* by looking at how religion, gender, and class also affect people's identifications of self and 'others' among Mexican nationals, Mexican immigrants, Mexican Americans, Anglos, and African Americans in the Ciudad Juárez-El Paso area."

One of the many fascinating issues he raises is how the perception that 'all Mexicans are Catholic' affects Mexican Protestants and Pentecostals.

www.utexas.edu/utpress/books/vilbor.html.



Memorias del Silencio

BorderSenses has published *Memorias del Silencio: Footprints of the Borderland*, a collection of stories written by migrant farm workers of the El Paso. The publication of this collection was made possible

by a grant from the arts and culture department of the City of El Paso. A second volume is in the works. In Sept 05, the Community Education Program together with Border Senses Literary Magazine hosted a reading of poetry and prose about the experiences of immigrants, written by migrant GED students. www.bordersenses.com or www.bordersenses.com/memorias/inicial.html.

(Continued in "New Books" on page 14)

KUDOS

Sáenz, Mora and Flores — please stand up

Ben Sáenz' *Sammy and Juliana in Hollywood* was nominated as one of the **Best Books of the Year** by the Center for Children's Books, and was nominated for a Best Book for Young Adults as well as a Printz Award. *Sammy & Juliana In Hollywood*, Sáenz' first young adult novel was also put on the **Top 10 Best Books for Young Adults List for 2005**.

Ortego given award

University of New Mexico awarded the don of Chicano(a) literary criticism, **Felipe Ortego**, the **2005 Rudolfo and Patricia Anaya Crítica Nueva Award** for his contributions



Felipe y Glenda Ortego

to Chicano literary history and criticism. The award ceremony took place in October at UNM where he also gave a lecture. The father of Chicano(a) literary criticism, Ortego was the founding director of UTEP Chicano Studies and UTEP

MEChA's first advisor.

Yea for Camino del Sol

Sergio Troncoso tells us that the Hudson Valley Writers' Center honored the **University of Arizona Press' Camino Del Sol** for the great work they have done. The Writers' Center honors a small press each year, and last year it was Curbstone Press. The HVWC will have a special event in November 2006 to highlight the mission of the press, and to promote its authors. Congrats!

Sergio's a winner

Cheers to **Sergio Troncoso** who will be donating all proceeds from his webpage www.chicanoliterature.com to Hudson River Healthcare, which provides free healthcare to migrant farmworkers in New York's Hudson Valley. In July, Troncoso read at the Yale Bookstore in New Haven, CT.

Solís: Playwright of the Year

Congratulations to **Octavio Solís** who's been named **Broadway Press' Playwright of the Year for 2005**.

Fischer-West Wins Big in Southwest

Child of Many Rivers by **Lucy Fischer-West** received a **Border Regional Library Association Southwest Book Award** in February.

Another one for Ben

Benjamín Alire Sáenz received the **Américas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature** for his young adult

novel *Sammy & Juliana in Hollywood* (Cinco Puntos Press). The Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs presented the award to him at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Other recipients were Monica Brown and illustrator Rafael López for their book *My Name Is Celia/Me Llamo Celia* (Luna Rising).

Mora: Highly recommended

Pat Mora's *Doña Flor* (ISBN 0440417686) was put on the Association of American Publishers' Publishing Latino Voices for America Task Force's "Latino Recommended Reading List" for 2005. *Doña Flor* is a giant woman who steps in to investigate when a huge puma terrifies the village. It is beautifully illustrated.

Caballero take charge

César Caballero, who is now at California State University in Los Angeles, was named acting university librarian a little over a year ago, when the university librarian retired. Kudos to our former UTEP librarian and supporter of the arts.

Denise Does it Again

Denise Chávez received this year's **Luis Leal Award for Distinction in Chicano/Latino Literature**. The award was presented at the Santa Barbara Book & Author Festival on Sept. 24, 2005. Previous winners were Oscar Hijuelos and Rudolfo Anaya.



Denise Chávez

Joe, Ramón, and more: El Paso's Pioneering Journalists

The **Mayachen Museo y Plaza Cultural Organizing Committee** selected this year's **2005 Rubén Salazar Media Award**. Honored were **Ramón Arroyos, Patricia Giovine, Roy Ortega, Felipa Solís, Carlos Terán, and Bob Ybarra**. Last year, we forgot to mention that the same organization gave awards to **Joe Olvera, Ramón Rentería, Ray Sánchez, Guadalupe Silva, Pedro Villagrana, Robbie Myrick Villalobos, and Diana Washington Valdez**. Kudos to these *veterano* journalists from EPT who paved the way for all others. Robbie passed away a few years ago. Diana came out with her book *Cosecha de Mujeres* last year. Ray Sánchez was the long-time sports reporter at the *El Paso Herald-Post* and author of a book on Texas Western's 1966 NCAA basketball championship. It's about time people like Joe Olvera, one of our El Paso Chicano poetry pioneers, and Ramón Rentería, whose book review page is the talk of the nation, get some pub.

(Continued "Kudos" on page 14)

(Continued from "Kudos" page 13)

Gratten Steps Up

Alejandro Gratten, a UTEP grad, has contacted us with some news. Under the sponsorship of Disney Studios, a retrospective of Hispanic-oriented movies was held recently in L.A., and of the many dozens of films to choose from, his film "Only Once in a Lifetime," was one of only three films presented that evening. The program notes cited the film as "one of the very first in this genre, and today considered a classic." — *Los Angeles Times*

Another UTEP MFA Award

UTEP MFA graduate **Gabriela Aguirre's** thesis won the **Elías Nandino National Prize for Young Poets**. Also, **Javier Huerta**, another graduate of UTEP's MFA program had his master's thesis, a book of poems called **Some Clarifications** win first place in the 31st (2005) Chicano/Latino Literary Prize competition from the University of California at Irvine. He is now at the University of California at Berkeley pursuing a Ph.D. in English literature. The prize includes getting his poems published. Congrats Javier!

Editor Wins Del Corazón Award

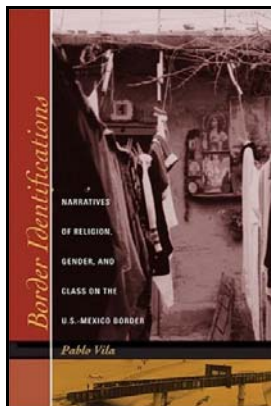
In Apr., our editor, Raymundo Elí Rojas was awarded the 2006 Del Corazón Award by Azteca of Greater Kansas City. The award is given to "individuals who embody excellence, commitment, passion, compassion and leadership in their contribution to the community within the contact of the ideals expressed within the Azteca motto: "Unity-Family-Culture." We may have failed to mention that Rojas received his law degree in May 2005 and since then has founded the Kansas City Employment Justice Project.

New Books continued, from pg 12

Tabuenca looks at regional gov't

Gobernabilidad o ingobernabilidad en la región Paso del Norte (ISBN 9685353409) was released on the New Mexico State University y El Colegio de la Frontera Norte/Eón, Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez.

It is edited by Luis Antonio Payán and Socorro Tabuenca C.: "La región Paso del Norte es una



zona en la cual no es fácil encontrar el equilibrio fino que constituye la gobernabilidad y no porque no sea posible, sino porque existen barreras geopolíticas y



Socorro Tabuenca

psicológicas que impiden la cooperación estrecha entre las comunidades de la región." www.edicioneseon.com/coleccion.html.

EPT on the Ringside

David Romo has published *Ringside Seat to a Revolution*, which is described as a fascinating glimpse into unknown scenes of the Mexican Revolution of 1911. It was featured on National Public Radio in January (www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5176177).

Note: NPR plays a clip by José Antonio Burciaga's father. It is people's history at its best, said Howard Zinn, a historian, playwright, and social activist. In essays and



David Romo

archival photographs, Romo tells the surreal stories at the roots of the greatest Latin American revolution, like the sainted beauty queen Teresita who inspired revolutionary fervor and is rumored to have blessed the first rifles of the revolutionaries. The book talks about anarchist newspapers, an ice cream-eating Pancho Villa, El Paso's

gringo mayor and his silk underwear, and more. I flipped through a copy of this book in El Paso and can't wait to get a copy.

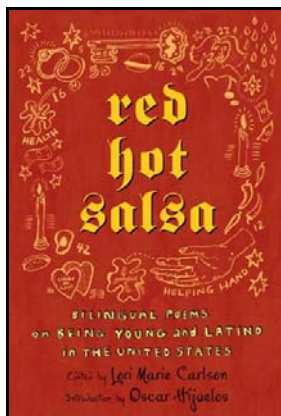
Aldama's Brown on Brown

Luis Aldama released *Brown On Brown: Chicano/a Representations of Gender, Sexuality, and Ethnicity*, which is an investigation of the ways in which race and sexuality intersect and function in Chicano(a) literature and film. The book partly focuses on El Paso writers such as Arturo Islas and John Rechy.

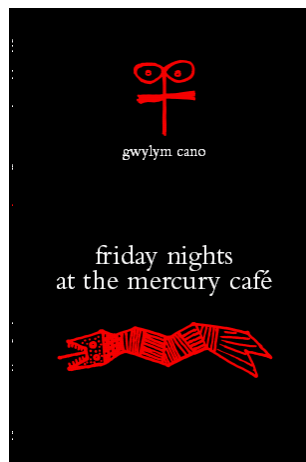
www.utexas.edu/utpress/books/aldbro.html.

Libros, Libros: New & Recommended Books

Red Hot Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Being Young and Latino in the United States (Henry Holt and Co. Bilingual ed. Apr 2005 ISBN 0805076166), Lori Marie Carlson, ed. This collection of bilingual poems from the best-selling editor of *Cool Salsa*. Ten years after the publication of the acclaimed *Cool Salsa*, editor Carlson has brought together a stunning variety of Latino(a) and Chicano(a) poets for a long-awaited follow-up. Oscar Hijuelos has written the introduction. www.henryholt.com/index.htm.



Friday Nights at the Mercury Café (Chapbook 2005), Gwylm Cano. "Poetic journey of one of Denver's prominent Chicano poets. Cano journeys to the Friday night conspiracy of poetic connivers at the Mercury Café open mic, Denver's oldest." - Raymundo Elí Rojas. To order, email gwylmjcano@hotmail.com.

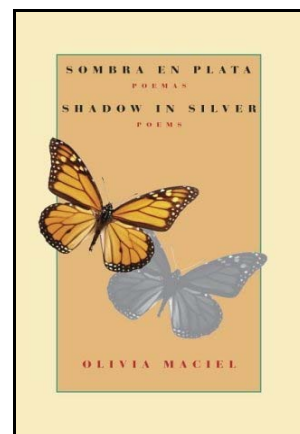


Hoyt Street: An Autobiography (Paperback) (Univ of New Mexico Press Feb 2006 ISBN 0826340202), Mary Helen Ponce. "Church movies we saw were mostly westerns – old westerns, in black and white. Father Mueller drove to 'Los,' as we called Los Angeles, to pick up the films and assorted reels. He never explained why western movies were all he got; I figured he knew a cowboy." It's the 1940s. Little Mary Helen Ponce and her family live in Pacoima, a Chicano(a) *barrio* near Los Angeles. Unmindful of their poverty, Mary Helen and friends Beto, Concha, Virgie, la Nancy, and Mundo sneak into the circus, run wild at church bazaars, snitch apricots from the neighbor's tree, and poke fun at Father Mickey, the progressive priest who plays jazz on the church organ. Experience the shame of first-generation Americans examined at school for lice, and the desire of a little girl who longs for patent leather shoes instead of clunky oxfords. Share Mary Helen's joy as she savors the sun on her face during walnut-picking expeditions, and basks in her family's love all year long. www.unmpress.com.

Mahic (Calaca Press Dec. 2005 ISBN 097170354X), Tomás Riley. The first solo collection of poems from a 10-

year veteran of the Taco Shop Poets Chicano spoken word collective, *mahic* is part celebration, part lament, part conclusion, part beginning, bilingual sound bombing taken straight from the love of a father for his son and a poet for his people. A controlled lyricism drives the collection through movements of political awareness and spiritual awakening while swaying to the rhythms of hip-hop, jazz, and *ceremonia*. Engaged with the world and connected intimately with the hope that emerges from pain these verses draw you in then send you off to action. www.calacapress.com/cphome.html.

Sanctuaries of the Heart / Santuarios del Corazón: A novella in English and Spanish (Univ of Arizona Press Sept 2005 ISBN 0816524653), Margarita Cota-Cárdenas. Translated from the original Spanish by Barbara Riess and Trino Sandoval, in collaboration with the author, with an introduction by Tey Diana Rebolledo. Petra Leyva has begun to write a novel about the Sanctuary Movement when she hears



that her widowed, womanizing father has set fire to his house in a drunken rage. Overwhelmed by family memories, Petra begins a journey of introspection that leads her to explore what "sanctuary" really means to present day Chicanas. Petra learns there are various types of sanctuaries — not only those aiding Central American refugees but also less obvious safe havens for the weak, the ill, the elderly, the poor. Universities are sanctuaries to which the young can flee in search of a better life. www.uapress.arizona.edu/books/bid1618.htm.

Sombra en plata: poemas / Shadow in Silver: Poems : A Bilingual Edition (Hardcover) (Swan Isle Press Dec 2005), Olivia Maciel; Kelly Austin, tran. In her fourth book of poems, Mexican-born Olivia Maciel lyrically evokes another America. She writes with the critical and contemplative eye of a poet, revealing mystery and beauty in places dark and light, near and far. The richly allusive language of *Sombra en plata / Shadow in Silver* is a terrain at times steep, fevered, and sensual: a harmony of words scented of earth and sky. Her poems are catalysts for transformation, challenging the reader with a vision of a world where myth and the quotidian are intimately intertwined. Exploring complex and unpredictable landscapes, Maciel is both a guide and fellow traveler on a fascinating journey through memories and emotions. Maciel eloquently draws from both collective and personal histories, and this new bilingual compilation will be a pleasure to turn to again and again. www.swanislepress.com/intro.html.

(Continued from "Did You Know" page 2)

Cultural Center de Mesilla at 505-523-3988
bbf@zianet.com www.borderbookfestival.org.

Mora goes to Japan

Pat Mora was recently in Japan, www.patmora.com tells us. She recently completed the final editing of her sixth poetry collection, tentatively titled, *Adobe Odes*. It is due out next fall from the University of Arizona Press. PatMora.com says "The poems are an opportunity to write praise songs to the many things I love including hope. In some ways, writing poetry stems from hope, the writer's desire to create a linguistic, and often musical experience, for the reader. Inspired by *Odas Elementales*, written by Chilean Nobel Prize winner Pablo Neruda, Pat celebrates much that she loves in this sixth poetry collection for adults. The book includes odes to guacamole, chocolate, apples, tulips, women, and Neruda himself." Also, Mora's children's book *Tomás and the Library Lady* has been turned into a play. It was performed at the Maricopa County and ALA Conference News by Childsplay which is a nationally recognized professional theatre for young audiences and families based in Tempe, AZ. David Saar is directing a Childsplay production written by José González on Mora's story. The play will tour schools and libraries in Maricopa County (AZ) January-June and will be performed on the Childsplay stage in the spring. For more information, visit www.childsplayaz.org. Also, the play will be performed at the American Library Association's annual conference, June 2006.



UTEP: Honoring our departed & Conference

From Oct. 28 - Nov. 6 there was a Día de los Muertos Altar in Honor of Dr. Ricardo Aguilar Melantón, Dr. Octavio Romano, Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, and Lalo Guerrero" at the UTEP Library during regular library hours. The Library's Special Collections Department and the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA) sponsor this annual display.

Smithsonian Institution and The University of Texas at El Paso hosted the "Envisioning Bracero History" Conference in El Paso in Nov.

A Look Outside El Chuco: Trinidad Sánchez, Jr.

Trinidad Sánchez, Jr., whom Ricardo Sánchez called the "heir of poets like himself and Abelardo B. Delgado," has released his new book *Jalapeño Blues* on Floricanto Press (ISBN 2006 9780915745722). Trinidad Sánchez, Jr. has been at his lyric craft for several decades. He provides us



in his lyric writings a rich Chicano(a) landscape embedded in an indifferent Anglo world covered by the knit of the ethnic fabric and soul of the Mexican, Chicano. He posits a background of side street allegories — literally representations of other things and symbolically expressing a deeper, often spiritual, moral, or political meaning — asphalt lives of inner-city dwellers, often disguised by the cadence of their conjoined languages, food, soul, tears, and laughs

of their experience. His language is direct, his hurt is real as *tamales con jalapeños*, and his hope offers a collision of syntax, poetic physicality, images, and messages, both poignant and real. Trinidad Sánchez, Jr.'s are necessary poems for a people who seek and demand justice, for children in free lunch with parents with obfuscating futures, for a society who uses and disposes of culture like fads and fashion.

Authors and publishers — Please send books for review to the address on page 3. Some books may be reviewed for national publications. Please send creative literature (poetry, prose, novel, essay, memoir, biography) and academic non-fiction. **We do not review self-help book, diet books, or "Hispanic" Alberto González type books.**

Editor / layout — Raymundo Elí Rojas

Copyediting — Noemí Herrera

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Rigoberto, Rojas, Troncoso Reviews

Bent To The Earth: Poems, Blas Manuel de Luna,
www.elpasotimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050529/LIVING/505290312/1004

Killer Crónicas: Bilingual Memories, Suzanna Chávez-Silverman
www.elpasotimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050612/LIVING/506120313/1004

90 Miles: Selected Poems and New, Virgil Suárez
<http://www.elpasotimes.com/apps>

War By Candlelight, Daniel Alacrón
www.elpasotimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050710/LIVING/507100302/1004

Pity the Drowned Horses, Sheryl Luna
www.elpasotimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050717/LIVING/507170313/1004

Farmworker's Daughter, Rose Castillo Guilbault
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The People of Paper, Salvador Plascencia
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Translation Nation, Héctor Tobar
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Confessions of a Berlitz-Tape Chicana, Demetria Martínez
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Sanctuaries of the Heart, Margarita Cota- Cárdenas
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Two Reviews

Psst...I have Something to Tell you, Mi Amor: Two Plays by Ana Castillo
My Sweet Unconditional, Ariel Robello
www.newspapertree.com/view_article.sstg?c=645434eab8d41b1a

Consideration Of The Guitar, Ray González
www.elpasotimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060115/LIVING/601150311/1004

A Love Story Beginning in Spanish, Judith Ortiz Cofer
www.elpasotimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051218/LIVING/512180311/1004

Ringside Seat to a Revolution: An Underground Cultural History of El Paso and Juárez: 1893-1923, David Dorado Romo
www.elpasotimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051113/LIVING/511130302/1004

Labor Rights are Civil Rights, Zaragoza Vargas
www.elpasotimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2005509040316

González & Daughter Trucking Co., Escandón
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Kool Logic/ Lógica Kool, Urayoan Noel
www.elpasotimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060409/LIVING/604090310/1004

The Man Who Could Fly and Other Stories, Rudolfo Anaya
www.elpasotimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060402/COLUMNISTS28/604020310/1042/LIVING
-or-
www.sergiotroncoso.com/essays/eptimes/06-0402/index.htm

Dictionary Days, Ilan Stavans
www.elpasotimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050918/LIVING/509180305/1004

Sign My Book, cont. from p. 5

Alicia Gaspar de Alba, and Benjamin Alire Sáenz. Our friend, Rigoberto González, whose book reviews are frequently published in the *El Paso Times* was also there.

Migrants share stories

In Feb, Café Quetzalcoatl hosted a gathering of immigrant-rights voices from throughout our community. Many were first published last in the 2005 Border Senses Memorias Del Silencio project.

Rigo finally comes to town

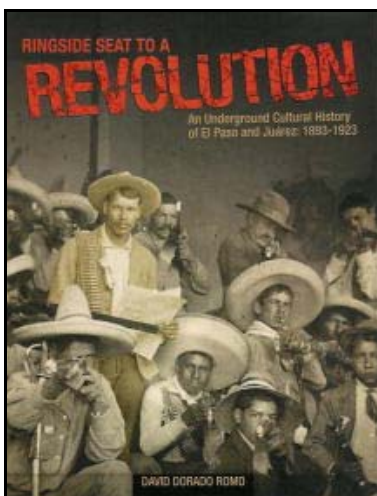
In February, the widely acclaimed *vato* Rigoberto González read from his works and share his experiences as a Chicano writer, book critic, and cultural activist during two events at El Paso Community College campuses. Carolina Monsivais and Ray Ramos opened for him.

Brown Baby

Chicano lits most prolific playwright, Carlos Morton, released the play, "Brown Baby," opened Feb. 17, 2006 at UC Santa Barbara and ran for two weeks. It is about a Mexican mother who is coerced into giving up her baby for adoption to an unsuspecting white couple.

Ringside Seats

In Dec 05, a book signing and reception was hosted for *Ringside Seat to A Revolution: An Underground Cultural History of El Paso and Juarez: 1893-1923* By David Romo. Romo is the son of Mexican immigrants, is an essayist, historian, musician, and cultural activist. *Ringside* is the result of his three-year exploration of archives detailing the cultural and political roots of the Mexican revolution along *la Frontera*. Romo has studied at the Centro d'Attivit i Musicale in Florence, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and received a degree in Judaic Studies from Stanford University.



Let's Fall Back

Solis keeps going

Octavio Solis has been busy as usual. His "The Ballad of Pancho and Lucy" is a new play with music by Beth Custer.

It opened in October. It was staged at Intersection for the Arts in San Francisco, Calif. www.theintersection.org. His play "Gibraltar," a new play commissioned by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, in Ashland, Oregon opened last July and ran through Oct. 30. www.osfashland.org. His "La Posada Magica," which is his Christmas musical with music by Marcos Loya, played its 12th season at South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa, Calif. in Dec. www.scr.org. Octavio has also moved to film. His film "Prospect," a new DV feature film based on the play of the same name, is written and directed by Octavio. It screened at the 21st Film Arts Festival of Independent Cinema, Nov 3-8 at the Roxy Cinema in San Francisco. www.filmarts.org.

Tumblewords

Lucy Fischer-West gave the workshop at Tumblewords in March, as did Yolanda Ch vez Leyva.

At the TumbleWords Workshop in Oct, Rosal a Sol rzano gave a talk on "Dancing with Nostalgia." Rosal a is presently working on a poetry chapbook and a prose manuscript on growing up on the borderlands. Also in Oct, Betty Trinity Ruiz gave a workshop on "Tabula Rasa Incantation." Betty Ruiz is from El Paso and has recently returned from her adventures in Washington, D.C. as an Americorps NCCC member to continue her Bilingual Creative Writing Degree at UTEP. Her work can be found in *Banned in El Paso*. El Paso poet, Nancy Green gave a workshop for the TumbleWords Project in Sept. Her workshop was "Writing as a Healing Force." Green is a Black Chicana community activist who focuses on women's issues. As a writer and a musician, she uses percussion instruments and flute music as mediums of communication and cultural expression. She is currently a visiting artist with the Ysleta Arts Alive program.

Governing or not

In Oct, Luis Antonio Pay n and Dr. Socorro Tabuenca gave a presentation and book signing of *Gobernabilidad o ingobernabilidad en la regi n Paso del Norte*. The Center for Inter-American and Border Studies and Chicano Studies sponsored this event. Pay n is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at UTEP. Tabuenca is the regional director for the Colegio de la Frontera Norte and lecturer at UTEP Chicano Studies.

Give me your Huddled Masses

Kevin Johnson, author of the *The Huddled Masses Myth: Immigration and Civil Rights*, visited UTEP to read from his book in the fall. Johnson is an associate dean and professor of Law and Chicano Studies at the University of California at Davis. African American Studies, Chicano Studies, and the Department of History sponsored the event.

(Continued in "SIGN MY BOOK" on page 24)

(Continued from “Diablo” page 7)

Latta St. is named after William B. Latta, who according to Morales, “owned property northwest of Córdova Island” or the Woodland Addition. (16) Morales describes the county surveyor preparing a map dated 1902 that showed the addition’s boundaries. (17) Félix Martínez was a local landowner and a leading El Pasoans around the turn of the 20th century, says historians Morales and Mario T. García. (18) Martínez owned land on the *La Isla*. A street in the Woodlawn Addition was named after him and still exists today. (19)

Furthermore, to show that *Barrio del Diablo* and the surrounding land was out in the boonies at one time in EPT’s history, Morales says the city built a garbage and disposal plant near Washington Park in 1911. (20)

This makes me remember playwright Adrian Villegas’ one-man play “Barrio Daze” where he gives “A Brief History of the Barrio From 3,000 B.C. to Last Week.” But Villegas’ humorous description is not atypical:

Generally, a barrio can be easily identified by its modest housing, its many small, family-owned corner stores, and presences of many, many brown people. Other things you will very likely find in the barrio are: substandard public schooling, countless liquor stores, a state prison, the county landfill, a nuclear waste dump, and several hostile member of the occupying colonial force known as the police department. In short, all the things the cities’ Anglo power structure does not want in their own neighborhoods...which is why (showing a slide of a typical white family) these Anglos are smiling. (21)

This is why the current water treatment plant is located near to *Diablo*. The city added a garbage incinerator in 1924. (22) By 1941, the city had abandoned the disposal plant and demolished it, although it left the smokestack. Morales points out the demolition on March 12, 1941 when the 124-foot smokestack “crashed to the earth with a thundering sound,” bringing “hundreds of East El Paso residents rushing out of their homes.” (23) Morales says the chimney was “regarded as a public menace and might have endangered those attending games at Dudley Field.” (24)

Morales states that the papers for the Córdova Gardens Addition were filed with the city on July 14, 1941. This was the addition west of the Woodlawn Addition. Morales indicates it was later called “El Jardin,” but also took the name as “El Diablo” by neighborhood

residents. Morales says that the Woodlawn Addition “was 60.04 acres of the old Martínez Estate.” He also mentions that the main streets going north south were Bush, Fresno and Oak, and heading west to east Copia, Latta and Hammet Streets. (sic.)(25)

Apparently, this addition ran west onto the *La Isla*. Morales describes the John H. Nusbaum nursery being near the end of Hammett at 400 S. Hammett Blvd., the “Molino de Nixtamal, owned by Concepción Hernández, at 508 S. Hammet and the City Salvage junkyard at 4037 Bush Street.”(26) (Sic.) At 35 Bush, Morales indicates was Manuel Chávez’ grocery. (27)

In reading Morales book, it is difficult to ascertain whether he places some of the Woodland Addition onto Córdova Island. Definitely, the international markers were on the western boundary of the Woodland Addition. Many *Diablo* residents to which I have spoken did not see themselves as being part of *La Isla*. However, once passed Hammet while on Bush Street, it is safe to say that part of the *barrio del Diablo* was technically on *La Isla*. I’ve had mixed reaction from former residents of the Córdova Gardens Addition on to whether it was actually part of *Diablo* territory. Or did those in the Gardens identify themselves as from *La Isla* or *Cordova Island*. Around the 1940s, a fence was erected dividing off the Mexican half of *La Isla*. (28)

As stated before, some put the northern boundary of *Diablo* at the Franklin Canal, north of where Dudley Field use to stand at 3900 block of Cypress Avenue and Findley Avenue and the 200 block of Gateway North Blvd. Even until the late 1990s, there were houses directly to the west of Dudley Field toward Gateway North Blvd. It was a rather enclosed neighborhood with the elevated highway to the west, the field to the east, and Dudley Field’s parking lot to the south.

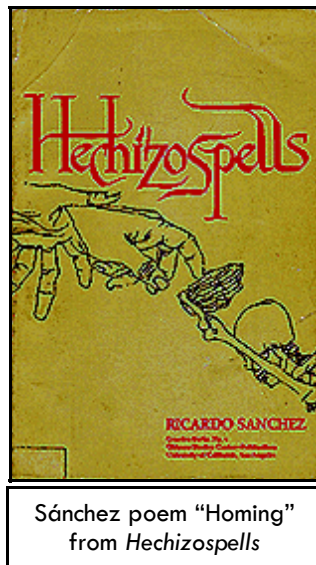
Nevertheless, by the 1970s, *el Diablo* was diminishing. Sánchez recalls in his poem “Homing” (29):

homing once again
as I cruise my Renault r-10
over the crumbling ruins
of el Diablo, that land of DDT(30) batos
who used to slice up life and hope
with filero and herre,
shooting up carga/chiva/dreams
into blueridged veins
hiding beneath la grasa of brown flesh,
finding sanctuary within the torpor,

but life is hell
with in poverty & self-hate,

homing as I see skeletal remains
of that home that saw me grow
at 3920 Oak, later avenida de las américas,
and now just a dead hulk
where only voices of the past can find refuge

(Continued in “Diablo” on page 20)



Diablo continued from p. 20

if you listen closely-and carnal,
 i think even la Llorona
 used to live in el Diablo,
 over by the algodonales del ayer,
 there by the river as it cuts/flows
 through sand and cactus,
 when we use to slip over or under the fence
 surrounding Isla de Córdoba, that chunk of land
 that méxico used to own, now traded in
 as part of the chamizal pact,
 and at those ranchitos
 where we would trip out on mota/yesca/grifa
 and dance
 all night
 to música reta chican/mexicana y bien rascuache,
 or when even younger
 we use to slip through the fence
 and rip off watermelons, cantaloupes, and chavalas
 and the old ranchitos
 would threaten us with rusty/dysfunctional shotguns
 spraying birdshot
 overhead, and we would laugh
 with childhood's mirth,
 in that barrio del eastside...

that barrio
 now dead and full of shards
 I found a rusty empty can of Mitchell's Beer,
 a relic of those times
 almost twenty years before
 when Mitchell's had reigned
 and all the barrio had drunk it,
 I found it beside the crumbling wall
 of that home my father had painstakingly built
 when I had been a four year old toddler,
 back then when we had lived
 in a one room home
 that grew into other rooms
 with timely expansions of my father;

home again to el paso,
 but no longer to my barrio,
 but to alien worlds
 which had been home for rivals
 when I had been tush-hogging
 with the X-9 batos,
 riding herd on other barrios,
 no longer
 engaged within the mind searing stench
 of Disneyland (31) or the coliseum at rodeo time...

turned, scowling,
 to see a superfreeway
 being built
 to make it easier for tourists
 to make it to Juárez bistros and whorehouses,
 realized

that barrios must make way for progress,
 and as I left,
 to file another parole report,
 heard soft voices of the past...

(it is good that el Diablo
 never produced movement leaders
 nor real estate scavengers nor
 poverty pimping directors...)

The poets memories of his *barrio* cry out as the *barrio* is
 diminishing.

Pete Flores, in his book *Guardians of the Gate*,
 grew up a little outside *Diablo* at the corner of Copia and
 San Antonio. He recalls a "walk to the corner of Findley
 and San Antonio Street, now part of the Avenue of the
 Americas, the free international bridge leading into
 Juárez, México. As I stand atop the very spot of my
 birthplace, I now see a major thoroughfare called Paisano
 Drive." (32) Flores goes on to say how much is now
 "covered in cement and asphalt" including the river
 channel, nonetheless, he remembers a "green luscious farm-
 filled valley." (33)

St. Francis Xavier and churches

Both Tinajero and Flores said St. Xavier Catholic
 Church, at the corner of Findley Avenue and Paisano Drive,
 was "the center of attention in our neighborhood."

There, the people would have religious gatherings
 and socials several times in the year. Flores served as an
 altar boy. He describes his youth as a "time of joy and
 hard work, for our fathers had little or nothing but love to
 offer us. The church served as a playing ground and



training ground in our maturing years. It was a poor
 environment, to say the least, but happy one, for we made
 our future by trail and error..."

"We would have *matachines* and *kermezars* all
 times," describes Tinajero.

Pérez also remember the *matachines*, specifically

(Continued in "Diablo" on page 21)

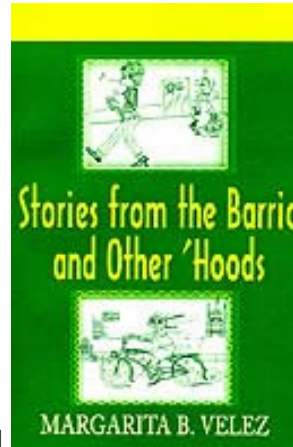
Diablo continued from p. 20

a dance they did in a religious parade all the way up to Alabama Street near the mountain.

"Dancing *Matachines*," says Margarita Vélez author of *Stories from the Barrio and other 'hoods*, "a style derived from the Yaqui Indians...The red costumed men and women formed two lines and performed a series of steps to the beat of drums. Beaded dangles on their costumes flashed in the sun. *Matachines* have been called 'Soldiers of the Virgin' and their dancing added color...."(34)

St. Francis Xavier not only served *Diablo's* residents as Flores shows us. Those who lived on *La Isla* and in neighborhoods bordering *El Diablo* also used St. Francis Xavier as their church. St. Francis Xavier was built in 1932 at 3733 Cypress Street, but before that, Morales describes residents "who lived in the section bounded by San Antonio, Findley and Cypress Streets, met in an old adobe apartment at the back of a vacant lot at the corner of Cypress and Latta Streets." (35) Morales goes on to say:

The plans for the new church were made by Father Palomo, the pastor and Father Maya, the assistant pastor, of the Guardian Angel Church at 3025 Frutas Street. A large hall was built around the old church and afterward the old walls were dismantled. The first child baptized in the building was José Héctor Ramírez in 1932 with Father Mayo presiding. During the next few years, the congregation engaged in fund-raising activities to build a real church. In September of 1935, bull-fight, a softball game and a Mexican supper was held at Dudley Field to benefit the church. (36) (Sic.)



Vélez remembers San Xavier in *Stories from the Barrio and Other 'Hoods*

In Dec. 1938, the church began building a new building at the corner of S. Latta St. and Findley Ave. The new church building was built of rock. The pastor at the time was Benjamín Silva. (37) The church was dedicated on January 15, 1939. (38) Fathers Garde and Emaldia entered the parish's service in 1943, with Father Tomas Matyschol becoming pastor. His assistant was Father Serrano. Later came Father Ornof. In 1944, Father Antimo G. Nebreda became pastor with Father Diego and Father De Azumediti as assistants. (39)

In the 1950s, the church built a recreation center. It was probably responding to the times as children born during the war and baby boomers were reaching their teens, as well as the beginning of the *pachuco* area and gangs activity. Soto remembers San Xavier for "la pista" or the "donation to the poor as a sign of wealth" every Saturday around noon after the baptisms. He remembers the flowing water at the outdoor statue of Our Lady de Guadalupe. With the opening of the rec center, basketball became a pastime for kids like Tinajero, who also remembers the rec center being used for *bailes*.

Vélez, in her book, writes she was a member of an adolescent girls group at St. Xavier called "*Las Hijas de María*." (40) "Father Diego guided the voices of the 'Daughters of Mary' to sing High Mass in Latin," says Vélez. (41) "As a teenager, I hiked up (Mount Cristo Rey) with *Las Hijas de María*," adds Vélez, "We were like rambunctious daughters of Mary who loved rock and roll but focused on the mysteries of the rosary as we meandered up the rugged path. But on the way down, we laughed and talked about boys, of the earshot of Father Diego, of course." (42)

Fischer-West describes that the *Diablo* had more than just Mexicans. West's family was a German-Mexican mix. The Whites and Thompsons who lived across the street from her family were African American. The Greens were an interracial couple, "she Mexican, he African American" who "lived next door" to West and had two girls Patsy and Lizzie. (43) Most of the African Americans in *Diablo* were bussed to Douglas Elementary School before desegregation. She remembers Mr. Thompson was a jazz musician who would play his piano in the "early evening

(Continued on NEXT PAGE)

before he went out on gigs.” (44) The Whites, she remember them dressing up to attend Mount Zion Baptist Church, as the West’s family left to attend Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana in the *Segundo Barrio* at *la Stanton y la quinta*.

Diablo was not a mean place, but at some point down the line it gained a reputation, and as we will see in our next issue, the devil once lived in heaven before he went to hell.

FIN

NOTES

1. Sánchez, Ricardo. *Canto y grito mi liberación: The Liberation of a Chicano Mind Soul*. “Desmadrazco,” p. 35.
2. Interview with Alejandro Rojas, Nov. 7, 2000.
3. Sánchez, Ricardo. *Canto y grito mi liberación: The Liberation of a Chicano Mind Soul*. “Mina o Quina.” p. 119.
4. Email interview with Al Soto.
5. Interview with Ester Pérez, September 2005.
6. Interview with Ignacio Tinajero, Summer 2004.
7. Morales, Fred. *Córdova Island*, self published, 2002, 19.
8. Morales, Fred. p. 4.
9. Historian Leon Metz in his book *El Paso: Guided Through Time* also mentions the importance of Hammett Blvd., 168.
10. Córdova Island, or La Isla, was a island of land created by the shift of the Río Grande. The shift left a dry riverbed on the north (around Paisano Drive) and the Río Grande on its southern boundary. When the river shifted south, it left a large chunk of land belonging to Mexico on the north side of the river. *La Isla* was divided by a border fence or markers at several locations. The river shift left land in dispute, not only between the two countries but also by various land owners and later the *ejido* land distribution.
11. Morales, 21 (Sic.).
12. Fischer-West, Lucy. *Child of Many Rivers*, Texas Tech Univ Press: Lubbock (2005), 95.
13. The Chamizal Treaty was a landmark and peaceful end to the long dispute over *La Isla*. The treating was signed with great fanfare including visits and signature by both countries’ presidents.
14. Sánchez, Ricardo. *Hechizospells*, Creative Series Chicano Studies Center Univ. of California, Los Angeles: Los Angeles (1976), 35.
15. Morales, Fred, 4.
16. Morales, 4.
17. Morales says the addition stretched to “Frutas Street and the G.H. and S.A. railroad on the north, Steven’s Street to the west, Boone Street on the east, and Oak Street and the Río Grande to the south.” (Sic.) 4.
18. Morales at 5. Also see García, Mario T., *Desert Immigrants: The Mexicans of El Paso, 1880-1920*. Yale Univ. Press (1982).
19. Morales, 5.
20. Morales, 6.
21. Villegas, Adrian. “Barrio Daze,” text taken from performance (1998).
22. Morales, 9.
23. Morales, 18.
24. Morales, 18.
25. Morales, 18.
26. Morales, 19.
27. *Ibid*.
28. Morales, 17.
29. *Hechizospells*, 145-8. In Ricardo Sánchez book *Canto y Grito mi liberación*, El Paso artist and former *Barrio del Barrio*

resident, Manuel Acosta made several sketches for the book, which can be seen as being sketches of *Barrio del Diablo*.

30. *Del Diablo Territory*
31. El Paso Sewage Plant near *el diablo*
32. Flores 14.
33. *Ibid*.
34. 50.
35. Morales 14.
36. *Ibid*.
37. Morales 16.
38. *Ibid*.
39. A History of St. Francis Xavier Church, reprinted in Morales (2002).
40. Vélez, Margarita. *Stories from the Barrio and other ‘Hoods,’* Writers Club Press: Lincoln (2001), 15.
41. *Ibid*.
42. Vélez, 49.
43. Fischer-West, 68.
44. *Ibid*.

40 Years Ago, He Help Start It All

With These 25 Pieces,
A Renaissance in Chicano Poetry was Started

The Delgado Family has republished an edition
of the first anthology of Chicano(a) poetry in
the Chicano Renaissance

Chicano: 25 Pieces of a Chicano Mind

By the late Poet Laureate of Aztlán

Abelardo B. “Lalo” Delgado

Poems include “Rio Grande,” “La Huelga,” “La raza,” “el 16 de septiembre,” “el barrio,” “la revolución,” and the ever popular “Stupid America”

*lalo — fat gut, cool soul chicano
wearing Tejano hat
and
your bearing recalls
brown powered bears growling...
- Ricardo Sánchez*

Please send money order for \$14.00 (\$12.00 + \$2.00 Shipping and Handling) to: 6538 Eaton, Arvada, Colorado 80003. Make checks or money orders payable to “Dolores Delgado.” PF asks you consider making financial donations to Lalo’s widow in excess to the books cost. Thank you.

Publishings

Sergio Troncoso has published “**Letter To My Young Sons: Part One**” about his wife's battle against breast cancer, which is now available on Amazon Shorts. You can go to the front page of his website to find the essay, www.sergiotroncoso.com, or click the link below to go directly to Amazon. He wrote it to help families who might also travel this gauntlet www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000EJ9SKA/104-3803368-9371118?n=551440.

Sergio Troncoso published a book review of Luis Alberto Urrea's *The Hummingbird's Daughter*, which appeared in the *El Paso Times* in October. He has posted this review under Stories and Essays at www.sergiotroncoso.com.

Check out **Yolanda Chávez Leyva's** poem in *The Newspaper Tree*: www.newspapertree.com/view_article.sstg?c=8bba4766c0ed4bac

The November 2005 issue of *Karavan* has an article on UTEP's Creative Writing faculty. It features the work of **Daniel Chacón**, **Ben Sáenz**, and **Emmy Pérez**, in translation; the article is in Swedish.

Check out **Rudy García's** poems “**Barge Pilot**” and “**Crossover**” at: www.newspapertree.com/view_article.sstg?c=7328ea88e4e144b4

Alicia Gaspar de Alba recently had a story published in *Zyzzzyva: A Journal of West Coast Artists and Writers* called “**Lorca's Widow**.” It is written from the point of view of a gypsy woman from Granada who calls herself the widow of Federico García Lorca. It was published in the spring 2005 issue of the journal, which can be accessed at www.zyzzzyva.org. We also send our condolences to Alicia for her *abuelita* who raised her as her own daughter. Her *abuelita* passed away Sept. 14, 2005. She was a 53-year resident of El Paso, but resisted learning English and insisted Alicia never forget to speak or write Spanish.

Check out **Nancy Lorenza Green's** poem “**Cleansing**” at: www.newspapertree.com/view_article.sstg?c=5c8af893ba574756.

UTEP's director of Chicano Studies **Dennis J. Bixler-Márquez** recently published his article “**La Preparatoria Bowie versus la Patrulla Fronteriza**.” in *AZTLAN: A Journal of Chicano Studies*, Vol. 30, (N) 2, 157-168.

UTEP professor of anthropology **Howard Campbell** recently published “**Chicano Lite: Mexican American consumer culture on the border**” in the *Journal of Consumer Culture*, Vol. 5(2), 207-233.

Sign My Book, cont. from p. 24

2nd annual: A River of Voices Rising Literary Evening

In recognition of the Domestic Violence Awareness Month, BorderSenses, in collaboration with Women Writer's Collective and El Paso Center Against Family Violence hosted the 2nd annual: A River of Voices Rising Literary Evening in October at the Remedios Hair & Art Studio at 2501 N. Stanton. Writers that read included Carolina Monsivais (*Somewhere Between Houston & El Paso*) and Emmy Pérez (*Solstice*). A book drive was also sponsored supporting the The El Paso Center Against Family Violence shelter is much in need of books in Spanish (or bilingual English/Spanish books) for children, young adults, and adults.

Protest the War

Lorena Oropeza, historian and professor at the University of California at Davis, gave a lecture at UTEP in Sept: "¡Raza Si! ¡Guerra No!: Chicano Patriotism during the Viet Nam War Era." Chicano Studies and the Department of History sponsored the event.

Castillo's Women and Opaque Men

Ana Castillo was in El Paso in fall '05. She read from her new book *Watercolor Women and Opaque Men: In Life and Poetry* at the "Take Back the Night" program at UTEP. Ana Castillo also read at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces.

Rad Rodríguez

El Paso guitarist and singer/songwriter Armando Rodriguez had a folkrock CD "With These Hands" come out. To Celebrate Chicano Heritage Month, Café Quetzalcoatl! hosted their Friday Night at La Fe on Oct. 21, 2005. They also hosted a Celebrate Día de Los Muertos. Reading were Magali Velasco Vargas and Agustín García Delgado Jiménez, two of Mexico's up-and-coming critically acclaimed writers. Velasco is the winner of Mexico's 2004 National Storytelling Award and the author of *Vientos Machos*. García Delgado is the author of *Yo Es Solo Un Hombre Que Se Aleja*. He shared the Day of the Dead tradition of *calacas* -- humorous eulogies for the living. La Fe hosted Denise Chávez, John Estrada, & Amalió Madueño on Nov. 11, 2005.

BorderSenses still tearing it up

In fall 2005, BorderSenses held a reading from people whose works were collected in a book *Memorias del Silencio: Footprints of the Borderland* in Aug. The event was held at UTEP

Honoring Lalo and Corky

On Sept. 6, the Instituto Cervantes paid tribute to Abelardo "Lalo" Delgado and Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales in New York City for their status as outstanding Chicano poets. The event was organized and coordinated by the writer Jaime B. Rosa.



Panelists were Jaime B. Rosa, writer; Miriam Bornstein Gómez, University of Denver, Colo.; Armando Miguélez, professor of Chicano literature; Óscar V. Somoza, University of Denver, Colo.; and Tomás Ybarra Frausto, critic and historian of the National Chicano Movement. Lalo Delgado was born in 1931 and died in 2004. Corky Gonzales was born in 1928 and died in 2005.

Sáenz reads

At UTEP, Benjamín A. Sáenz gave a reading of his new novel *In Perfect Light* (Rayo) in September. Chicano Studies, the English Department, and the Creative Writing Program sponsored the reading. Read Rigoberto González review of Ben's book at:

www.elpasotimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051009/LIVING/510090306/1004

Looking for Steinbeck

At UTEP in October, Mimi Gladstein gave a lecture titled "El Steinbeck Simpático." The UTEP English Dept and Chicano Studies sponsored the event. Dr. Eliana Rivero lectured on "A Latina on the Border: Views on the U.S. Hispanic Experience" in October as well. Eliana is a professor at the Department of Spanish & Portuguese, University of Arizona. Silvia González' play, "The Migrant Farmworker's Son" was performed at UTEP in October. Rebecca Elías, M.A., Department of Theatre, Dance and Film directed it.

Since we last Left you

Sergio Troncoso read at the Yale Bookstore in New Haven, CT in July. www.sergiotroncoso.com. **Griselda Muñoz**, champion of the Texas Rasquache Art Festival's Poetry Slam and El Paso native, is an artist, Chicana social-justice activist and theater actor. She will soon be a student at UTEP as an English and philosophy major, minoring in political science. **Lucy Fischer-West** did a reading in conjunction with the UTEP English Department's Homecoming celebration in Oct 2005 and she was BorderSenses featured author for October. In Oct 05, El Paso hosted the Rasquache Festival on Texas Avenue. Several EPCC students participated in Luis Valdez' "Bernabé" at an evening of Chicano theater, music, poetry, and dance. This event took place in November at the El Paso Playhouse, 2501 Montana.

Café Quetzalcoatl

With their new Café Quetzalcoatl open, Clínica de Salud La Fe has been hosting many events, including "Diosas, Diablas, y Otras Fieras -- A Night of Women's Poetry!" Chicana poets, activists, and educators who read were **Yolanda Chávez Leyva**, **Nancy Green**, and **Emmy Pérez** (*Solstice*). The café is located at La Fe Cultural and Technology Center, 721 S. Ochoa, rear building. The center celebrated Chicano Heritage Month in the fall and hosted an evening of Chicano(a) family pride, music, poetry, and festivities with **Daniel Chacón** (www.soychacon.com) and **Yolanda Chávez Leyva**. In Dec., Café Quetzalcoatl hosted poets **Bobby Byrd** (of Cinco Puntos), **Griselda Muñoz**, author **Lucy Fischer-West** (*Child of Many Rivers*), and Folkrock Singer/Songwriter **Armando Rodríguez**.

(Continued in "SIGN MY BOOK" on page 23)