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EAGLE FEATHER RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

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Welcome, Willkommen, Bienvenue, Bienvenidos, Benvenuto. Welcome to our December issue which will cover a variety of subjects. Let us begin with some cultural news. Back in April we announced the publication of *No Mexicans, Women or Dogs Allowed* by Dr. Cynthia Orozco. She informs us that the book is now ready for purchase from The University of Texas Press. Founded by Mexican American men in 1929, the League of United Latin-American Citizens (LULAC) has usually been judged according to Chicano nationalist standards of the late 1960s and 1970s. Drawing on extensive archival research, including the personal papers of Alonso S. Perales and Adela Sloss-Vento, *No Mexicans, Women, or Dogs Allowed* presents the history of LULAC in a new light, restoring its early twentieth-century context. Cynthia Orozco also provides evidence that perceptions of LULAC as a petite bourgeoisie, assimilationist, conservative, anti-Mexican, anti-working class organization belie the realities of the group's early activism. Supplemented by oral history, this sweeping study probes LULAC's predecessors, such as the Order Sons of America, blending historiography and cultural studies. Against a backdrop of the Mexican Revolution, World War I, gender discrimination, and racial segregation, *No Mexicans, Women, or Dogs Allowed* recasts LULAC at the forefront of civil rights movements in America. For more information please refer to the following link: www.utexas.edu/utpress/books/oronom.html

New Literary Electronic Magazine: *Somos en escrito* magazine beckons all Latino writers residing in the U.S. as an entirely electronic literary publication open to writers of Chicano, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, and other Hispanic origin. The revista is being launched by Armando Rendón, author of *Chicano Manifesto*.

The website is at www.ollin.com/somos. Manuscripts can be submitted for review and approval to the editor at: somosubmissions@gmail.com. Somos will serve as a forum dedicated to providing an outlet to new and veteran writers in the various fields of literature: fiction (short stories, novellas, excerpts from novels), essays, poetry (all

genre), experimental, and book reviews, written in Spanish and/or English. Its broad purpose is to empower Latino writers to practice their art and give exposure to their works now, through the instantaneous medium of the Internet.

The subject matter need not be about Latinos or Hispanic topics, Rendón explains. “A universal center exists in all of us that impels us to write and which need not be restricted to a particular culture, race, or religious identity. As members of a community with a significant history and connection to values and sensibilities unique to us, of course, we also write about ourselves, our people and our future.” For more information write to the editor, Armando Rendon at somosubmissions@gmail.com

ARE YOU RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL?

- How spiritual are you? Do you make a distinction between being spiritual and being religious? Too often being religious takes on a ritualistic character whereas being spiritual is a permanent way of viewing the world in a spiritual manner. Many have observed that people go to church and feel good but outside its walls there are reservations about people that are different. Has the secularism and pragmatism of the modern world contributed to the double standard? A new survey appears to indicate that people now are creating an accommodating view. Statistically, 77% profess to believe in God, 77% pray outside of religious services, 75% believe it is a responsibility to give children a religious upbringing. However, 45% of the respondents that call themselves religious, 50% rarely or never attend worship services. Of the total surveyed 27% did not believe in God. The old terms of atheist or agnostic are no longer catch all terms; now, at least one fourth of the population have created a new category: “spiritual but not religious.” The latter may range from members of traditional religions to those that have created an eclectic belief of different faiths. While only 12% attest to their own faith as the only true faith, another 12% feel no religion has any validity. Of the total 59% do think all religions are valid. What about marriage to a person outside your religion? Most people (82%) would consider marrying outside their faith but this does not mean they would consider converting to another religion (78%). Does religion hold the most important place in their lives? Only a fourth of the respondents believe it is the most important thing in their lives. The new focus is centered on practicality. Equally divided are the following expectations: source of truth, customs-traditions-holidays, morals-ethics and community. They also feel that it makes them feel safe and secure. In the past, religions demanded that all should pray because God demands it; now only 15% believe this. What do they pray for? While 72% pray for the well-being of others, 60% said they pray for forgiveness, nearly half pray for money, material things and personal success. Would they turn to the clergy for guidance? 55% would rather turn to family members while only 17% to the clergy. In the international scene, only 59% feel that faith can solve the world problems while 41% think that it is religion that has too often led to war and suffering. Finally, it is interesting to note that many Americans do not all believe that one will go to heaven or hell in the

afterlife (43%) but do have the idea that they will join their loved ones who have passed away before them (62%).

- *Jellyfish: Barometers for pollution.* In Baltimore, there is a \$2.2 million exhibit entitled “Jellies Invasion: Oceans out of Balance.” Although they appear delicate and fragile, these hardy specimens have been likened to pigeons and cockroaches for their ability to survive in less than ideal conditions. More than 95% water, they date back 650 million years, before dinosaurs roamed the earth. What is important is their ability to indicate the health of the ocean, particularly with the advent of climate change. Over the centuries the numbers of jellies were kept in check by predators such as sea turtles and jelly-eating fish. But sea turtles and fish have become endangered by hunting or drowning in fishing nets, the threat to the jellies has decreased and their numbers have grown. At the same time, jellies have developed an ability to adapt and survive in environments that other creatures cannot tolerate. Jellies have low oxygen requirements and are able to survive in polluted water. When food is scarce, they shrink in size requiring less to eat. As such, the abundance of jellies can be a signal that water conditions for other species are poor. The proliferation of jellies is such that they have clogged cooling intakes on cruise ships and nuclear power plant and hampered commercial fishing operations. As predator populations dwindle, jellyfish species will see a population explosion and as such, we can use them as barometers for the pollution of the oceans.
- *High School Obesity by Sex and Ethnicity:* Among the white students, the females outnumber the males three to one. Among African-Americans, it is about even although it is the highest of all groups. Among the Hispanics, the females outweigh their male counterparts by almost two to one and are second only to the African-American population in obesity. As one sees the totals for all groups, the females still are obese by a margin of two to one. Obesity is defined as a body mass index (BMI) of 30 lbs or more. That is equivalent to being 30 lbs overweight.
- *McDonald’s Artery Cloggers:* Have you noticed that when you order from McDonalds they place a colorful sheet on your tray, they place the nutritional chart face down. One wonders how many people ever see it. Of the foods that are the highest in fat, calories, saturated fat, trans fat, sodium, carbohydrates and sugars are the beef items. Leading the pack as artery cloggers are their new Angus selections e.g. the Angus Bacon and Cheese is a whopping 790 calories, 39 grams of fat (17 of which is saturated and 2 are trans-fat).and an incredible 2,070 mg of sodium. Add large French Fries and you have additionally 500 calories, 25 grams of fat and 350 mg of Sodium. You will need a soda which will add 150 calories and 40 mg of sugar. For dessert have a Shake and add 580 calories and 84 mg of sugar. The sum total for one meal is 2,020 calories, 108 grams of fat, 2,420 mg of sodium and 124 mg of sugar. Is it any wonder we have cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure and obesity?
- *Affordable Electric Cars:* Shai Agassi as CEO of *Better Place*, a company that plans to bring affordable electric cars to the U.S. by 2012, believes that the first

order of business is to create an energy network, a network of charging stations. It was the same for the cell phone, without the network, they would not exist. Currently, there are pilot programs in northern California and Hawaii. In California there will be over 10,000 charging spots operating by 2012. How much energy is needed? The American average drive is 30 miles a day and that would take about 300 watts, the equivalent of leaving your computer or T.V on all day. A study by the U.S. Department of Energy showed you could power 200 million electric cars without a single change to the grid. *Better Place* is currently building charging stations in Denmark, Israel and Australia. By the end of 2011, the stations will be operational for consumers. China is moving very rapidly investing billions in infrastructure. Once they get going, it will be extremely difficult for the U.S. to catch up. As we move into the future, daily commutes to work will cost nothing, as solar panels in your house will provide free energy for your car all year. It is nanotechnology that will revolutionize not only energy applications but also with numerous other applications in the XXI century.

- **Did you know?....** Davy Crockett was unlike anything that was said by his party, the Whigs. Nor is he the Hollywood portrayal of a clean shaven, soft spoken hero of the movies. In his time, he was not universally popular or respected and was seen an uneducated sort that thrived on his jokes. He was seen as an ignoramus, defeated in Congress, became disenchanted and deserted his wife and children. When he boasted having killed more than 100 bears, his friends reportedly joked that could not be; Davy could not count that high.

Happy and Insightful Reading,

Arnoldo Carlos Vento, Ph.D

PS (PD): Attached is a request from Angela Layton who is tracing her Cherokee-Lipan Apache heritage via the Mexican refugee list. Pass it on to others who may help.