

2007 EDITION

# MOSAIC

*exploring social justice in Chicago*



*piece  
by  
piece*

**SPECIAL ISSUE: IMMIGRATION**

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## EDITOR'S NOTE:

Dear Reader,

We are excited to share with you the fourth issue of *Mosaic*, an annual student magazine which focuses on issues related to social justice. Students of Loyola University Chicago, under the advisement of Professor John Slania, worked together to produce this year's edition, which takes a closer look at immigration. Profiles of immigrants, trends in immigration and other newsworthy stories fill the pages of *Mosaic*.

Immigration is a common and often controversial topic in the United States. The immigrant communities in Chicago are prominent and continue to create a beautiful mosaic, diversifying the city. We talked to people from all over the world who decided to make this country their new home. We are excited to share their stories with you. We also investigated many interesting trends which affect immigrants or are a result of immigration.

Students were responsible for writing and editing all of the stories in *Mosaic*. Students also designed the layout, sold advertisements, and promoted its publication. Making a magazine with classmates has been an insightful and fun experience that we have all learned from.

It is important to know what is happening in the community and in this country. No matter what your stance is on immigration, this issue gives a variety of stories to read and learn from. We hope that you enjoy this year's *Mosaic*.

Thank you,  
Hilary Shaffer

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## THE LATINO VOTE IN ILLINOIS

by Dimitrios Burikas

More than 25,000 new Latino voters were registered to vote in Chicago during the summer of 2006 in preparation for the Nov. 7 general elections, causing belief that these new voters will affect the presidential caucuses in 2008.

"Illinois is one of the first big states to come up," Michael Rodriguez of the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute said. "The Latino population of Illinois will be able to be a swing vote in deciding who the presidential candidates will be."

In the past, about 5,000 to 6,000 new Hispanic voters have been registered each year. This past year, groups like the Hispanic Leadership Institute have far exceeded those numbers, totaling about 17,000 new voters for that one group alone.

Bill Perez, Hispanic Outreach Coordinator at the Chicago Board of Elections Commissioners, indicated that registering the 100,000 untapped Hispanic voters in Chicago was a major step in giving immigrant communities a bigger voice. Now only one problem remains.

"We hope they come out and vote," Perez said.

## GET OUT AND VOTE CAMPAIGN REGISTERS NEW CITIZENS TO VOTE

by Hilary Shaffer

The New Americans Democracy Project, a part of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, is registering citizens to vote for immigrant rights as a part of the Get Out and Vote Campaign.

The Campaign targets immigrant communities by giving newly registered voters the opportunity to convert their energy to direct political power and influence at the polls.

"We are trying to build an infrastructure of people who come to the polls not for a political candidate, but for an issue," said Juan José González, 22, from Chicago, a project associate for the New Americans Democracy Project.

The campaign also helps illegal immigrants by providing information on citizenship workshops and programs geared toward helping them gain legal residency.

González said the campaign wants to "send a message to political representatives that we want immigration reform, and that they will not be forgiven if they vote against comprehensive immigration reform."

## THE NEW AMERICANS INITIATIVE

by Michelle Landaal

There are many sacrifices that those seeking U.S. citizenship must make. The sacrifice of having sore knees and shins is one that

many immigrant protesters are happy to go through after attending immigrant-rights marches, which have become commonplace in the Chicago area.

These marches have opened the eyes and ears of people coast to coast. The New Americans Initiative is one of the many groups that worked hard to make these marches possible. The goal is to help new citizens participate fully in a civil life, as well as to get community members involved.

"Any kind of coverage in the media can help," said Karla Avila, the co-director of the New American Initiative. "It's not the media coverage that is the problem; it's the struggle for the rights of these people."

To get involved or to receive more information, please visit: <http://www.newam.imtionline.com/> or call 312.332.7360.

## A SIMPLE WAY TO HELP IMMIGRANTS FIND FINANCIAL STABILITY

by Charlotte Taylor

The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago reports that one of the easiest ways to help immigrants improve their economic condition is to help them open bank accounts. Barriers like language, distrust of institutions, and the need to supply personal information sometimes prevent immigrants from making this important step in establishing an identity in the United States.

Opening a bank account provides a safer alternative to cash transactions, lower fees for international money transfers, and a means to build a financial identity in the United States. This financial identity is especially important when it comes to securing loans.

It is in the best interest of financial institutions to reach out to the continuously expanding immigrant community, because the loans needed by immigrants are often small and of little risk.

Tom Ullman of the Small Business Development Unit at Hull House, an organization dedicated to helping immigrants acclimate to life in the United States, explains that it often takes a small loan to make a big difference for immigrant families. On average it takes a loan as small as \$25,000 to start a small family business. An added bonus is that because of the hardworking nature of these enterprises, "very few of the bank loans default," Ullman said.

## IMMIGRATION AND RESTAURANTS

by Holly Harnisch

Peer through a kitchen door or notice who fills the empty water glasses at restaurants and the impact of immigration becomes increasingly apparent. While many restaurant and bar employees are indeed registered citizens, a large number have been hired illegally.

## CHICAGO'S IMMIGRATION LEGACY

<p><b>1844</b> Swedish Immigrant Frederick Lundin won a seat in the Illinois State Senate</p>	<p><b>1847</b> Chicago's first synagogue, Kehilath Anshe Mayriv, was founded at the corner of Lake &amp; Wells by a group of Jewish immigrants</p>	<p><b>1860</b> From a few hundred residents in the 1830s, Chicago emerged as the fourth largest Irish city in America by 1860</p>	<p><b>1875</b> Chicago became the terminus for Greek immigrants to the United States and housed the largest Greek settlement in the nation until replaced by New York City after World War II</p>
<p><b>1839</b> Initial Dutch immigration to Chicago combined desires to pursue agriculture, to recreate traditional social structures, and to maintain religious beliefs</p>	<p><b>1850</b> Germans constituted 1/6 of Chicago's population</p>	<p><b>1870</b> Chicago's Czech-born population reached its peak in the 1870s, and the Czech immigrant community remained important in the city long after immigration restrictions were imposed in the 1920s</p>	<p><b>1880</b> The first wave of Ukrainian immigration began in the 1880s and lasted until World War I</p>
			<p><b>1890</b> Japanese Americans first settled in Chicago, establishing small businesses such as restaurants and curio shops</p>

## REPORTS IN BRIEF

As Congress passes bills creating stricter employment regulations for immigrants, many restaurants and bars wonder what will become of their many reliable employees and their establishments. The Illinois Restaurant Association that is located in Chicago represents 9,000 restaurant outlets in Illinois and is concerned with these new restrictions.

"Immigrants are fundamental to the success of the restaurant industry," said Andrew Ariens, Communications Director of the Illinois Restaurant Association. "Food service is the top private sector of immigrant workers. With job rates expected to rise 12 percent, we are wonder where we will get these workers."

The Illinois Restaurant Association asks its patrons to write to the House of Representatives in order to have them re-work S. 2611, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 1006, so it can better accommodate restaurants and their employees.

### ACCENT REDUCTION

by Erin Johnson

Would you like to have a more pleasant and enduring voice? Be more articulate? Deliver compelling presentations without fear? These are questions posed on the Web site of The Sound Center in Downers Grove, a foreign accent reduction school.

Perhaps a more pertinent question would be: Can I be fired because of my accent? Or will my accent thwart my career objectives? Deb Kowalczyk, director of ClearSpeak, a Chicago speech-language pathology practice, notes that recent revisions to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Compliance Manual give employers more latitude in hiring practices where a foreign accent may be a determinant.

In order to be a successful professional, an increasing number of immigrants find it necessary to reduce their foreign accents. Kowalczyk recalls a past experience with a co-worker whose accent hindered her ability to communicate emergency situations. "She couldn't be fired just because of her accent, even though it was getting in the way of her job," Kowalczyk said. "Now, that is not the case."

The discrimination guidelines may have changed, but that is not the only reason for this recent phenomenon. "Recently, more and more people are interested in working on speech to advance their careers," Kowalczyk noted.

### IMMIGRANT POPULATION GROWS, VITAL TO U.S. ECONOMY

by Viviana Ruiz

As the demographic makeup of the United States changes, the immigration issue faces debate from different fronts. And ever so rapidly, an immigrant population continues to grow and search for economic opportunities.

Rob Paral, a research fellow with the Immigration Policy Center, a division of the American Immigration Law Foundation in Washington, D.C., highlights data released by the U.S. Census Bureau from the 2005 American Community Survey.

Paral notes the 5.4 percent increase in the U.S. population between 2000 and 2005, and compares it to the 16 percent increase in the immigrant population during the respective period.

That such a large immigrant population is heading to the United States in search of employment is evident. As of 2005, 94 percent of adult male undocumented immigrants are part of the U.S. workforce, according to research by the Pew Hispanic Center.

This influx of immigrants is "driven by the availability of jobs," Paral said. "Low-skilled immigrants are taking jobs in the service and manufacturing sectors," he said. "High-skilled immigrants are moving into healthcare and high-tech sectors."

More than a growing population, immigrants have become a strong part of the U.S. economy and ignoring the growth is a mistake. Paral said, "Immigration is not going to go away soon."

### BILL TO MAKE ENGLISH NATIONAL LANGUAGE GETS STRONG SUPPORT

by Desirée Velasquez

As multicultural as it is, the United States may soon find itself more linguistically streamlined under an official language.

The U.S. Senate voted to make English the "national" language last year in consideration of comprehensive immigration reform. This historic move puts greater emphasis on the federal government providing its services in English. According to information supplied by the U.S. Census Bureau's 2005 American Community Survey, the changing of these services could affect more than 50 million people who speak a language other than English at home in the United States.

Senator James Inhofe – a Republican from Oklahoma who introduced the bill to make English the national language – feels that learning English is essential to succeeding in the United States.

"This is not just about preserving our culture and heritage, but also about bettering the odds for our nation's newest potential citizens," said Inhofe in a press release posted on his Web site. "As the President said recently, 'English allows newcomers to go from cleaning offices to running offices,' I could not agree more."

Despite an 85 percent acceptance rate of the bill – detailed in a June Rasmussen Reports poll – there are some who strongly disagree with the principle of this change like Luis Gutierrez, executive director of Chicago's nonprofit organization Latinos Progresando, which works closely with many immigrants.

"The U.S. is a multicultural country, with hundreds of different languages spoken every minute of every day. In my mind, an attempt to make English the official language is simply a symbolic gesture of exclusion that would have little practical effect," Gutierrez said.

## CHICAGO'S IMMIGRATION LEGACY

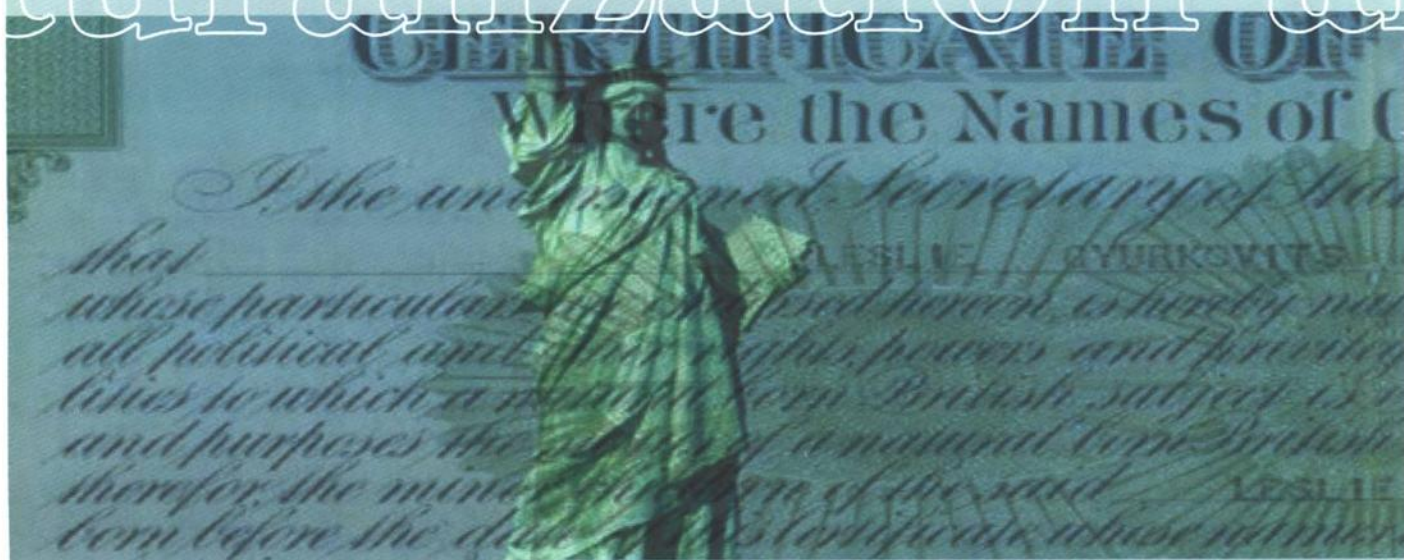
<p><b>1910</b> First major wave of Mexican migration</p>	<p><b>1930</b> Polish immigrants and their children had replaced Germans as the largest ethnic group in Chicago</p>	<p><b>1960s</b> In the 1960s and 1970s, Chicago became home to a large number of Cuban and Southeast Asian refugees</p>	<p><b>1985</b> Between 20,000 and 40,000 Salvadorans lived in the Chicago area</p>	<p><b>1990</b> Refugees from Vietnam were placed in the metropolitan area under special U.S. government resettlement programs</p>
<p><b>1901</b> American-born son of Swedish immigrants, Charles R. Walgreen, founded his first Walgreen's drugstore in Chicago</p>	<p><b>1920s</b> Chicago's Black Renaissance: Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, Arna Bontemps, Margaret Walker, and Gwendolyn Brooks, William Edouard Scott, Charles White, Archibald John Motley, Jr., and Eldzier Cortor</p>	<p><b>1946</b> The first significant wave of Puerto Rican migration to Chicago began in the late 1940s</p>	<p><b>1970</b> Italian immigrants and their children in metropolitan Chicago totaled 202,373</p>	<p><b>2000</b> The 2000 federal census counted over 18,000 Pakistanis in metropolitan Chicago, one of the largest concentrations of Pakistanis in the United States</p>

SOURCE: [www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org](http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org)

MOSAIC // 2007

# THE WAITING GAME:

## Immigrants face naturalization an



BY LORI BERNARDINO

**G**loria Cuyugan, 52, comes from a large family of four sisters and seven brothers. But she's the only one left at the family house located in the City of San Fernando, province of Pampanga in the Philippines.

All her brothers and sisters now live with their own families in Chicago.

"It pains me not to be with them especially during the holidays," she said. "I guess I should now be used to it. But I just know that I'll miss them more again like I do each time, especially the laughter and antics of my nephews and nieces."

She still speaks of her nephews and nieces as if they're still kids. Not anymore. They're now grown, their voices have changed, and they're now either finishing high school or already in college, some even have children. They're also English-speaking now, and hardly conversant with Capampangan, their native tongue.

Cuyugan would like to join them as a citizen of the United States, but she has to wait.

Unmarried unlike the rest of her siblings, Cuyugan has to wait for an elder sister's petition to kick-in. Filed on Dec. 16, 1991, the immigration priority date is June 1, 1984. It would seem that she only has to wait for seven

more years, but it might well be 14 years, or even more, considering how the Immigration Visa Cut-Off Dates for Family Fourth Preference (Brothers and sisters of adult U.S. citizens) is moving from month to month.

There was an earlier petition filed by her mother, Felicidad Cuyugan, also a U.S. citizen, under the Family First Preference. If her mother was still alive today, the priority date for Gloria would be December 1, 1991.

Chicago immigration lawyer, Mary Carmen Madrid-Crost, is deeply concerned with the snail's pace of priority date.

"It's so unbelievably slow, a week or two during a particular month isn't exactly an encouraging news to my elderly clients some of whom fear that with rapidly advancing age, they might die before the priority dates for their respective children finally become current," Crost said. "If they do pass away before then, the petitions will go away as well."

According to the U.S. State Department, the waiting time for such priority dates is hard to tell because there are even months when it retrogresses instead of moving forward.

There are activists trying to clear the visa backlogs and

# delays to become citizens and citizenship

children are included



push the priority dates forward at a faster clip. Acknowledging the problem, the U.S. senate recently passed an immigration bill to slowly clear the family backlogs within six years.

"I think in general, the United States is built on a fair immigration policy and is based on family values," said Tuyet Le, executive director of the Asian American Institute, which is based in Chicago. "What we're advocating for is that families being environments, stable environments, need to be together in order to have a stable life."

There are those, however, who are against the clearing of visa backlogs. Numbers USA, for example, is a group that wants to reduce immigration by eliminating chain migration and the visa lottery. (The visa lottery of 20,000 a year for every country, is always full each year when it comes to the Philippines.)

There are also concerns that immigrants are taking away jobs from U.S. born citizens, a sentiment shared by many.

But Le disagrees, she believes that the prosper-

ity of the United States is due in part to the supply of immigrant workers filling jobs other citizens refuse to perform, dispelling the notion that immigrants live in America without contributing.

"It's a more stabilizing factor, certainly, there are resources that people have to consider," Le continued. "America has a tradition of welcoming immigrants, there's still plenty of room considering the wealth and resources of this country, but I think the whole point is, if you're interested in managing immigration, we have to correct it. It's broken."

If it remains broken and Gloria Cuyugan has to wait for another 14 years, she will be well over 65 when she finally gets clearance to immigrate to the U.S. Her productive years long gone by then, she may no longer find her stay as enjoyable and as fruitful.

"By then, I will no longer be able to pursue the American Dream," Cuyugan said. "Or even only to dream it." ■



## Bittersweet

What do I remember of the day I immigrated into this country? Not much really, I was only 6 years old at the time. We have pictures of my brother and me taken at three in the morning the day of our flight. We both look very groggy and are wearing the colorful new backpacks we were given especially for the trip.

BY PATRYCJA MALINOWSKA

There are pictures of us at the airport as well. My parents tell me much of my extended family packed into a bus and we all drove there together that morning. In those days, security was much more lax and we were all allowed to come out next to the airplane, a small one that would take an hour to fly us to the international airport. The pictures show all of us, even my young self, toasting to our new beginning with glasses filled with champagne.

I don't remember any of that though. The only real memory I have of my last hours on Polish ground is a mental snapshot: I'm sitting in the window seat of the plane, watching my aunts, uncles and cousins wave goodbye as the plane begins to roll toward the runway. Suddenly, I am crushed by a heavy grief, realizing for the first time that I have no idea when I will be able to see any of these people, whom I love and trust, again. Suddenly, I am terrified of leaving the safe and secure world I know, to be dropped into the midst of the unknown. The next moment, I'm sure; I was distracted by the sound of the plane's engines and the novelty of my first plane flight.

My entire immigrant experience reflects the dynamic of that one day. It's an exciting adventure that provides you with many extraordinary opportunities, but you never forget that you left your family behind. Every once in a while, that temporarily forgotten pang of grief returns. Fourteen years later, it remains a bittersweet success.

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Art therapy is one aspect of Apna Ghar's program. One project was creating paper mache masks which now hang on the walls of the office in Chicago.

# Apna Ghar: A haven for women

BY KARI BROWNSBERGER

In a tall building on Broadway Avenue in Chicago sits the humble office of Apna Ghar.

In a waiting area no bigger than a bedroom in the average urban apartment, women speak to each other in foreign languages. Their children color pictures at a small wooden table in the middle of the room. On the walls hang countless certificates and social service awards, while the floor is littered with building blocks, dolls, and other toys.

But beyond this tiny, cluttered space lies more than an office; the hope and salvation of countless South Asian women is here as well.

Apna Ghar is the nation's first women and children's shelter geared specifically toward South Asians. Now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, the four founding members of the shelter realized that there was domestic violence in the South Asian community of Chicago. However, there was no avenue for women to help themselves because of countless cultural barriers. Language, isolation, immigration status, cultural shame and stigma, and financial stability were just some of the obstacles keeping these women from finding help.

"The four founders of the shelter saw that these women would rather be constantly pummeled than leave their home and go somewhere," said program director Kiran Siddiqui, who has been with the shelter for seven years. "They couldn't speak the language here, and had no way of providing for themselves and their children, so they would say 'Fine, I'll suffer.'"

Language and financial stability were not the only issues facing the abused. Cultural ideals also clouded any hope for escape. Siddiqui explained that in their home countries, the women are taught that they must keep their family intact, making them very hesitant to leave their home. Even if they did leave, cultural issues, such as their distinct diet, met them at every shelter.

"Many Muslim and Hindi women are vegetarian," Siddiqui said. "They would go to shelters where one meal was prepared for everyone. If they were serving pepperoni pizza that night, the women couldn't eat and they couldn't feed their children."

Those who work at Apna Ghar focus on making everything culturally

sensitive for the women at their shelter. They have two stoves, one for vegetarian cooking and one for non-vegetarian. They also make sure that everyone on staff can speak at least one of the 15 South Asian languages so no matter what language the abused speaks, there is someone that will understand her.

Apna Ghar offers many services for the abused, including counseling, a child visitation center, the shelter itself, and transition housing. One type of therapy provided for the women is art therapy, which allows them to use art to work through their trauma. For one project, the women took photos of everyday objects and described what these objects represented to them. Some of the most poignant of these descriptions, such as one describing a set of keys, hang on the walls of the shelter.

"Keys represent control," says the description under the picture. "Without being given keys to the house, there was no way I could leave or enter the house. If he decided to take me somewhere, only then could I leave the house. He was always with me, watching me, controlling me."

Another integral service offered by the shelter is the legal advocacy department, which handles immigration, divorce, and custodial issues.

"One of the biggest myths that abused women come here believing is that her husband can actually deport her," said legal advocate Anvishka Kalscheur. "Her husband tells her that he is a legal citizen and so is their child, but she isn't, so he will deport her if she disobeys him. Immigration is a huge way for abusers to control the abused."

While the shelter deals mostly with South Asian women, it accepts women from all cultures. Siddiqui explained that there are always new immigrants coming into the country, and therefore the shelter is always changing to meet their needs. Recently, for example, there has been a great influx in Ethiopian women in the shelter, causing them to have to find a staff member that can speak that unique language. But while there are constantly new hurdles facing the staff at Apna Ghar, there are also great rewards.

"By no means is this an easy job, but it is also highly humbling," said Siddiqui. "It is amazing to watch how much trauma a person can survive and still be sitting in front of you smiling." ■

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# A Young

*entrepreneur*  
*takes her business to the*

# streets

BY VIVIANA RUIZ



María Estrada, 18, supports herself and her family by serving homemade tamales and atole, a hot Mexican drink, on a street corner in Chicago.

## Mexican Street vendor faces good and bad days

It is 3:30 a.m. Barren sidewalks and minimal traffic on a lifeless street compliment the dark and chilly morning. Most people are asleep in their beds, resting their bodies - after a long day. On Chicago's Northwest Side, a young entrepreneur sets up her work station near the corner of Fullerton Avenue and Leclair Street. Dawn is hours away but already her shift has started.

She is 18 years young, alone and expecting her first child. She seeks shelter under a doorway, standing against a dreary backdrop of discolored siding and a graffiti-ridden door. Her only weapons against fierce weather are a striped, maroon and blue umbrella, and a scarf that is wrapped appropriately around her head.

She is María Estrada, a Mexican woman from Tloloapan, Guerrero. She works behind a simple fold-out table on which a cooler of homemade tamales is placed alongside two barrels of *atole*, a traditional Mexican hot drink.

To her customers - elderly men, working mothers, and weary-eyed factory workers among others - who wish to fulfill their appetites for a Mexican breakfast, there is no fussing over menu options. There is only one meal: tamales and *atole*.

Estrada has picked a convenient location for her business. The Northwest Side is home to a large group of Latinos. It also helps that the supermarket next door - *Supermercado La Villa* - attracts many customers. It truly is a village as the name suggests. Customers mingle and share conversations while grocery shopping or sipping down hot *atole*.

Despite the long days at work, Estrada recognizes the opportunity for success.

"My husband and I arrived in the United States about a year ago," Estrada said. "We chose to settle in Chicago because there were jobs here, more economic opportunities."

Estrada speaks in a low, soft voice. Her easy-going personality compliments her shyness and humble appearance.

"[Estrada] is different... She's a rather quiet person who keeps to herself. She will greet you from time to time... but it's rare when she talks," said Gisela Lagunas, 19, Estrada's cousin.

Every day, Estrada toils endlessly preparing countless tamales. She prays to return home empty handed, the mark of a successful day. Each morning, swarms of cars pull into the parking lot next to *Supermercado La Villa*. Drivers hop off and walk toward the baby-faced street vendor who depends on their business.

A regular customer approaches her with an up-beat morning welcome.

"Good morning! How are you today?" he said with a smile. And then asked, "How's business?" After negotiating a fixed price on account that he is a "good" and frequent customer, he is on his way again.

Estrada is all too familiar with making deals in life as a means of surviving.

For Estrada, the economic situation in her native country prompted her departure. She felt forced to leave her family, and decided to bargain for a better life in the United States.

Sacrifices such as this often revive in her a wistful yearning for the past, a longing to return home.

"My husband and I don't plan on staying," Estrada said. "We are waiting for the baby to be born... and our house to be constructed [in Mexico]."

But more than the financial reasons for immigrating, Estrada's physical disconnect with her native country troubles her. She feels detached from her culture and heritage. She longs for a taste of familiar dishes.

Before arriving in the United States, Estrada - then not yet of legal age - was a devoted student. The working was left to her parents, who own a convenience store in Mexico. Their age was an issue in their not making the trip with their daughter, who is one of eight children, the youngest being a year old.

Estrada's street business, nonetheless, brings much needed extra income. Her husband makes \$300 a week working at a lamp-manufacturing factory.

"I sell tamales 60 cents a piece and *atole* at \$1 or \$1.50 depending on the size [of the cup]," Estrada said, clutching a plastic bag with money, her personal cash register. "I make an average of \$30 a day, working from 3:30 in the morning to 12:30 in the afternoon, no matter the season."

Like many immigrants, Estrada faces challenges every day. She does not speak English. She struggles to pay bills, meet unexpected costs, and make rent for the small apartment she shares with her husband.

Yet Estrada's heart flickers with hope for progress and acceptance in U.S. society.

Having attended the pro-immigration rally last year that was heavily covered by the media, she senses the support of a united people.

We are a people with a good cause, she said. And as times change, she prays the present situation will too.

"My son will have a better and brighter future," Estrada said. "He won't have to drop out of school. He will have a career." ■

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"[Estrada] is different...She's a rather quiet person who keeps to herself. She will greet you from time to time...but it's rare when she talks."

Gisela Lagunas  
Estrada's cousin

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## SUPER-NANNIES FROM ABROAD



BY ASHLEY WILLIAMSON

There's a sophisticated maneuver needed to slide a double stroller with pint-sized arms jutted sideways through the gates of a park that is embedded in the age-old manuscript of "the Nanny".

The Nanny knows no fear and is known to self sacrifice limbs and clothing in the name of snot dripped noses or volcanic juice spills in order to satisfy the tiny life-force that represents monetary sustainability. The

Nanny is prepared, well-rounded and... an immigrant?

So it seems as I enter the playground world with a slobbering babe on hip and am greeted with foreign tongues. This collection of jungle gyms and metal slides becomes a meeting place for the Nanny's of Chicago, whom are overwhelmingly immigrants. As children wobble and dash about their feet, these ladies move about with rhythmic experience and talent brought with them from beyond American borders.

The small children they care for integrate words in languages other than English into their make-believe, assimilating basic words of another culture into their realm of understanding. I've heard the phrase "stop eating the sand" in Russian, Spanish and French. This is the Nanny culture and immigrants hold the majority.

The reason for these foreign Nannies could be that at the end of the week payments come in cash, therefore no tax reduction or paper trails. Or perhaps undocumented, Nannying means the avoidance of the background check needed for a job in the service industry. Nannying also only requires the experience of life, and these women are well-suited. Their knowledge of raising a human is doubled with the hardships of immigration and survival.

If immigrants are raising America's children, why is there still so much discrimination? Maybe people should think about the delicate lives in the hands of those whom they berate and build metal spiked walls against. Until then, I'll smile at the fact this multi-cultural playground has weaved it's way into the spongy mind of the 2-year-old I care for as I hand him his Cheddar Bunnies and he responds "Gracias."



Filipino immigrant, Carlito Enriquez, struggled to come to America. Now he wants to go back home, as he finds himself disillusioned with the American Dream.

His application for a tourist visa was turned down by the U.S. Embassy in Manila in 2001. He was denied twice the following year. But in 2003, he finally passed a grueling interview, this time for a fiancé visa, where his future wife petitioned to bring him to the United States.

It took Carlito Enriquez five years to get to the United States, but only two years to figure out he wants to go back.

Enriquez was born 43 years ago in Pampanga, Philippines. After securing a bachelor's degree in art at the East Central Colleges of San Fernando, Enriquez went on to become a police officer. Assigned with intelligence, he gathered information, conducted surveillance on drug trafficking, apprehended drug pushers and users of shabu (poor man's cocaine), a stimulant called methamphetamine hydrochloride.

He married Arlene Carlas in 1991 and was married for five years. Being a Catholic country, the Philippines has no divorce laws but allows legal separation (with the spouses unable to remarry) and annulment, which is rarely granted. Somehow, Enriquez obtained the nod of a civil court when he filed for annulment charging that his wife was "psychologically incapacitated and therefore unable to perform her duties as a wife."

In 1996 he met and fell in love with Anna Leila Bundalian. Three years later, she left for the United States because she didn't think they could ever get married. She was among the many people who didn't believe his previous marriage was annulled, since it happens so rarely.

"I had hoped that by going to the U.S., I'd eventually forget him," said Anna Enriquez, 38.

She didn't. When she visited the home country three years later, she came back to the United States already carrying Carlito Enriquez's child. Joining Anna in the United States then became Carlito's obsession. He applied in 2001 for a tourist visa and was denied. Armed with an invitation from the Illinois Cook County Sheriff for a seminar on law enforcement,

he applied again in 2002. The visa was denied again.

"The consul just scanned my papers briefly, then said I didn't qualify as a tourist," Carlito Enriquez recalled.

In a third interview, U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) wrote the embassy asking to look into his case again. That didn't work either.

Perplexed, Anna's boss, Orlando Bernardino, publisher-editor of the *Philippine Weekly*, who had secured the sheriff's invitation and the letter from Durbin, asked Anna to bring Carlito's legal separation papers. He discovered that Carlito's previous marriage truly was annulled. Anna was shocked. All this time, she had thought that Carlito was only separated.

She immediately filed for a fiancé visa for Carlito. His interview at the U.S. Embassy took about eight hours.

"It was done in an interrogation room with four armed personnel throwing questions, unlike in previous interviews which were conducted in interview booths," Enriquez said.

The fiancé visa was granted. In September 2004, Carlito arrived in Chicago and was met at O'Hare International Airport by Anna Enriquez and their son, Daniel, who was almost a year old at the time. Two years later, Anna gave birth to a daughter, Andrea. Carlito Enriquez now works at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles as a houseman supervisor in charge of building maintenance and setting up of exhibit events at the convention center. Married with children and financially stable in the United States sounds perfect. Not according to Enriquez.

"I'd rather go back to the Philippines rather than stay here. The lifestyle is so different. It's all work, work, work. It's all about money. Back in the home country, there's less pressure and family is everywhere to help," Enriquez said. They don't plan on returning for a while, though.

"It'll be easy for me," Carlito Enriquez said, "I'll be home with immediate family members and I can always go back to being a policeman." ■

# A UNIQUE VIEW ON AMERICA

BY BRENDAN O'SULLIVAN

It is an hour before the store opens and already there is a line of girls that stretches down Chicago Avenue and around the corner onto Michigan Avenue. Inside the American Girl Place Mahboubeh Motamen is preparing for another day of work.

Working at the American Girl Place, surrounded by young Americans in an environment that exalts in American ideals, would seem to be the perfect place to develop a love of Americans. Ironically, Motamen has become less than enchanted with America.

"They don't know much, they are not very educated. They cannot differ between Arab and Iranian. They look at everyone as terrorists, Muslims. The new generation is the same, they should take an extra step to learn more, but they can't see further than their own nose," Motamen said.

In America, everyone calls Motamen, 38, "Mary" because it is easier to pronounce than Mahboubeh. An Iranian by birth, Motamen came to the United States in 1978 because of the political unrest.



**Mahboubeh Motamen, a native of Iran, now works at the American Girl Place and still has many criticisms about the United States.**

Today the differences between Iran and America are prevalent. It is nearly impossible to watch TV and not know something about the problems between America and Iran. In 1978, though Iran was

in the middle of a social and political revolution.

Shah Pahveli, the king of Iran, was being forced out of power by an Islamic cleric, the Ayatollah Khomeini. The Shah had become unpopular in Iran because of his drive to westernize the county.

"Before the revolution, Iran was full of American culture," Motamen said.

In the decades following 1979, Iran has become a theocracy. American

culture has been driven out, and with it the understanding between the two countries.

"They are both wrong, they are ignorant, not open-minded. They do not know each other," Motamen said.

The tensions between the United States and Iran are not a big concern to Motamen; she believes that it is just politics. She does not believe that there is a chance a war will break out.

Her children do not know much about Iran. They have never been, and she never taught them to speak Persian. At the time when it would have been easy, it did not seem important.

Motamen's children are American, and at times that has presented her with problems. It is a struggle to understand them, to relate to them. She does her best to apply standards that she grew up with, but in another country, in another culture, it is hard.

In general, though Motamen has found the new generation of Americans to be as disappointing as the older one. As a person of Middle Eastern descent, she understands that there will be some people unwilling to accept her. However, to see it in the younger generation, well that just annoys her.

"They have no goals, no politics, they are oblivious to the world. They need to be more open-minded, the education system here sucks," she said.

Yet in a land that has not always been welcoming to her, Motamen has found her own place. Like most immigrants to America, Motamen has the work ethic that shaped the history of this country.

"I just moved to this department [Dress Like Your Doll] over the summer, and Mary really helped me out with the transition. She goes out of her way to learn everything and really know it, from the department to issues that affect us everyday. I have learned a lot from Mary," said Lisabet Castillo, 25, Motamen's boss at the store.

Motamen readily admits that she does not consider herself American. In fact, she believes most immigrants never consider themselves American, and that is probably why so many of them fail to learn English.

"The biggest difference between America and the rest of the world is the freedom that we enjoy," Motamen said. "Not the democracy, there are other countries more democratic, but the freedom to do whatever we want. It is a freedom that no one else has." ■

# Mother May I?



BY JANELLE MASCARENAS

**F**rustration. I can feel the constant nags and lectures resonating from my parents as their voices poke and jab all over my skin. They constantly interrogate me: "Where are you going? Who are you with?" My mind is littered with anxiety about school and the future, and I usually overlook these questions.

As the first in my family to attend college, I have great expectations to succeed and achieve all my goals. All throughout my academic career I have been active at school and an erudite student. I am a senior expecting to graduate in the spring of 2007 who attends Loyola University Chicago. I plan to pursue a career in radio or television broadcasting and take photojournalism on the side. Daughter of Benjamin Jr., 51, and Evangeline, 55, Mascarenas, I grew up in a strict and conservative Filipino household.

In comparison with my American friend's upbringing, the Asian values and mindsets can be worlds apart from the United States standards. Both of my parents were the first from their family to immigrate from the Philippines. There were times when my father and my mother forgot about the cultural differences, and this would lead to frustration and miscommunication.

My parents hindered me from going out leisurely with friends, because of fear that a kidnapper or a rapist would harm me. I would simply ask to spend time at my friend's house, and my mother would respond negatively.

"I don't want you to go out," said Evangeline Mascarenas. "Their brother might rape you."

In the Philippines, my mother and my father lived in a country filled with suspicion and traditional values. Robbers and vandals are a strong reality for them, and sometimes other people take for granted their security or position here in America.

Countering this belief, I actively participated in high school organizations and activities such as being a Thespian for Theatre Central at Naperville Central, member of the National Honor Society and the secretary for Rotary Interact to establish a social life. I believe developing great rapport with people is an important part of life.

With time and patience, my parents slowly began to understand the difference in cultures. Parents want to ensure a better and safe life for their children, especially when they came from an impoverished country.

Although my parents are overbearing and paranoid, I appreciate their love and support for my safety. I know I cannot hide from the world, and I need to take risks. A learning process for us all, I had to bridge the gap between my parent's teachings from their home country and the American culture.

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# Spanish language newspapers speak the write language to Chicago Hispanics



A sampling of Spanish-language publications.

BY MARTIN STEMPIAK

**K**athy Alcauter tries to split her attention equally between the Spanish and English speaking media, but what she reads in *Hoy*, a Spanish-language newspaper in Chicago, really speaks to her roots.

"I've moved more into that because it's more my culture. Everything feels really familiar to you," Alcauter, a 20-something cashier at Kay Jewelers in North Riverside Park Mall, said. "It tells you more about the Hispanic community and what's been happening in their neighborhoods."

Alcauter's family came to the United States from Michoacan, Mexico, but she was born and raised in Chicago. In her experience, she said that Spanish language television seems more about comedy and soap operas, which she believes has to do with the hard life immigrants live.

"Mexicans live in so much poverty, they need something to keep them positive," Alcauter said. She believes that same principle is applied to *Hoy*. "The paper has a more positive swing to the news, where the [Chicago] *Sun-Times* is all about shootings and the latest murder."

Alcauter is part of a growing number of Spanish speaking Americans that want to get their news in Spanish, rather than English. According to a 2002 Gallup Poll of media usage and consumer

behavior, 70 percent of the 1.6 million Hispanics in Chicago prefer to speak and read in Spanish, and 60 percent prefer viewing advertisements in Spanish. From 2000-2002, the buying power of Hispanics in Chicago increased 36 percent to \$17.3 billion.

Those numbers have translated to increases in the consumption of Spanish language newspapers; Illinois circulates over a dozen, including two dailies, *Hoy* and *El Mañana Daily News*, and six weeklies, *Acento*, *El Conquistador*, *El Imparcial*, *Extra Publications*, *La Raza*, and *Reflejos*, according to the Community Media Workshop, an organization run through Columbia College that encourages the Chicago media to tell the story of the “oft-neglected neighborhoods and back streets of Chicago.”

According to a *Hoy* media consumption study, released in September of last year, 70 percent of Hispanics read Spanish language newspapers occasionally or frequently. While large circulation English-language newspapers like the *Chicago Sun-Times* and the *Chicago Tribune* continue to see decreases in ad sales and readership, *Hoy*, which is published by Tribune Co.

and has editions in New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago, is continuing to grow. Daily readership for the three cities increased by 21, 27, and 39 percent, respectively, over the first six months of 2005. The tabloid currently boasts a composite average daily readership of 185,245 during weekdays and 473,864 for its weekend edition.

*La Raza* publishes six different editions covering North and South Chicago, Waukegan, Aurora, East of Chicago, and the western suburbs, including Berwyn and Cicero. The weekly paper, distributed on Friday and Saturdays, has a circulation of around 200,000 readers for each issue (170,000 door-to-door and the other 30,000 in boxes and select stores) according to Executive Editor Jorge Mederos. That’s more than *The Chicago Reader’s*, Chicago’s largest free weekly, 120,000. *El Mañana Daily News* circulates about 25,000 copies daily in Chicago. *Reflejos* (100,000), *Extra Publications* (72,000), and *El Imparcial* (20,000) also carry hefty circulation figures.

Mederos said *La Raza* saw an increase in circulation by 25,000 copies between 2005 and 2006, which might have some relation to the paper dropping its 50 cent charge for each copy. *La Raza* made the move to compete with other free publications like the *Chicago Tribune’s Hoy* and *Red Eye*.

*La Raza* has a special section in English to attempt to cater to second generation immigrants who speak English and “don’t necessarily care as much about Spanish text.”

“We’ve been increasing despite the crisis in other papers losing readership,” Mederos said. “In our case, we focus on local stuff—stories you don’t read in the [Chicago] *Tribune*—Latinos

never find the stories related to their community, unless it’s gangs or crimes or when something else bad happens...We’re always looking for ways to cater to them and cover the necessities of the community.”

Maraya Rodriguez is a homemaker in her 30s and lives downstate in Oakland. Her family came to the United States from Mexico and also prefers Spanish media because of its cultural aspect.

“The English channels don’t tell what’s going on in the Spanish neighborhood, so you don’t get to know what’s going on here with your own people,” Rodriguez said. “They all come out with news about black and whites. If you don’t watch the Spanish news you miss out with what’s going on in your own culture.”

Dr. Elizabeth Lozano is an associate professor of communication at Loyola University Chicago. She has a PhD in philosophy of communication and her areas of expertise are media and cultural studies. Lozano believes that Spanish-language news programs and newspapers are growing while their

English-speaking counterparts are shrinking for a specific reason.

“They [the Spanish speaking population] have more of a sense of pride and unity than before because of immigration issues,” Lozano said. “They’re finding that the Spanish speaking media really speaks to them and they have an angle on the news that is truer to them and they can really connect.”

Lozano said it also has to do with identity issues for Hispanics.

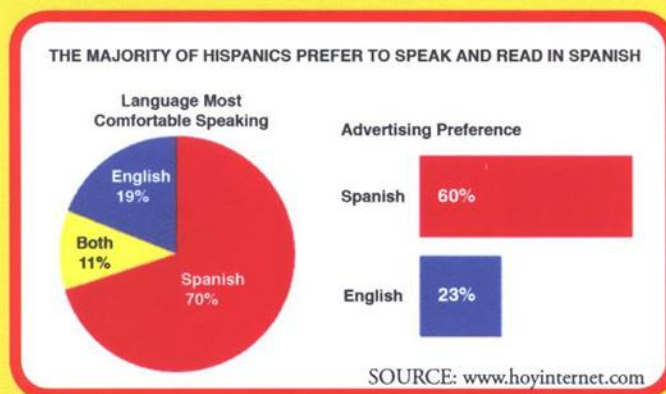
“They see Spanish as a fundamental aspect of their identity, not only because they speak Spanish, but because they like to be acknowledged,” Lozano said.

Julian Posada, general manager for Chicago *Hoy* and the head of advertising and sales for the paper, said a lot of science goes into creating a viable market for the *Hoy* in Chicago.

“We use census track data and Claritas to pinpoint data, and from there you have feet on the street tracking data and pinpointing numbers so our paper is able reach the targeted market,” Posada said. “We’re experiencing double digit growth in ad revenue...The Hispanic market in Chicago is pretty much becoming the general market...The growth is unbelievable.”

Lozano, also an immigrant, came to the United States from Colombia in 1993. She said she prefers to get her news in English.

“I’d rather see in English. I’d rather see [the news] how they see it,” Lozano said. “Basically, I’m seeing through the rhetoric. I believe the Spanish media are not critical enough. I believe in the future they’ll become more in depth and intellectually stimulating, but right now they’re just trying to be less threatening and reaching out to the lowest common denominator.” ■



# English as a Second Language Helps Students get Ahead

BY BRENDAN COLLINS

**A**ntonio Gonzalez received his General Equivalency Diploma in the spring of 2006.

This is somewhat remarkable considering that eight years ago, Gonzalez came to the United States from Mexico with very limited knowledge of the English language.

"When I came to Chicago, I didn't know much more than 'hi' and 'bye,'" he said.

In less than a decade, Gonzalez has become proficient enough in the language to pass high school level exams in English. He did this through hard work and taking advantage of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes offered by the Chicago Public Schools (CPS).

Gonzalez, 20, knows he owes much of his success to the ESL program.

"It is not only my GED," said Gonzalez. "My ESL classes have given me the ability to converse and get a better job."

Gonzalez now works as a bicycle messenger. This is a job he said he would not be able to do without the ability to communicate well.

The CPS has run ESL programs for the past 26 years, but as immigrant populations continue to grow, the programs have become more widespread and sophisticated.

One of the biggest steps CPS took in advancing the programs came in 1998 with the establishment of the "Chicago Public Schools ESL Teacher's Handbook," a standardized guide for the men and women who teach ESL.

Due to lack of early standardization, it is not known for sure how many students participated during the first years of the ESL program, but most estimates say the numbers were well below 10,000 students.

According to the "CPS ESL Teacher's Handbook," Gonzalez was one of an estimated 70,000 students in the Chicago Public Schools during the 2005-'06 school year, whose primary language was something other than English.

The 2006-'07 Chicago Public Schools Directory reports that just over 65,000 of these students are considered English Language Learners (ELL). Students are tested on their English listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. The ELL designation is given to students who are considered to be in need of basic instruction in English.

After identifying the students in need of help, the English as a Second Language program is then implemented in one of two ways.

The first format for the program is called transitional bilingual education (TBE). It is offered in schools that have 20 or more students who speak the same language, from the first day of classes onward.

In this model, the students' first language is used to provide instruction in the core curriculum to ensure that they do not fall behind the other students in their grade level, where there is a heavy concentration on learning English. The goal of this program is to help the student develop

academic skills in English within three years.

The second model, transitional program of instruction (TPI), is used in schools with 19 or fewer students with the same native language.

The TPI model stipulates that an approved ESL instructor teaches students in English. This is usually done as part of a pull out program where students from different language groups participate in the same ESL class based on their age and language levels.

Julia Ames is an instructor with Kaplan Educational Services who works mainly with students whose primary language is Spanish.

"The English which many foreign students are learning through the Chicago Public Schools has been a driving force in higher test scores for groups which have historically struggled with a language barrier in academic settings," Ames said.

Jolanta Czeszyk is one of the students whose scores have benefited from ESL course work.

Czeszyk, 17, is currently a senior enrolled in a gifted program for

Polish students within the Chicago Public Schools. However, she struggled with the English language after coming to the United States with her parents in 1999 at age 10.

"My ESL classes have helped me get good grades and do well on the SAT, and now I will be able to go to a university," Czeszyk said.

Czeszyk said going to college was more of a dream than a goal for her when she arrived in Chicago, but English classes are what made it a reality.

However, the goals of the program are not limited to academic settings. The "ESL Teacher's Handbook" identifies three main objectives for the program.

As expected, the first of these objectives is for students to use English to achieve success in all academic areas and settings.

The second and third objectives have a broader scope, which hope to help students in the real world. These goals are "to use English for all social and personal purposes" and "to tailor the English language for various and specific purposes."

Joanne Collins is the curriculum coordinator for Greeley School in the Lakeview Neighborhood.

"The goals of our curriculum, within the Chicago Public Schools, are to educate and prepare students for what they will encounter once they graduate. So it is important for us to emphasize the real world applications of our English program," Collins said.

Gonzalez believes the emphasis on tailoring lessons to the students' social needs has been very helpful. He said rather than focusing on proper English, the program teaches students how to communicate in modern English.

"I think people respect me now because I can have conversations, and that makes me confident," Gonzalez said. "Without the ESL classes I do not think I would be doing as well as I am now." ■

*"My ESL classes have helped me get good grades and do well on the SAT, and now I will be able to go to a university."*

**Jolanta Czeszyk**  
*ESL student*



A teacher helps young students learn the English language through an ESL course and classroom participation.

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# the saint WHO CAME OVER THE BORDER

BY DESIRÉE VELASQUEZ

Sweet and inviting smells waft up and down Chicago's 18th Street, which is dotted with large-windowed bakeries whose signs read "panaderia."

Building walls are covered with colorfully painted murals, interrupted only by the occasional window or advertisement written in Spanish.

Chicagoans call this lively neighborhood Pilsen and many Latino immigrants call this place home.

Among these immigrants is a gray-haired woman with sun-baked skin named Micaela Ibarra Barajas who is known by friends simply as "Miquita," which rhymes with chiquita or small. Miquita, 77, looks out to the world through penetrating eyes that tell a story bigger than her petite stature conveys.

Her story begins in 1929 in the Mexican coastal state of Michoacán, where she was born and raised along with her four siblings. She describes her youth as being that typical of a country person.

"I never went to school but I was taught by my parents to live a life of faith, a Christian life," Miquita said. "Despite the hour walk from our house to church, we went to church every Sunday."

After nearly three years of courting, Miquita married the love of her life, Nicolás Tinoco, in 1951. Seven years later, her husband suffered a stroke, leaving her widowed and the mother of three by the age of 29. Shortly after her husband's death, Miquita moved from the countryside to Morelia – the capital of Michoacán – where she washed and ironed clothes for a living until she moved to Mexico City in 1968. It was there where she found work as a *ñanny* to five children whose parents had made their way into the United States and asked her to follow.

A long and uncomfortable bus ride took her and her children from Mexico City to Juarez where she trudged across the Rio Grande in 1973. Once across, she paid \$400 for a coyote – a mercenary whose contraband is human beings – to transport her and her family to Chicago to start a new chapter of their lives.

"I felt so much fear throughout the entire trip," Miquita said. "I'm literally a *mojada* [wetback]."

Once here in Chicago, Miquita applied for a U.S. Social Security number and received it three weeks later. Soon afterwards, Miquita was hired at a plastics factory where she worked for six years before returning to Mexico to care for her dying father.

Miquita returned in 1985 after being granted residency and quickly began working at St. Procopius Catholic Church, where she worked with a program offering social services to elderly people before becoming a full-time volunteer.

"I have lived some of the most beautiful experiences of my life [through volunteer work]," said Miquita, who describes her work as both spiritually and morally nourishing.

Although she does not speak English, she manages to work with numerous people who come through the parish, such as students who come to work as volunteers.

"I met Miquita through an alternative break immersion trip," said Loyola University Chicago student Erika Gutierrez, 21. "Al-



Miquita listens to a St. Procopius Church street mass in Pilsen." (photo courtesy of St. Procopius Church)

though most of the students could not understand her words, they quickly understood and felt the love in her heart."

The Rev. Jim Collins, a priest at St. Procopius Church, describes Miquita through words spoken by Mother Theresa – who once visited the church in 1986 – "In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love."

"She's like a worker ant. She might not be the [physically] strongest person, but she gets a lot done," Collins said. "She's absolutely as wonderful and great as she seems to be, an absolute saint. A saint that came in illegally."

Many like Collins compare Miquita to a saint and others just as easily compare her smiles and hugs to the sweet and warm *conchas* (sweet bread) displayed in the windows of 18th Street's panaderias.

"I really like the service that I do. It gives me the opportunity to work with people from different places, and that gives me life," Miquita said. "I feel blessed. I don't know how to pay back all that I've received." ■

# SINGLE MOTHER TRANSGRESSES CULTURAL BOUNDARIES TO CREATE HOPE FOR A COMMUNITY

BY ERIN JOHNSON

Tucked away among the shops, restaurants, and groceries in the "Little India" strip of Devon Avenue in Chicago is a modest storefront.

The small sign in the front window at 6401 N. Artesian Ave. reads: ZAM's Hope Community Resource Center and exhibits a laundry list of services offered.

Inside, away from the bustling traffic, the founder and president of ZAM's Hope, Zehra Quadri, beams as she explains an after school program to a woman in a saffron colored dress and African headscarf who listens intently with her two young girls on her lap.



Zehra Quadri hopes to empower her community and her daughters

She takes a minute to check on the progress of an elder gentleman who has been writing out the letters of the alphabet on notebook paper. "It is hard because I do not speak his language," said Quadri, 35, a native of India. "But we are communicating."

Through the exercises she assigns he will learn enough English to get by.

Quadri gravitates back toward the woman and her two children. As she gathers their paperwork, she talks softly to the young girls and reassures the mother that the girls will be taken care of at the after school program.

Multi-tasking comes easily to Quadri. She is a single mother with a full-time job as a civil manager for Cook County, and spends every spare moment she has at ZAM's Hope, the community center that she founded in West Rogers Park along with her two young daughters.

Following an unpleasant divorce, Quadri found herself working two jobs, often going for days without food in order to support her daughters. After being turned away from two different organizations, Quadri decided to start her own organization to show the community

what "community" is all about.

"I don't turn anyone away," said Quadri.

The taboo nature of divorce and the traditional emphasis placed on the family serve as obstacles for many women stuck in unhappy marriages in the South Asian community.

Overcoming the social stigma of divorce was not the only obstacle she faced. "I didn't see much support at first," Quadri recalled. "People were thinking that I was crazy. They hid their problems and issues... being a woman, it was especially hard to get the community to listen."

Pervaiz Usman, owner of two local dress shops, donates clothes and money to ZAM's Hope. He remembers the initial suspicion that the community had for the nascent organization.

"Once I saw that she was helping the right people, I began to trust her," Usman said.

Gradually, the rest of the business community overcame their initial hesitation and came to embrace Quadri and her program.

Quadri remembers the shame and isolation she felt as she worked through the emotional and physical hardships of being alone and struggling to make it with her two young daughters.

"She renounces self-pity and embraces hope," Deepali Doddi, 21, a ZAM's Hope volunteer and Northwestern University student, said.

ZAM's Hope Community Resource Center is the manifestation of the family's dream that other people will be able to find help where they did not.

Quadri's daughter, Aisha, 18, a freshmen biology student at Loyola University Chicago, relates how she thought of the name ZAM's Hope when she was only 6 years old.

"The letters stand for Zehra, Aisha, and Maryam (Quadri's 13-year-old daughter)," said Aisha. "I thought about how we were all going through it together. It symbolizes our hope to be able to help others in the community who are in need." ■



Children's artwork is displayed on the wall at ZAM's Hope

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# Latin American Immigrants Support Their Families Back Home

*Sending money back home can help country flourish*

BY KATE KLOSOWSKI

Hugo Arebalo stands outside Ruth's Chris Steak House on a chilly October afternoon waiting to valet someone's car. Arebalo, 32, moved to Chicago from Ecuador in 2001 hoping to make more money and have a better life.

"(In Ecuador) You pay rent and food and that's it. You don't make more money than that," said Arebalo.

Arebalo works for Reliable Valet Parking Inc. five days a week, sometimes working 13-hour shifts. He sends most of the money he makes to his family in Ecuador in order to help them out and pay for the house he bought there. Arebalo has been sending money back home since he moved to Chicago.

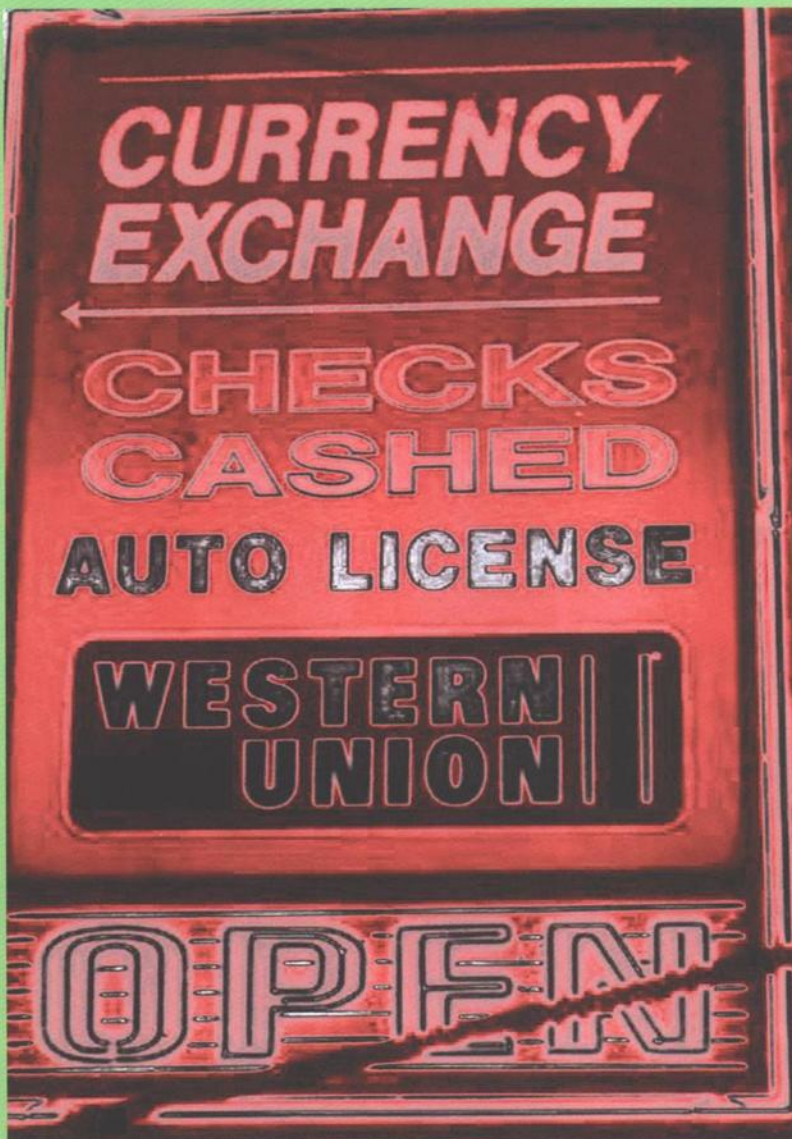
"In the beginning, I would send almost my whole check, I just keep money for food and rent," he said.

Arebalo hopes that in a few years he will have saved enough money to be able to move back to Ecuador.

"I would like to stay here but I can't you know my whole family is there," he said. "You can't stay here living alone."

Arebalo is a part of the growing population of Latin American immigrants in the United States, particularly in Illinois, who send money back to their homelands. Many of these immigrants move to the United States in hopes of making more money and helping their families back in their homeland have a better life. These immigrants come from impoverished countries where it is difficult to make a lot of money. They move to the United States where there are more opportunities.

Nineteen percent of Latin American immigrants in Illinois send money to their homeland, according to the Miami based



consulting firm Bendixen and Associates. The amount of money Latin American immigrants in Illinois will send to their homeland increased 69 percent in 2004. This year they sent \$2.6 billion. Nationwide, Latin American immigrants will send \$45 billion, which is 51 percent more than in 2004.

Latin Americans are not the only immigrants that come to the United States and send money back home. In 2006, it is estimated that Cubans will send about \$1 billion home, the Chinese will send \$500 million, and the Filipinos will send \$11 billion. All of these numbers are part of the over \$232 billion that will be sent worldwide. Money-transfer companies such as Western Union are what the majority of immigrants use to send money back home.

Blanca Montanez, a former employee of a currency exchange in Joliet, has experience with immigrants coming in and sending money back home. She said that at the currency exchange she worked at, most people who sent money sent it to Mexico and the Dominican Republic. She also said the average amount of money sent was between \$1,200 and \$3,000.

The person must show a government-issued ID, a social security card, and tell his occupation in order to be able to send money.

"It seemed people lied a lot in order to be able to send money," Montanez said. "They would come in with someone else and put the money order in the other person's name because they were not a legal citizen."

Those who send money have to pay a fee depending on the amount of the money order. It costs \$16 to send \$100 to Mexico, \$44 to send \$500, and \$79.99 to send \$1,000, according to Western Union.

"A lot more immigrants are coming to the U.S. to make money

and send it back. They have it in their head they will come here and make a lot of money," Montanez said.

Manuel Antonio Santiago moved to Chicago from Puerto Rico 28 years ago, hoping to help his family and make more money.

"The reason I came here is the same reason that the majority of the people from foreign countries come. They come to help themselves, maybe look for a better future, make money," Santiago said.

Santiago, 50, grew up on his family's plantation where they grew tobacco, bananas, and coffee. He moved to Chicago in 1978. Most of his family still lives in Puerto Rico.

Santiago has been the doorman at an apartment building in Chicago for 26 years. He has been sending money back to his family in Puerto Rico since he moved here.

"Sending money back home is something that I have done since the beginning. It's something I continue to do," Santiago said.

Santiago sends money back to his mother on a monthly basis, usually sending about \$100 per month but sends more on special occasions such as Mother's Day and Christmas. He is also helping to pay for college for his niece in Puerto Rico.

"She's about to graduate. This is her fifth year of college and I've been helping her," Santiago explained.

Although Santiago does plan on moving back to Puerto Rico one day, right now he is content with working here and sending money

back home, particularly to his mother.

"I help my mother even though she never asked for it," said Santiago. "That's something I'm doing on my own, in gratitude to her." ■

## LIVING IN LATIN AMERICA:

■ Experts hope the money sent to Latin America, from family in the U.S. will spur the diminishing economy

■ According to the World Bank, one in four people in Latin America earn less than \$2 per day

■ If the poverty level remains this low, Latin America will not be able to compete with more thriving world industries

## RADIO PROGRAM DELIVERS IMMIGRATION ISSUES TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH BROADCAST

BY KELLY ARNET

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights is a Chicago-based agency that specializes in educating and organizing its members to assert their rights as citizens, as well as promoting immigrants to become full American citizens.

The coalition differs greatly from other immigrant advocacy organizations in that it is an organization comprised of just fewer than 70 members that help facilitate immigration reform.

"We are a statewide advocacy agency that also works on local and federal immigration issues," Lawrence Benito, assistant director of the

coalition said. "We reach a lot of different people because of that."

One way the coalition's goal is achieved is through a radio broadcast on station WNTD 950 AM that airs from 10 a.m. – noon every Wednesday. The program discusses in-depth immigration issues such as immigration relief ordinances and election commissions.

"Our radio program is there to reach out to those who may not have heard about us," Benito said. "Our members rely on us to assemble organizations to fight on issues they care about, and through this radio program, we can get a feel for what those issues are." ■

# *A PIECE OF POLAND IN AMERICA*

Immigrant Owned Business Creates Community in Suburb

By PATRYCJA MALINOWSKA



Janina Grzyb runs Helen's Polish Deli in Wood Dale.

The shelves in the candy isle of Helen's Polish Deli are piled high with Krowki, Michalki, Fantazja, Solidarnosc, Mieszko, Wawel and other Polish sweets.

Polish tea, pop, pasta, spreads, butter, herbs, coffee, medicines, beauty products and even popular magazines fill the rest of the store.

All of these, like most merchandise found inside, are imported straight from Poland to the shelves of this small building, barely half the size of a 7-Eleven, located in suburban Wood Dale.

The rest of the goods are produced in the store's kitchen area by its employees, all of whom are Polish. The selection ranges from baked goods such as a makowiec, or poppy seed cake, to entrees like pierogi, a Polish staple of filled dough, and naleśniki, crepes layered with cheese.

The store's best product is rumored to be the biala kielbasa, or white sausage, a statement confirmed by the owner herself. This person is not Helen, as the name Helen's Deli suggests, but Janina Grzyb. Helena Podczerwinski opened the store in 1979, but she sold it to Grzyb and her sister, Krystyna Muszynski, in 1995 when she retired.

Although born in Poland, Grzyb, 55, has lived in the United States since before the original opening of Helen's Deli. She immigrated here in 1974, at the age of 23, to reunite with her parents, Jozef and Antonina Siata, who had already arrived years ago.

"I wanted to come here to see how it was," Grzyb said.

Yet the event was bittersweet; Grzyb was forced to leave her sweetheart behind in Poland. She couldn't marry him, because as a married woman, it would have been nearly impossible for her parents to obtain a Visa for her and bring her to the United States.

Yet Grzyb, a hard-working and determined individual, barely acknowledges the event with a shrug.

"To be honest, I just wanted to make enough money to buy a Fiat," she said.

In Polish, she explained how she kept busy working from her aunt's home as a seamstress. When Helen's Polish Deli opened, she started working there as well. The time passed quickly, and eventually she was able to return to Poland and get married.

"I didn't see adequate living conditions in Poland," Grzyb said. "There weren't many work opportunities."

She quickly decided to return to the United States with her husband.

"Especially since we had the opportunity to come here, why pass it up?" she said.

Even though Grzyb started a regular factory job, she continued working at Helen's Deli on the weekends for seven more years.

"It was a lot of work," she said. "We were constantly saving."

She gave up the employment at Helen's Deli only after she had her second daughter and could no longer find the time for a second job. At this point a seasoned employee, Grzyb knew all the ins and outs of running the deli.

"I already had the whole store contained in one little finger," she said, using a common Polish saying.

Even though she was no longer an employee, Grzyb kept in touch with her employer and it was no surprise when she was contacted after Helena Podczerwinski decided to sell the store.

Grzyb's sister, Muszynski, had also previously worked in the store, although only as extra help during the busy holiday seasons.

"We deliberated for a long time," Grzyb remembers. Eventually, the two decided to accept the offer and take over the ownership and

management duties of Helen's Polish Deli.

Today, Grzyb lives only five minutes away from the store. Her two daughters both work at Helen's Deli. Laura Gobetz, 29, has been married for four years and has a child. Gobetz is a manager at the store, working both on the floor and in the office. Anna Grzyb, 26, graduated from DeVry University in Addison in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in accounting and administration. She holds a managerial position at Office Max and helps out at her mom's store occasionally.

"I think that if children grow up here they should finish school and get a degree," Grzyb said. "This will give them a better life."

Muszynski, 53, has three sons, of which two help out in the store. Tomasz Muszynski, 29, graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1999; currently he is employed in Elk Grove Village as a chemical engineer. Pawel Muszynski, 25, works as a building and structure foreman for a local phone line company. Krzysiu Muszynski, 15, was born with Down syndrome and is currently in his first year at Fenton Community High School in Bensenville.

There is more than enough work to go around for everyone. In a typical workday, Grzyb comes in early and checks the store. She stocks the shelves and orders the necessary products throughout the day. She even helps out at the register during the busiest times, usually on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays after church.

"Whether the work is clean or dirty, it has to be done," Grzyb said.

Sometimes everyone has gone home and she is still at the store busy with something like cleaning the refrigerators.

This practical attitude is appreciated by her customers. "[The business] is well taken care of," said Ula Cwierkowik, 43. "The products are fresh and the store is clean."

Grzyb sees her customers and staff as a second family.

"We keep in touch with workers who leave," she said. "And they come back to help out during the holidays."

Between her husband, children and grandchild, her sister's family, and the store, Grzyb does not miss Poland at all.

"At this moment, if my mom wasn't there, I would never go back," she said without hesitation.

After becoming a widow 15 years ago, Grzyb's mother returned to Poland. Grzyb and her sister alternate visiting their mom every year, yet their home is here in the Polish community they have created for themselves amidst an American suburbia.

"Now, we're settled here," she said. "To be honest, I've spent a lot more time here than in Poland."

The decision to buy the store was one that Grzyb will never regret.

"I love being around Polish people," she said after pausing to greet a regular customer. "It's the best part of the job." ■



Customers wait their turn at Helen's Polish Deli in suburban Wood Dale.

# FILIPINO OWNER KEEPS A FAMILY TRADITION ALIVE

BY JANELLE MASCARENAS

The constant rhythm of beeps fills the air, signifying that business is good as a line of customers await service. The building stands proud amongst its neighboring stores, telling a story of achievement and escape from turmoil. The owner of the establishment carries out a family tradition despite the continental divide from his homeland.

Serving people anything from fresh market products, travel services, and cargo necessities, owners Chito Bumanlag, 50, along with his wife Josephine, 49, cater to their customer's needs at Jofen Oriental and Fresh Market in Bolingbrook.

Bumanlag continues to strive for improvement and checks out new ventures for his business. This derives from his influential background. Accustomed to a business oriented family, Chito Bumanlag lives for competition and success. His family owns a rice mill in Nueva Ecija,

Philippines.

"At the dinner table, everybody is talking about business in my family," Bumanlag said.

The third youngest out of eight other siblings, each have their own business in the Philippines.

"Competing with one another was tough because each of my siblings opened stores in the same neighborhood where one store was behind our house and another store would be right next door to where we lived," Bumanlag said. "The better business was the winner."

Before running a business in America, Bumanlag first opened a store in his hometown. Political instability aroused rebellion and forced him to flee the country.

President Ferdinand Marcos in 1972 imposed martial law, and his



Josephine Bumanlag is co-owner of Jofen Oriental and Fresh Market in Bolingbrook.



later years in power were noted for rampant government corruption and economic stagnation.

"Life in the Philippines was getting tough to have a business there. I was scared about my life," Bumanlag said.

Tired with all the political dishonesty, Filipinos wanted to overthrow the Marcos government. A revolution occurred where discontentment and uprising increased. Chicago customer Luz Blaquera, 60, lived in the Philippines during the 1970s and experienced the unrest.

"People started to leave the country because they were more restless," Blaquera said. "There were riots here and there and a growing amount of fear in the country."

Leaving Nueva Ecija, Bumanlag searched for a better way of living. His wife Josephine played a significant role in his life and made Bumanlag a better man. He named the store after her college nickname, Jofen.

"I wanted to stay [in America] because all of my family is here," Josephine Bumanlag said.

Able to balance work and his personal life, Bumanlag understands the importance of family values. Owning a house in Bolingbrook, Bumanlag has two children, a daughter Cheryl, 23, studying at the International Academy of Design & Technology in Chicago and a son Carlo Jay, 17, attending Plainfield high school.

"When we are in the store, we talk about business. When we leave the store, we talk about home. We never talk about business in the house," Bumanlag said.

Jofen Oriental and Fresh Market represent the strength for new beginnings, the strength of a family and the ability to persevere.

"When I came here, I changed everything and left all that bad stuff in the Philippines," Bumanlag said. ■

## Students Break Outside of Bubble



BY DEVON MCANANY

I've always considered myself a lucky individual. I have a loving and supportive family. I have formed really wonderful friendships throughout my life. I have had amazing opportunities. I thought I took the time to be grateful, but now I see that I was mistaken in my rush to be happy. I, like so many individuals, took things for granted.

In the past few months I have encountered many individuals who have shown me what it means to truly appreciate life. As immigrants or children of immigrants, these people have encountered tremendous change and adjusted beautifully. Hearing their stories, I learned what it means to "move to America." This is more than just a change of scenery. It's a change of daily life.

I have walked down streets comfortable in my own "bubble," unaware of all the fascinating things around me. I have lived in Chicago for almost four years and I admit: I have rarely taken time to try something "new."

Perhaps it's an affliction of those who feel fortunate—there is a kind of comfort present which allows us to shy away from something out of the ordinary in favor of what is "safe." The truth is playing it safe hinders the expansion of our limitless boundaries as intelligent beings. We have so much to gain from each other. Why should it take a move from another country to see this?

Like these immigrant parents, one day I hope to be the kind of mother who is willing to sacrifice my own happiness in order to make a better future for my children. Like these immigrant children, one day I hope to be the kind of person who views every new opportunity as the chance to gain greater insight about the world around me.

*Congratulations to our fellow student journalists  
on the publication of Mosaic Magazine.*

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## IMMIGRANTS IN THE WORKPLACE PUT LIVES ON THE LINE

### ***IMMIGRANTS' LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN THE WORK PLACE IS HOMICIDE***

BY HOLLY HARNISCH

**A**s Larry Oshodi makes his rounds throughout Chicago late on Thursday night, he does not know what to expect. He never does.

Oshodi, 39, has been a cab driver for Yellow Cab for the past nine years. An immigrant from Nigeria, Oshodi has been living and working in Chicago for the past 12 years.

A Korean immigrant cashier at a Gold Coast White Hen counts his register as he ends his shift. Throughout his evening he has encountered homeless beggars and drunken men and women, his typical clientele.

What draws these two workers together is not their status as immigrants but their increased security risk at their places of work. Often, the choice to work in these positions is one of life and death.

Studies show that the number one cause of death in the work place for foreign-born workers is homicide. A recent analysis by the *Chicago Tribune* indicates that in 2005, 188 immigrants were murdered on the job in Chicago. This number accounts for more than one third of

the 564 homicides that occurred in the workplace.

While the rate of fatality in the workplace has dropped from 2004 to 2005, from 5,764 to 5,704 in the United States, the number of immigrants killed in the workplace has drastically increased. From 1992 to 2005, almost half of the workers killed in the work place were Mexican or Latino-Born citizens.

What causes the high rate of immigrants murdered in the workplace? Many of the most dangerous jobs are done by immigrants. Most immigrants murdered on the job were employed as cab drivers, gas station and grocery store cashiers. These jobs, often found undesirable by others, have low pay and are much more easily obtained by immigrants. These jobs are also much higher risk, as they require employees to be alone with money and deal with one-on-one contact with the public.

Where does the problem lie? Rosemary Sokas, a Professor at the University of Chicago's School of Environmental and Occupational Health Services and former researcher at the U.S. Occupational Safety

**continued on page 34**



and Health Administration, said that with immigrants in the positions, these major problems are “flying under the radar”.

“This is a very important issue which needs to be further explored. All of these horrible things have happened. Taxi drivers are a big issue, its assault,” she said.

As many of these high risk employees are illegal immigrants, they speak little English, have little education and are grateful for these jobs, despite the danger involved. There is little protection for illegal immigrants as their employment is rarely recorded or reported to the state. Thus, little is being done.

The problem of workplace homicide for immigrants is that while there are simple measures that can be taken to prevent such incidents, employers and local governments focus their efforts on preventing fatalities caused in factories of large corporations.

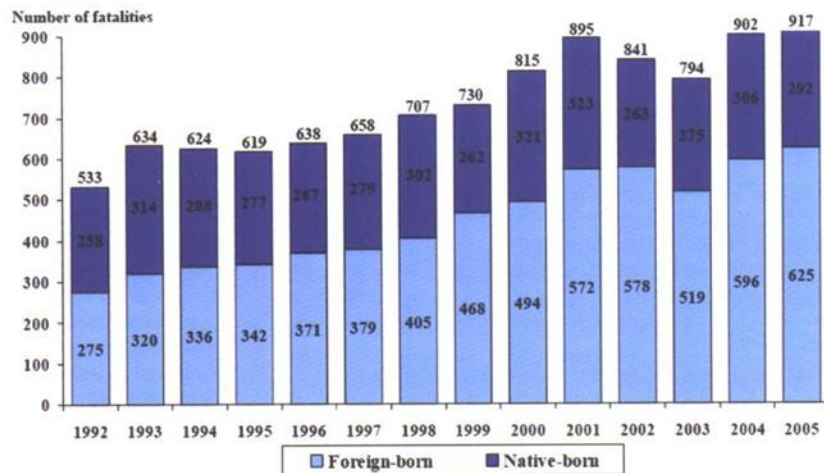
To fix these issues and prevent this statistic from rising, some Chicago cab companies are installing protective bullet proof shields to prevent attacks on cab drivers. Late night cashiers have the safety of surveillance cameras which, in times of robbery, do little to protect the employee against immediate bodily harm.

One of the most recent murders of an immigrant worker made Chicago headlines in 2005. Haroon Paryani, a Chicago cab driver, was brutally murdered by an Illinois state health employee, Michael Jackson. The night of Paryani’s murder, it is believed that Jackson argued with Paryani, battered him and proceeded to run him over with Paryani’s own taxi three times. Jackson was recently convicted of Paryani’s murder and given a 15 year prison sentence.

For Oshodi, any Thursday night driving around in his taxi can prove to be a deadly one. Oshodi understands the high risk of his job but has no other options for the time being. Leaving his mother and brothers in Nigeria, Oshodi uses the money he makes to support them and to gain an education for himself, hoping one day to quit his job as a taxi driver and work in business.

“I am lucky,” Oshodi said. “I drove a man to the South Side, and he pulled a gun on me, demanding money. I didn’t have much, I told him, and thankfully he got out of my taxi and ran off.” ■

**Number of fatal work injuries involving Hispanic or Latino workers, 1992-2005**



SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2005.

# Hard Work and Ambition *Produce Unlikely Scholar*

BY BRENDAN COLLINS

Salvador Pelayo's high school guidance counselor told him his best choices for the future of his education were the City Colleges of Chicago.

Luckily, Pelayo did not agree with her assessment. He told her he was thinking more along the lines of Princeton or Harvard. She responded that this would be nothing more than a pipedream because of his background.

Pelayo, 19, is the only son of hard working Mexican immigrants. He was raised in a low-income household on the North Side of Chicago, and is a product of the Chicago Public Schools.

Also, he was at the top of his high school class, and participated in a number of extracurricular activities.

While Pelayo knew he was not the average applicant to an Ivy League School, he was willing to take his chances. He researched his options, filled out applications for aid, and in the fall of 2004 was accepted to Harvard University with a full scholarship. He is on his way to graduating in 2009 with a history degree.

"It is amazing how many opportunities there are out there for people like myself," said Pelayo.

Pelayo's experience has pushed him to inform others of these opportunities. He has spoken to a number of groups about the opportunities for underprivileged students, especially those of Hispanic heritage.

Joanne Collins taught Pelayo at Greeley Elementary School in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood and was instrumental in bringing him back to speak to her students.

"Salvador is a great role model for our students," Collins said. "Most of our kids come from households where college is not considered a possibility, especially a school like Harvard. To see that he came from where they are now means a lot for these kids. It gives them hope."

Pelayo said he is honored to be considered an inspiration to others. However, he wishes to see others act on the opportunities that are available.

"I like to show kids that it is possible," Pelayo said. "Schools are trying to become more diverse. Many universities will help students who do not fit the stereotypes take advantage of the opportunity."

Pelayo said the value of hard work, which was instilled in him by his parents, is what has helped him reach the level of academic success he now enjoys.

Through Pelayo's translation his mother conveyed how proud his parents are of him.

"She says they would be proud of me no matter what I did as long as I worked hard. But what makes them happiest is that I have never been satisfied. I have used each opportunity to

create more opportunities," Pelayo said.

To say that Pelayo has maximized his opportunities in life is an understatement. He is currently promoting diversity at Harvard by expanding Hispanic groups and working to recruit minority students.

Through his recruitment efforts for Harvard he has traveled throughout the United States, and even to Spain and France, but maintains that Chicago will always be his home.

No matter where Salvador Pelayo goes next in life, one thing is certain, his ambition and refusal to settle for what is expected will continue to allow him to shine. ■



Salvador Pelayo (left), pictured with Brandi Pitti (right), is active in many ethnic groups at Harvard University, including Mexican folkloric dance.



# Irish Immigrant Overcomes Poverty

BY KATE KLOSOWSKI

**W**hen Jerry Kelly wants something done around the house he doesn't call a carpenter or a professional, he does it himself.

"We put in the patio and redid the deck. We installed these French doors in the dining room, they used to be really ugly windows," said Nancy Kelly, Jerry's wife of 31 years.

It was out of this hobby of home improvement that the Kellys had the idea to start their own business, Kelly's Home Maintenance & Repair.

"It took us a long time to think to do this. I think it was when we were putting in the French doors and we were like we could do this for other people. Why don't we do that so we put an ad in the paper," Nancy Kelly said.

Growing up poor in a three bedroom house in Sligo, Ireland, Jerry Kelly, 53, was one of 15 children and the son of a laborer and stay-at-home mother. Since there were so many in his family, he began working full time at age 14 at a body and fender repair shop while continuing to go to trade school at night.

"Back then, I would make \$3 a week and give my mother \$2 and save the other dollar," Kelly said.

Because of the extreme poverty and lack of opportunities in Ireland, at age 18, Kelly, like so many of the Irish immigrants at the time, decided to move to the United States.

"Ireland's biggest export was people with suitcases," he said.

Kelly moved in with his older sister on the West Side of Chicago. He worked at a variety of different companies in the maintenance departments. He met his wife in 1974 and they

married a year later. They went on to have three boys, the twins Sean and David, both 27 and Tom, 23. The family eventually moved to Wayne, Ill. where they live today.

At each company where Kelly was employed, he always worked his way up to a higher position. At one company where he worked for more than 20 years, Kelly started out as a mechanic and worked his way up to maintenance manager. Kelly continued to go to school at night and earned his G.E.D. and attended classes at the local community colleges.

The Kellys have only been back to Ireland a few times to visit and would never consider moving back. "There's no going back for me," he said.

"It's not the Ireland he left, it would be harder to go back I think," Nancy Kelly said. "We're Americanized."

Today, the only thing from his Irish roots that has really stuck with Kelly is his hard work ethic.

"My dad's very hard working. Nothing ever does not get done no matter how hard it is he finds a way to get it done," said his son Tom.

The result of that hard work ethic is their company, which they've had for a year. "It gives me a lot of freedom. I work when I wanna work and don't work when I don't want," Kelly said.

Kelly has no regrets moving to Chicago.

"It was a great decision," he said. "And life's been good ever since." ■

# POLISH MAN ESCAPES COMMUNISM

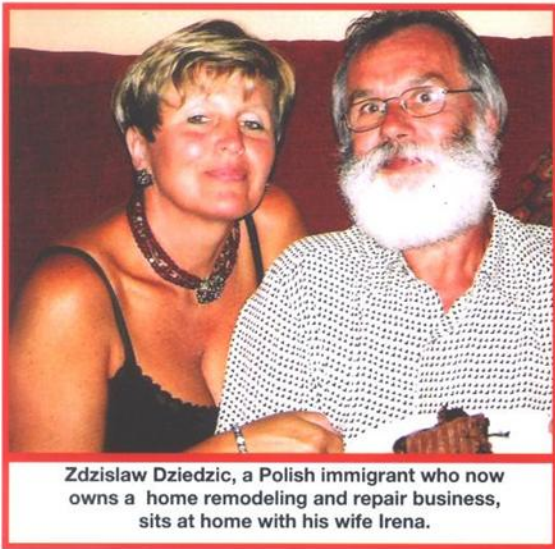
BY HOLLY HARNISH

**A**s the story goes: Hardworking European escapes persecution in Europe and makes his way to America with a dollar in his pocket only to thrive and become successful.

This idea of determination and hard work is not a thing of the past. Local Chicagoan and Polish Immigrant Zdzislaw Dziedzic is truly living the American Dream.

Zdzislaw Dziedzic, 61, was born in Lwów Poland in 1945. The young Dziedzic was a very active Polish citizen, a member of the Polish National Soccer team in 1952 and the graduate of a Polish trade school.

"I loved Poland. It was my home," Dziedzic said.



**Zdzislaw Dziedzic, a Polish immigrant who now owns a home remodeling and repair business, sits at home with his wife Irena.**

But life as Dziedzic knew it quickly began to change. With the end of World War II, Poland was separated, borders were changed, and Communism began to rule much of Eastern Europe, including Poland.

Dziedzic was 20 when he met and married his first wife. Soon after, his wife became pregnant. After his time in trade school, Dziedzic began to prosper in a job as a coal mining engineer. With the Communist Party making restrictions on the job opportunities in Poland, Dziedzic had to work hard to make ends meet for his new family.

"I never joined the Communist Party. You never get a promotion if you didn't join the party," a tearful Dziedzic said. "I could never take care of my family with the money I made as a coal mining engineer. I would have made more money had I joined the party, but I just couldn't do it."

As his brother Kristof made his way to Chicago, Dziedzic saw the opportunities available to him in America. "My brother was here, I wanna go," Dziedzic said.

After being invited to America by a U.S. citizen, Dziedzic was

allowed to leave Poland temporarily to visit America.

"I love this country, I want to stay," Dziedzic said.

But the process of escaping Communism was not an easy task for Dziedzic or his family. To save himself and his family from persecution, Dziedzic had to leave the country legally.

"I knew what would happen to my family if I left illegally, I could not leave them to be punished," he said.

Dziedzic began taking the necessary steps to leave Poland permanently. "You had to know someone in the police department to get a passport, you had to bribe them," he said.

And so Dziedzic did, but it wasn't until 1974 that he was allowed to leave Poland to live and work in America. His wife, Dorota and children, Ralph and Nina, were not as fortunate. As Dziedzic embarked on his adventure to America, his family was forced to remain in Poland.

After leaving Poland, Dziedzic found odd jobs working in the United States, trying to make money to send back to his wife and children in Poland.

"I could not speak English very well, I had to use my hands, do hard work to make money here," Dziedzic said.

To support his family back home during his first years in America, Dziedzic worked long hours at gas stations throughout the Chicago area. Just two years later, Dziedzic found work through a friend who managed apartment complexes throughout the city and the surrounding suburbs.

After remaining in America for many years without the means to return to Poland, Dziedzic and his first wife Dorota decided to separate.

During the 1970's, Dziedzic met his second wife, Irena, also a Polish Immigrant.

After taking over the majority of the work to maintain his friend's properties, Dziedzic decided to open his own management company in 1979, named Ziggy's (short for Zdzilaw) Remodeling and Home Improvement Inc.

Within 10 years of opening his management business, Dziedzic's company grew to include more than 15 properties. Dziedzic's personal life also prospered and during the 1980's he had two more children, Monica and Michael.

Today, Dziedzic manages many complexes throughout Chicago and the surrounding suburbs, overseeing over 600 condominium units. Dziedzic, a true model of the American Dream, continues to provide money to the family he left in Poland. Here in the United States, he is a proud business owner, husband and father of four children, Monica and Michael in Roselle and Ralph and Nina in Poland.

Despite the success he has found in the United States, Dziedzic feels a sense of sadness and loss towards his Polish homeland and to the family he left behind.

"I give up a lot to be here and become successful," he said. "I wonder sometimes if it is all worth it." ■

# DISTANCE DOES NOT LESSEN THE PAIN: GENOCIDE IN DARFUR TAKES THE LIVES OF IMMIGRANT'S FAMILY

BY ASHLEY WILLIAMSON



Musa scans the paper for news of his homeland.

At 1 a.m. the disturbing beep of Ismail Musa's alarm clock begins, and with only three hours of sleep and a long day ahead, he must rise. The busy blustering city of Chicago is now his home and this tedious schedule is his life, and it will remain that way until the world lends a hand to his blood-soaked homeland.

While the world debates over the meaning of genocide, Musa watches Darfur, Sudan from overseas, still integrally attached to the pain and suffering that is all too often splayed on American news. The conflict has claimed two of his brothers, Abdalla Khamis in 2000, and Abdi in 2003. Last August he was also informed that his cousin was murdered by the janjaweed, who are armed and equipped by the government of Khartoum.

"They are bad, bad people. The villages, my home, it's all gone,"

Musa said, his eyes distant and sad.

There has been conflict in Darfur since the 1970s. Disputed land between Arabs and non-Arabs led to the redrawing of territory lines and the splitting of African tribes into separate provinces. Land was unevenly distributed and the Arabs gained economic and governmental power. This spurred the formation of two groups, the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) and the Justice Equality Movement (JEM) who fight to regain power from the Arab's.

The conflict worsened in 2003 when the SLM formed the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and began attacking governmental military units, to which the government responded by sending out the janjaweed militia. The janjaweed adopt practices of ethnic cleansing, leaving no one safe from this murderous government sponsored militia.

Musa, 34, left Sudan in 2003, just as the conflict heightened and genocide began. He then lived in Egypt for two years and from there, immigrated to Chicago. He now lives in Rogers Park with his roommate, Musab Muhammad, who is also from Sudan, but from a different tribe.

Musa stays positive and has a superb sense of humor considering his hectic schedule. His days consist of working five days a week at O'Hare International Airport, his shift being from 4:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. He works at a low paying level for the security division.

On Monday and Wednesdays, Musa takes English as a Second Language at Truman College, and English tutoring on Tuesday and Thursday at Loyola Literacy Center.

John McDevitt, an undergrad at Loyola University of Chicago and assistant manager at the Literacy Center, said that they never ask if the students are immigrants, but would assume a large number are.

"One of the great things about our center, and the most common question when people walk in is 'are the classes one-on-one and are they free?'" McDevitt said. "Both those things make the Literacy Center unique."

As an immigrant, getting a job with a green card is a difficult process and the language barrier is not the only thing to worry about. With only nine months of monetary support from the U.S. government, it is imperative that any job is found, no matter how undesirable it may be.

"Some people have the 12:30 p.m. shift, but then I would never get to go to school. Sometimes I just sleep three hours," Musa explained about his early morning O'Hare airport job.

Musa recently sat at a coffee shop processing the most recent news presented by Chicago Tribune, tracing the headlines with his finger and reading aloud slowly. Occasionally he pulled out a pen and an old worn notebook to copy words from the newspaper phonetically onto a word filled page with the Arabic translation next to it, a technique he picked up from the Loyola Literacy Center.

Pointing at a picture of cloaked figures bearing guns, Musa commented, "I have a lot of friends that are rebels. This government is very, very bad. If I lived there, I would be a rebel. [Because of this government] People no home, people no food."

The conflict in Darfur is receiving more publicity, but still not enough to stop the genocide. Ismail says that there is a lot going on that the American people do not even know about – rapes and killings that never make it onto the news.

The Sudanese government denies genocide to the United Nations. Ismail thinks that the U.N. needs to send in troops to quash the janjaweed and take the current government out of power. Musa frustratingly comments "The U.N. keeps saying – Today, I bring army – but still today there are none".

Until then, Musa will continue to read his news from [www.sudanjem.com](http://www.sudanjem.com), an initiative of Justice Equality Movement, and only hope that his friends and family that remain in Sudan are safe. Now in Darfur, where there were villages, there are none, and where there was hope, despair begins to take hold.

As he waits for the situation in Darfur to improve, the hectic unfamiliar city of Chicago will be his home; the alarm will ring again tomorrow at 1 a.m.

"If change, I go back," said Musa. "But, if no change and I go back, I go to jail. I must stay. I have no choice." ■

## Going back to kindergarten



BY KARI BROWNSBERGER

In kindergarten, children are usually taught to share. They are supposed to share their crayons and dolls, their toy trucks and stuffed animals. But while working on this magazine, one thought kept coming to my mind: Americans must not have learned this very well. Forget about sharing Barbies; we won't share our country or our resources, unless, of course, it benefits us. Why do we insist on being that bratty kid who won't share?

Now I'm not saying that America should be letting everyone and anyone into the country. Of course in the modern world there has to be some sort of order and system for this. But as of late it seems that many Americans don't want to let anyone in. And even when we do let people in, we seem to be very picky about whom it is. How many times have you heard someone say "Don't let the Mexicans in! They steal all of our jobs!" These people tend to forget that those Mexicans, not to mention every other kind of immigrant, take jobs that many other people don't want to do. I know a Canadian immigrant who took a job here as an interior designer. Why is it that no one complains about her, who has a much more desirable job, but they complain about Hispanic, Asian, or Middle Eastern immigrants who do our dry cleaning, serve our food, and landscape our yards? Not only are we being the bratty kid that won't share, but we are being the bratty kid that won't share with anyone who looks or acts differently than us.

We as Americans have so much opportunity and we enjoy it so much, it seems only natural to want others to enjoy it too. If we love our country so much, shouldn't we want to share it with others so they can fall in love with it as well? Maybe we should all go back to kindergarten and learn how to share again.



## Twenty-two Years Later and Still Waiting for Citizenship

Sofia Zutautuas, Program Coordinator in the Visual Arts Division at the Department of Cultural Affairs, works at her desk at the Chicago Cultural Center.

BY HILARY SHAFFER

The words "order" and "progress" are inscribed on the Brazilian flag

What's missing, according to Brazilian native Sofia Zutautuas, is the word, "freedom."

She hopes to find that in the United States.

Her search has taken 22 years.

Since coming to the United States in 1985, Zutautuas, 46, has sought to become a citizen.

"They [the U.S.] create as many barriers as they can," said Zutautuas, who describes her experience at gaining citizenship as a "nightmare," because of the long and costly processes of obtaining a student visa, work visa and green card.

"It's a lot of anxiety, money spent, fees," Zutautuas said.

Her entry into America began after a second visit to Chicago. A friend encouraged Zutautuas to go to college, so she obtained a student visa and enrolled at the University of Illinois at Chicago and studied architecture, art history and museology.

After volunteering on a Brazilian project at the Chicago Cultural Center, Zutautuas held an internship there, which led to her current position as a Program Coordinator for the Department of Cultural Affairs in the Visual Arts Division.

"She is committed to being here legally and to making a significant contribution through both her work and her volunteerism," said co-worker, Gregory Knight, 55, Arts Administrator/Curator at the Chicago Cultural Center.

Zutautuas, a kind and warm woman, smiles often despite her citizenship struggles and keeps herself busy with many organizations and hobbies.

"I sing with the Lithuanian Opera Company chorus. I am a Chicago Greeter and a Sao Paulo-Illinois Partners of the Americas member. I like to travel, to write, to collect snapshots, to dine with friends," and like many Americans Zutautuas said she likes, "to watch HGTV and other home remodeling and decorating programs."

Her dream of living in the United States began when she was young, because of television shows and her mother's influence.

"Mom was a major force in encouraging me to leave," Zutautuas said. "I didn't feel like I was living. I felt like I was surviving there."

Even though Zutautuas was born in Brazil, her first language is Lithuanian because her father immigrated to Brazil from Lithuania during WWII and her mother's parents immigrated from Lithuania during WWI.

Zutautuas learned how to speak Portuguese second and then picked up Spanish and English.

"Even in Brazil I felt like an immigrant," Zutautuas said, because of her Lithuanian upbringing.

Although the process to become a citizen of the United States has been long for Zutautuas, she stays optimistic, and will soon file her papers for citizenship.

"I hope I will be able to complete the necessary forms on my own. I have a friend who said she downloaded the forms from the Internet and filled them out herself and sent them to INS. I will try that. Lawyers cost too much and I hope to avoid having to use them," she said.

Zutautuas already spent around \$5,000 in lawyer's fees for her work visa and more than \$5,000 in lawyer's fees for her green card.

"However, even greater than the financial burden, was all the stress and anxiety that the process caused me - nights without sleep, nightmares, uncertainty, long, long waiting periods, and a process that has lasted for many, many years," she said.

"It has been over 22 years since I first arrived and I still have not been given an opportunity or a choice to take that oath," Zutautuas said. "I already do feel like a citizen of the U.S. - in my responsibilities towards this country and its people, in my ties to the community where I live and work. And I just kind of resent the fact that the country itself has not acknowledged me yet as such." ■

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# The Melting Pot Crisis



BY VIVIANA RUIZ

achieve the "American Dream."

Fleeing from political corruption or stagnant economies, immigrants head to a country that offers a more promising future and makes upward social mobility possible. It is the fairy-tale quality of the "rags-to-riches story" that inspires people. And indeed, if there is one thing this nation offers for free, it is optimism.

But as the immigrant population continues to grow in the United States, the melting pot boils steaming hot, threatening to overflow now that the meaning of being a U.S. American is blurred. It seems that the United States is experiencing an identity crisis.

While Congress debates comprehensive immigration reform in Washington, D.C., the rest of the United States witnesses the march of hundreds of thousands in pro-immigration rallies, and the opposition from organizations against the marginalized "illegal alien."

It used to be that being a U.S. American meant being "white." Now, we live in a time when the word "immigrant" readily brings up

My American education has taught me that this great melting pot many have also christened the "land of opportunity" is rich in diversity.

I've heard many say that this great nation of ours was founded by immigrants, and indeed, history affirms this assertion. Many have arrived from distant lands with hopes of making better lives for their families and ambitions to

the face of the Mexican.

So much hostility is directed toward the immigrant. We shake fists instead of hands, and argue rather than discuss. We create a power struggle between "them" and "us," and don't allow for compromise.

Illegal immigrants are "stealing" jobs in the United States. Illegal Mexican immigrants are plotting a reconquista. These are the myths, all unfounded arguments born of fear, fear of change and losing an identity.

Indeed, whether the United States-Mexico relationship is on favorable terms has depended on the time. Perhaps we have forgotten the importation of Mexican laborers when the United States entered World War I and there was a labor shortage. Nobody speaks of the U.S. exploitation of Mexican laborers when the bracero program was created in the 1940s, or the "Mexican scare" that led to the deportation of hundreds of thousands during the Great Depression. And then 1986 came along and amnesty was given to immigrants.

We live in a world where illegal immigration is as much of our reality as is terrorism.

I write without proposing a solution to the immigration debate. I have none.

I write as a 21-year-old who still has a lot to learn, who doesn't know all the facts or history of immigration.

I can write with certainty that it is when we interact and co-exist with different peoples that we appreciate diversity and recognize our own cultural pride.

After all, we must live together and learn from each other.

## REPORTS IN BRIEF

### CHARTER SCHOOL TO SERVE IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY

by Janelle Mascarenas

Asian immigrant and refugee families struggle to make a living in America. As a result, children have had to grow up fast to help around their households. According to "Students rally for own future and immigrants," an article written by Dawn Turner Rice in the *Chicago Tribune*, about 500,000 people are undocumented, and a growing number of immigrant children in Chicago lack core skills that every school child needs.

The Asian Human Services provides an outlet for these youths, giving them an opportunity to make a difference in their own lives.

Asian Human Services serves the growing Asian immigrant and refugee community living in northern Chicago. Holding the charter for Passages Charter School, the agency understands the importance of enlightening young minds.

"We have the first elementary school in the Chicago Public School System to address the specific educational and social needs of immigrant and refugee children," said Youth Program Director Adeola Ogunsanya.

The organization gives children a fighting chance to survive in America with high achievement standards. These students obtain an intensive instruction in English proficiency and skills in critical thinking. Asian Human Services provides an edge for potential students transitioning into a new country by meeting the needs of immigrant learners.

### THE IMMIGRANT CHILDREN'S PROJECT OFFERS SUPPORT

by Jacquie Cyronek

The Immigrant Children's Project, a program of The National Immigration Justice Center, works to ensure the protection of immigrant children. The center is a place for immigrants to receive free advice from volunteer attorneys and paralegals.

The Immigrant Children's Project is a program within the center that works with minors without parents. They help by giving them advocacy and support with and throughout deportation hearings and other legal issues. With five offices in the Chicago area, the organization is able to provide legal services to vulnerable immigrants.

Tara Ditwell, 26, Chicago, works as a paralegal and feels the benefits of helping children, considering it one of the most rewarding jobs out there today. Having a high level of compassion for her job, she feels her role at center is essential to humanity.

"To help a child who simply wants to have a future, who is scared because they do not know what to do and confused about what they need to do, to live in this land of opportunity, makes my job so incredibly important," Ditwell said. "For them to realize that there is a place to go for help and they are not alone is something that I am happy to be a part of."

# Family Business Becomes Neighborhood Staple



BY KELLY ARNET

What do a life-sized Elvis statue, a collection of Pez dispensers and the Meunprasittiveg family all have in common? Easy: they all comprise the atmosphere at Cozy Noodles and Rice restaurant in the heart of Chicago's Wrigleyville neighborhood.

"When I came over to the States 10 years ago, me and my husband wanted to open a Thai restaurant," Julie Meunprasittiveg, 31, owner of Cozy Noodles and Rice, said. "But there are so many Thai restaurants in Chicago that we needed to make ours different."

And different it is. The tables at Cozy Noodles are intricately decorated sewing machines from the early 1930s. The walls are lined with a variety of toys collected from the 1950s and thereafter. The bathroom walls are adorned with hundreds of different Pez dispensers ranging in characters from Big Bird to Darth Vader.

"My husband had been collecting toys from the time he was little," Meunprasittiveg said. "When we decided to open the restaurant, he was able to put those to use. We also buy a lot of the different toys off of EBay."

In 1996, Julie Meunprasittiveg left Bangkok to pursue her master's degree at Dominican University in River Forest. Once in America, Meunprasittiveg attained citizenship, met up with her former boyfriend from Bangkok, Tee Meunprasittiveg, and got married.

After much preparation and lots of discussion, the Meunprasittivegs were able to live out their dream and open a Thai restaurant in the Chicago area. In 2001, the first Cozy Noodles and Rice opened in Evanston. Three years later, they opened another location in Wrigleyville, a block east of Wrigley Field on Sheffield Avenue.

The Meunprasittiveg's not only pride themselves on the decorative aspect of their restaurant, but also the quality of their food. It carries such Thai classics as Pad Thai and Lad Nar, as well as an array of curry dishes, bubble teas and appetizers. And everything on the menu costs less than \$10.

"I always order the Chicken Pad See Ewe," Nathan Grundhauser, 21, student at the Illinois Institute of Art said. "I leave with a full stomach

and a not-so-empty wallet."

The opening of the restaurant not only fulfilled the dreams of the Meunprasittivegs, but also the dreams of many of their family members. After the first restaurant opened five years ago, many of their relatives followed in their footsteps and came to Chicago from Thailand to help work at their restaurant. The staff at both locations is comprised of mostly all family: nieces, nephews, cousins, and Julie and Tee's brothers and sisters as well.

"Cozy Noodles is mostly a family business," Meunprasittiveg said. "We really like having a lot of our family around and working with us."

The Meunprasittivegs and their family's relocation to Chicago is a success story given the troubles of modern-day immigration, such as the 2005 Real ID Act which, among many restrictions, makes it specifically difficult for immigrants to receive state issued driver's licenses. Yet obstacles like these have not hindered their restaurant's success in the Chicago area.

"Cozy Noodles is my favorite place to come to eat Thai food when I'm visiting my friends in Chicago," said Elyce Pallett, 18, senior at Francis Howell North High School in St. Charles, Mo. "It's cheap, the service is great and I rarely spend more than \$10 for a meal."

As for the growth of Cozy Noodles and Rice, Meunprasittiveg doesn't plan on opening any more restaurants in the Chicago area.

"I don't really think we are going to open any more Thai restaurants," Meunprasittiveg said. "We make a lot of great food and have already had a lot of success."

As for the frequent visitors to Cozy Noodles, they think more locations might not be such a bad idea.

"I come to Cozy [Noodles and Rice] at least once a week," Grundhauser said. "I hate having to travel 30 minutes to get here though. But, I guess if I have to do it, then I have to do it. And let me tell you, while the Pez dispensers staring back at you from the bathroom walls may be a little creepy at first, you'll never see another bathroom like it." ■

# Lady Liberty, a Welcome to All?



BY BRENDAN O'SULLIVAN

The topic of immigration is close to my heart. Over 40 years ago, my father came to Chicago from Ireland. While America can figuratively proclaim that it would not be here without immigration, I can literally stake my existence to immigration.

It is probably because of my close ties to immigration that I so strongly believe in the words etched into the base of the statue of liberty: "give me your

tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

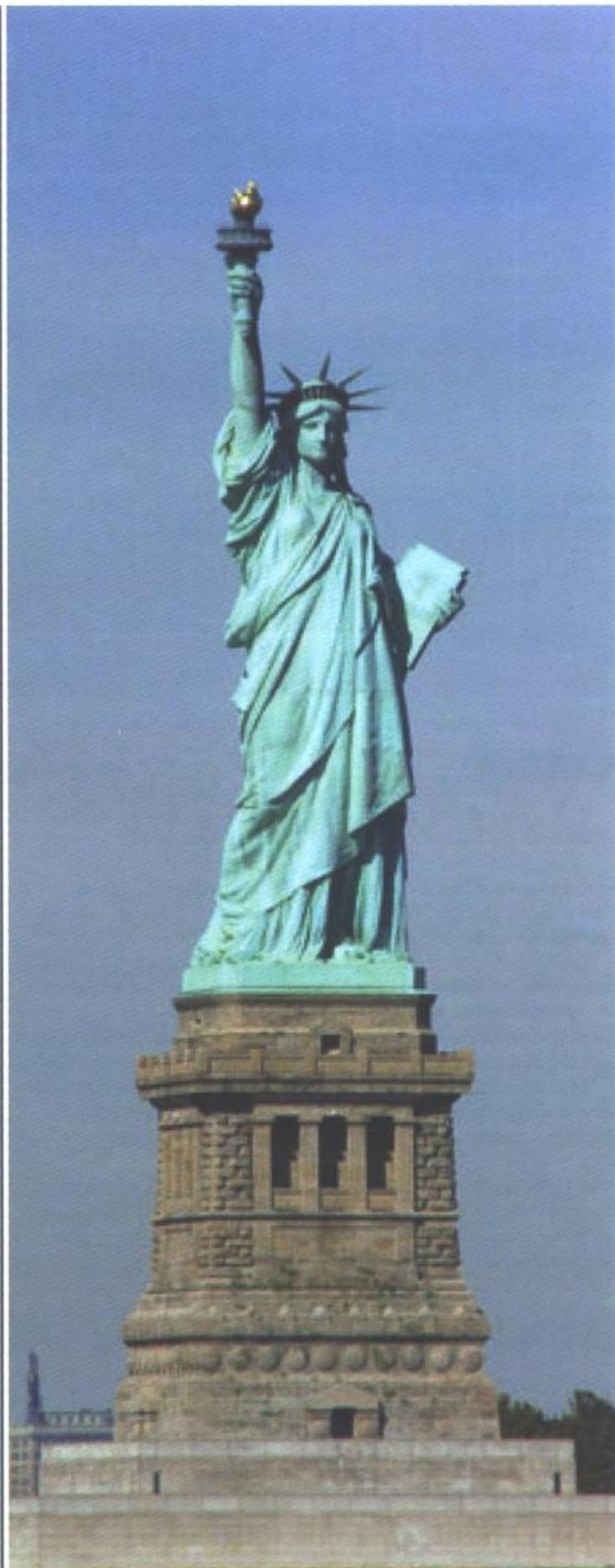
Congress recently passed a bill authorizing a wall to be built along the Mexican border to keep out illegal immigrants. It has become harder and harder for people to enter the United States legally, not to mention illegally. I have a friend in Ireland who has been turned down for a green card every year for the last five or six years.

I am probably an idealist believing that we should adhere to the promise we made by erecting the Statue of Liberty even though, as one cynical friend pointed out to me, she does not face south. Over the last semester while interviewing and researching immigrants, I have met some who loved America and its culture. I have also met those who were less than enthralled with our way of life.

What they all had in common though was that they loved the freedom we enjoyed. As we try to spread that freedom around the world through force of arms, how can we deny it to anyone who is willing to risk their lives to attain that freedom?

I know that immigration causes problems for our labor force; it causes problems for our healthcare, our economy, even our national security. But can anyone really tell me we would not have problems with these things if we closed down all of our borders?

I strongly believe that America can solve these problems. Solve them in a way which allows us to leave our borders open to all who seek the freedom we offer. If not we may as well scratch out that saying at the bottom of the Statue of Liberty, take down her beacon which lights the way for newcomers and put a sign up that says "Not Welcome."



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