

Our voice

In this issue, we discuss some interesting repercussions of the Mexican economic crisis. Víctor Rodríguez-Padilla and Rosío Vargas analyze Pemex's perspectives for transformation, highlighting the issues of Mexico's petroleum sovereignty and U.S. energy policy toward Mexico. Emilio Zebadúa examines the politization of Mexico's economic policy which was prompted by the recent change in government, the devaluation of the peso and the economic crisis. Finally, Mary Schneider Enriquez describes the efforts of Mexican society to maintain the vitality and persistence of its art given the scarcity of resources caused by the country's economic crisis.

We also present topics related to bilateral relations between Mexico and the United States. Mónica Vereá analyzes the renewed activism of the Mexican government's foreign policy through the strengthening of links with Mexican communities abroad, which has permitted new forms of lobbying for Mexican interests and in defense of human and labor rights.

Bernardo Méndez explains how Proposition 187 may affect the education of 40,000 students of Mexican origin, worsening the already depressed socioeconomic conditions characterized by poverty and a low level of education.

Claire Joysmith studies the efforts of Chicana writers to restore and redefine their identity through the "revaluation" of Mexican traditions transmitted by the family.

Regarding the changing situation in North America, Joshua Cohen and Joel Rogers suggest measures to increase the active participation of citizens in the democratic process of the United



States, with the aim of defending social benefits, environmental and worker protection programs, to compensate for the support given to corporations as a result of the agenda of a resurgent Republican Party.

We reprint the document "Mexico's position on the Non-Proliferation Treaty," which was presented by Mexico's Chancellor, José Angel Gurriá, to the International Conference on this theme of vital importance to humanity. The conference was held in New York on April 18, 1995.

Jorge Madrazo examines the problems and accomplishments observed during the first five years of the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) in Mexico, as well as perspectives for its protection. He analyzes the scope, limitations and jurisprudence of the CNDH within the framework of the country's institutions of justice and their procedures.

On the subject of the cultural splendor of Mexico, Mónica Ching relates the history of the paradisiacal Chapultepec Forest, which is essential to Mexico City's identity. Chapultepec was a sacred place, a military fortress and government center. It houses the Castle built by Maximilian, the presidential residence Los Pinos, a spacious public park, seven first-class museums and the National Auditorium.

James Olsen writes about five majestic Franciscan missions established in the 18th century. Today these same missions continue to provide social services to the communities of Sierra Gorda. Alberto Ruy Sánchez writes of the artistic wealth of Mexican painters from the state

of Jalisco, who include important figures such as Dr. Atl and José Clemente Orozco.

John Mitchell tells the story of the assassination of Leon Trotsky in his Mexico City house, now converted into a museum.

On a different subject, Anthony Stanton presents an interesting review of Octavio Paz' book on the life and work of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz in the context of New Spain's society of the 17th century.

We also review the book by Helen Delpar which contains a complete and detailed biographical dictionary of the intense and productive cultural relations between vanguard artists and intellectuals of Mexico and the United States, between 1920 and 1935. These personalities include Diego Rivera, Rufino Tamayo, John Dos Passos and Ernest Gruening.

We pay homage to the memory of Benita Galeana, the untiring fighter for social justice, and we present the eloquent speech by Octavio Paz to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the death of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz.

Finally, Fernando Ortiz Monasterio and Eduardo Matos Moctezuma tell of the marvelous phenomena of the metamorphosis and migration of the monarch butterfly which travels about 3,000 miles between Canada, the United States and Mexico. The monarch has inspired the artistic work of Carmen Parra. The prodigious migration shows us that the North American Free Trade Agreement has existed since time immemorial for the infinite miracles of nature. ❧

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