ART AND CULTURE

Traditions, like women in Mexico's *charreadas*; everyday objects changed by a visual artist; social phenomena like migration expressed through art; the cultural heritage of Mexicans in the United States and children's testimony about crossing the border; a visit to the El Triunfo biosphere reserve: this is what this issue's cultural sections bring our readers. All together, they are one more example of the splendor of Mexico.



Charrena's Leminine Side Leslie Mazoch\* The charro mounted high on a horse, shaded by a broad sombrero, and swinging a lasso, is a Mexican icon. It's no surprise that Mexican rodeo riding, or charter ría, is the country's official sport, and for many the national pastime. But most people are taken by surprise when they hear about charrería's flourishing feminine side. Impossible to miss, the women riders wear colorful Revolution-era dresses over Petticoats and wide sombretos with braids hanging past their shoulders. Balancing on sidesaddles, they gallop their horses into the arena to your stress are dience with a choreographed routine set to music bellowing The sound system. "It's like rain on a field that's been dry. When the escara-"It's like rain on a field that's been dry. It have a source of the source of muza comes, it refreshes," reflected Guadalupe "Coco" Camacho Elorriaga, one of the riders from the first escaramuza tractio clothaga, one of the fuers from the fusces and then, team, formed in 1953 in Mexico City. She was 10 years old then over the sound system. Teams of eight women on horseback, each rider known as an "amazona," maneuver their horses with precision. They make patterns across the dirt, much like a drill team, but on and is now in her early 70s. horseback. Two escaramuza teams compete at each charrea The female precision equestian sport does not share its beginnings with charrenta, rooted in the day-to-day work on da, with routines that last 12 minutes. the haciendas of colonial Mexico. haciendas would get together to determine un naccentus mount set together to determine much mount of the set of and pulling a cow down to the ground by its tail. The Mexican Revolution broke up the large landed estates in the early twentieth century, prompting the charros to formalize their teams into what are today's charrenta associations, which opreams into what are today schutterin associations interrop erate like rodeo clubs. Through these clubs, cowboys actoss \* Photo editor at the Associated Press headquarters for Latin America and the Caribbean based in Mesico City upon lestiemazoch.com photo editor at the Associated Press headquarters for Latin America and the Caribbean, based in Mexico City; www.lesliemazoch.com



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en Coronels) as the children trotted out their slow paced children trotted out their slow paced children trotted out their verse the coord and as for mores. The crowd loved it. For a few years, the sico and as for mores. The crowd love the routine all over the sico and as for mores. The crowd love the routine all over the sico and as for mores. noves. The crowd loved it, for a ten years, the coved chilt dren's team toured the routine all over Mexico and as far dren's team toured the routine all over Mexico and as far

as Canada. The escurion manufacture and a preconceived idea; it wasn't The escaremula was not a preconceived idea, it wasn't e going a preconceived idea, it was a preconceived idea, preconceived idea, it was a preconceived idea, p an idea that any particular person had, who said we re going to do this and that, concertaing planned. The sectro who role on to do this and that, concertaing planned. The sectro who role on a to do this and that, concertaing planned. I or each who role on a to do this and that, concertain Arrive Built I or each who role on a bout like the reducted Arrive Built I or each who role on to do this and that, something planned. The escurantical came about the life, reflected Arturo Ruit Loredo, who rode on a superior of the second and a superior o about like life, reflected Arturo Rul Loredo, who role on the first children's learn with Canacho when he was six years

that first countering team with camacing when he we

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tween Jews and other tribes, where it says that they were 'escaramurzando'' (skirmishing)

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when the three boys eff the ream to learn the various sports and gen-of charter fa. Other girls quickly took their places, and how and the second diversion of the second div

of charrenta. Other girls quickly took their Paces, and gen into a contract of horsenomen have developed the escaramentation that erations of horsenomen have developed horsenomen and an a stire took of horsenomen and a stire too

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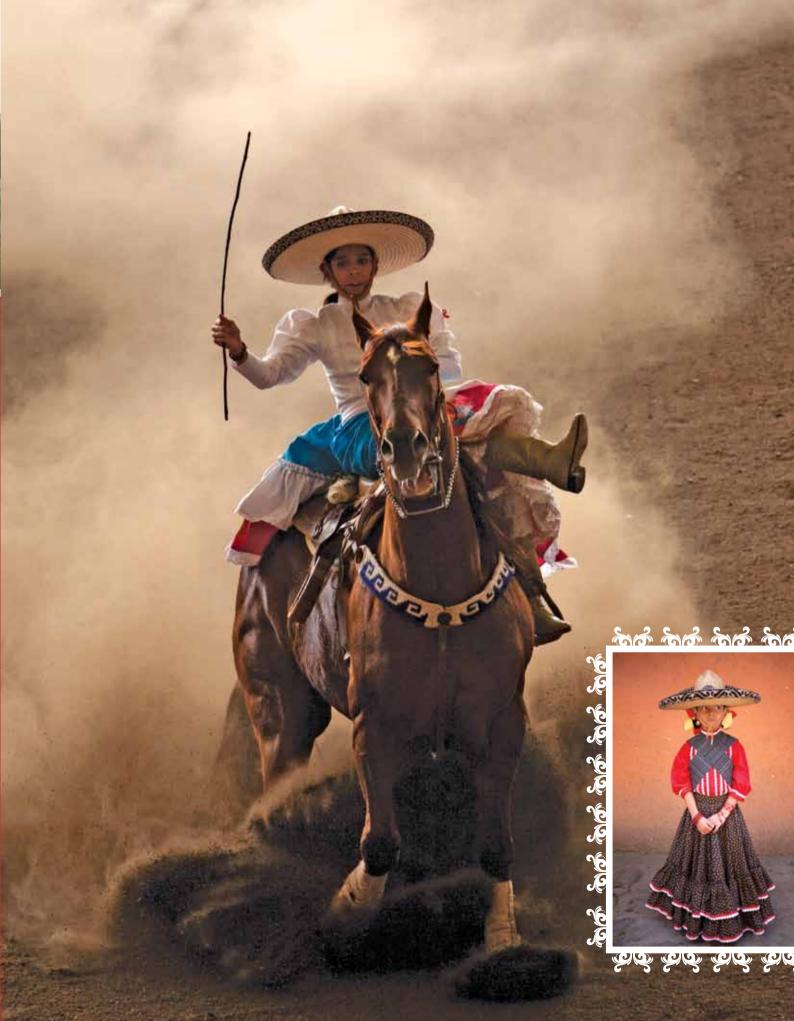
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away as Canada.

"It's like rain on a field that's been dry. When the escaramuza comes, it refreshes."

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revel. Pascual was elected president of the federation in 1988 Paseual Was elected president of the ederation in 1988 the status of the and used his postion to push for a vote on the status of the that the incersomens sport. One charto was so opposed to the idea that promens supported the onear Pascual got a death threat. But most men supported the country Pascual got a death threat. But most new use over the country pascual got a death threat. But most new use over the country pascual got a death threat before the country over the country of the country o Pascual got a teatrithear, but most men supported the mear sure, and one year before his tenure was over, the council The escaramuza evolved by accident from the horse-riding lessons of six little kids in Mexico's capital city.

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unites Mesico's chorro families and just may have saved chur

rrería from decline.

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Inc. US women, it was very important, first to be integrat, a ed as atheres, there at the meson of the second discount of the seco ed as atheres, with our tamiles, men, society, with the sport, reflected Avarea in a comparison of a contraction of the sport of the sp

reflected Anarca man, and escaramination of the state of

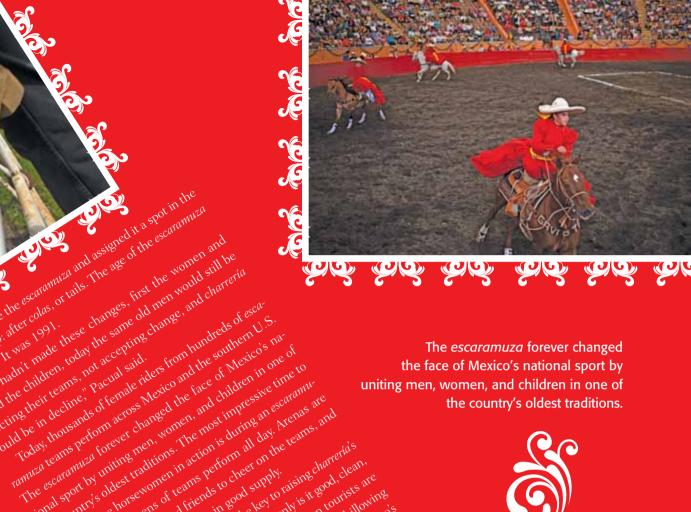
and today a team trainer and escontomical Judge. Then to demonstrate to ourselves that we could do it. Little by little

NON BOUND Strongest supporters of the escarement of the strongest supporters of the st One of the strongest supporters of the escaramental who sat on the federation council arrived in the late 1950s, that we sat on the federation council arrived in the late of the second biological bi sation the recertation council artived in the late 1980s, chorrow belowed in the late 1980s, chorrow and council article article and the nation's belowed in a nation's below and the believed his nation's decomposition of the second decomposition and the second decomposition and the second decomposition and the second decomposition are an are Enrique Pascual Loper. He believed his nations beloved sport was losing ground to sports like societ and to balf full of sport was losing ground for sports like indexed of balf full of sport was losing ground for an index for the societ of the sport of Sport was losing ground to sports the societ and terms, it is a sport the societ and terms of the sports the societ of half full of particular to the sport of the societ of the sport of t Pascual wanted arenas full of families instead of half full of "machos" showing out their guns, much lass how bound the "machos" showing out of the source much lass how a source of the macros shooting of their guns. As long as that is going the children their guns in the feest bring her children the state of the state on, no woman was going to come much less bring her children dren. Pascual said. He was sure that if women and children to dren. Pascual said. He was sure that the come in the sure of the

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dren, Pascual Said. He was sure that it women and children a sould rise to a difference would rise to a sure that it women and not difference included in the competition, charteria would rise include a sure competition.





The escaramuza forever changed the face of Mexico's national sport by uniting men, women, and children in one of the country's oldest traditions.

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come. It was 1991. these changes, first the women and call be these changes, first the women and call be the second of the more static the second of the sec second the children, today the same of the harve out during their teams out according that the same out according the same out according that the same out according that the same out according that the same out according the same out according that the same out according to the same out according to the same out according the same out according the same out according to t second the children, today the same old men would stull be in dealine, not accepting change, and change and change directing their teams, not accepting change, and said directing their teams, pactual said said said said said the in dealine.

na be in decline, Pactual said, from hundreds of escur-Todas, thousands of female interesting of the former of th

Tomat court by uniting new symposities and the southern U.S. The escanomical forever changed the face of Mesico's the of one of the face of Mesico's the of the face of Mesico's the one of the face of Mesico's the face of th tional sport by uniting men, women, and children in one of the to the to the most impressive time to the most impressive time to the traditions. The most impressive determined and the country's oldest traditions. The most induced and the country's oldest traditions in the time to be a start of the country's oldest traditions in the time

The country's oldest traditions. The most impressive time to an an an and a second a second

Packed such tamiles and the music are in good supply.

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a fair, where dozens of reams perform all day. Arenas are performed day of the day of the day of the day of the teams, and the day of the day of the and the day of t

The escarament design and above to paising charrent is The escatomical list might be the key to raising chartenas, visibility within New Oral and abroad. Not only is it good, clean, visibility within Mexico and abroad. Not only is the foreign converse of a data for the ison of a miles but foreign and a solution of the foreign of

USIBILITY WITHIN Mexico and abroad. Not only 511 good, clean, and abro affordable tum for Mexican tamilies, put foreign tourists are not all the see women riding sidesaddle in billowing toored when they see women riding sides and the interview toored when they see women riding sides and the second the wowed when they see women inding side saddle in billowing, dresses that back back to the " Matching or or or of the second dresses that back back to the Matching or or or of the second dresses that back back to the saddlers. Matching or or of the second dresses that back southers and the saddlers. dresses that hark back to the "Adelita" the tcon of Mexico's non-dresses that hark back to the "Adelita" the score of the recolutionary worran soldiers. Watching an escuramental per form feels the a step back in time, but Maxico's women on form feels the a step back in time, but make the sold of the step back in the soldier of the soldi

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had come. It was 1991.

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