



Homecoming Court

Homecoming court reigns at festivities Nov. 20. Seated — Mr. and Miss Western, Manny Lopez and Tiffany Pope. Standing (from left) — Mr. Freshman, Andre Morgan; Mr. Sophomore, Damon Payne; Mr. Junior, Mauricio Saldivar; Miss Junior, Rosalva Viramontez; Miss Sophomore, Jamie Fakhoury; and Miss Freshman, Mercedes Collazo.

Movie seeks to clarify views; sheds light on misconceptions

By CORNELIUS FORTUNE
Staff Writer

Over the past three decades, Malcolm X has been labeled a racist, a black supremacist, and an advocate of racial violence. Many African-Americans in this country have been brought up believing that Malcolm X hated whites and that he discouraged everything that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood for. Quite the contrary.

Toward the end of his life, after his pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia, and believing that whites, like blacks were victims of a racist society, he pushed for racial harmony.

He is not the "bad guy" history has labeled him, and throughout his film, "Malcolm X", director Spike Lee ("Mo' Better Blues", "Jungle Fever") hopes to make all people, blacks and whites, aware of this.

Before seeing the movie, I only knew bits and pieces of Malcolm's life.

Father, son share deep interest in music, education

By CORNELIUS FORTUNE
Staff Writer

Aniceto Muniz walked slowly across the room, each step accompanied by a slight jingle of the spurs attached to his black boots. His face was taut with the wisdom bestowed upon some men of his age.

On his head, a black hat contributed to his "cowboy" look. A navy blue bandana, striped shirt and black pants, held up by a large Western belt buckle, completed this 78-year old's wardrobe.

When he had everyone's attention, he spoke.

"You have all kinds of help and opportunities," he told the assembled group of English as Second Language students, who listened quietly and attentively. The quiet was replaced with excitement, respect, and love for the Hispanic culture when he picked up his guitar and began to play.

Muniz knew the indifference of a cold world when he quit school at the age of 10 to help his father support the rest of the family, which consisted of six brothers.

With the death of his mother, Muniz discovered his love for music at the age of 12.

COMMENTARY

I was so intimidated by his whopping 460-page autobiography, that after reading only 35 pages of it, I closed the book and vowed never to open it again.

Having seen the movie, I am now encouraged to read the whole book. At this time, I'm poring over each chapter with an enthusiasm I never thought possible for a book of that length.

I look at Malcolm X in a different light now. I see the indignation he carried as a sign of strength and passion for the liberation of his people. He was a wise man — always changing, always intelligent, always sincere. When he was afraid, he wasn't afraid to admit it, and because of this, Malcolm, the man, grew stronger, and in doing so, we all benefit.

His strength is our strength; his weakness, our weakness; his pain, our pain. We are talking about a man whose background was checkered. And yet this ordinary man rose to become one of the greatest revolutionary leaders of the 20th Century as well as one of America's most misunderstood black men.

No, he didn't sing, "We shall overcome some day." But he shouted to the world, "We shall no longer be oppressed in any way."

This movie is long overdue and well worth the wait. Denzel Washington makes us feel and believe in the struggle of Malcolm X. Maybe after seeing this movie, Malcolm X won't be so misunderstood, which was one of Spike Lee's goals: to open the eyes of all people, not just blacks, to the life and character of the man we know today as Malcolm X.



Muniz and Muniz, father and son, share a melodic moment as they entertain ESL students.

"Music," he says, "helps you express to another person what you might want to say."

A retired motor mechanic, having worked for Great Lakes Steel for 30 years, Muniz is active in music and education, particularly with Ecourse schools, and also spends much time working for the Archdiocese of Detroit.

An interesting fact about his musical career is that the song, "LaBamba," made famous by Richie Valens, was

redone by Muniz and his son, Alberto Muniz, a bilingual teacher at Western.

On the reverse side of the record is an original song written by the elder Muniz entitled, "No Me Vuelvas a Nombrar," a romantic ballad, which translates roughly to "Don't Call Out My Name Again."

The father of 10 children, Muniz has 36 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Gang foes plead for end to violence

By LORENA SERRATOS
and CHRISTINA GUTIERREZ
Staff Writers

Angie Reyes, a member of the Council Against Gang-Related Violence (CAGRV), recently addressed a staff meeting at Western International High School on the problem of gangs. She impressed everyone with her knowledge of gang structure and activity and with her plea, in which she was joined by an ex-gang member, for assistance in helping to curb the growing problem.

Reyes, mother of four, was born and raised in this community and has been working for the Latino Youth Services for six years. Her reasons for her involvement in the council

are clear. She said, "I got tired of going to teenagers' funerals because of gang violence."

The CAGRV began when parents and the Western staff met with gang squad members to discuss the gang-related problems in the community. The decision was made then to start the organization.

The council is composed of seven committees, each headed by a president. These seven committees are led by a steering committee composed of ten members, including: Pat Trainor, Eddie Salazar, Ines Dejesus, Rev. Carlos Liese and Rosa Estrada.

Each committee has its own agenda and responsibilities, which include helping teenagers seek jobs, helping them to stay out of gangs, and help-

ing rid the neighborhood of unsightly graffiti.

The council consists of about 400 members who are the sole providers of the council's funds. Although the council is trying to get financial help, at this time, the CAGRV receives no assistance from the city or state.

Since its beginning, CAGRV has done exceptionally well and has accomplished several important goals. They include the opening of Clark Park's skating rink, holding job fairs for teens, and the removal of graffiti from business establishments.

The council meets once a month at Holy Redeemer Church. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Exploration of cultures sails into second phase

By CHRIS CALVILLO
Staff Writer

Re-christened and launched, the USS WIHS has left its first port of call, Native America, and is now securely docked at its second port of call, Hispaniola.

What this means is that Western International High School is now in its second phase of celebrating its multicultural heritage, in this case, the Hispanic culture.

Focus Two will be followed by a world celebration (various countries) and the African and European cultures. At the end of the year, all cultures will join in an extravaganza, the Grand Finale.

Approximately 40 percent of the

student body and a large number of staff members here are of Hispanic descent. Consequently, the Hispanic heritage focus will cover 28 countries whose names have been assigned to the various classrooms.

A wide variety of events have been planned. Most of the events will feature musicians, dancers, artists, craftsmen, and demonstrations.

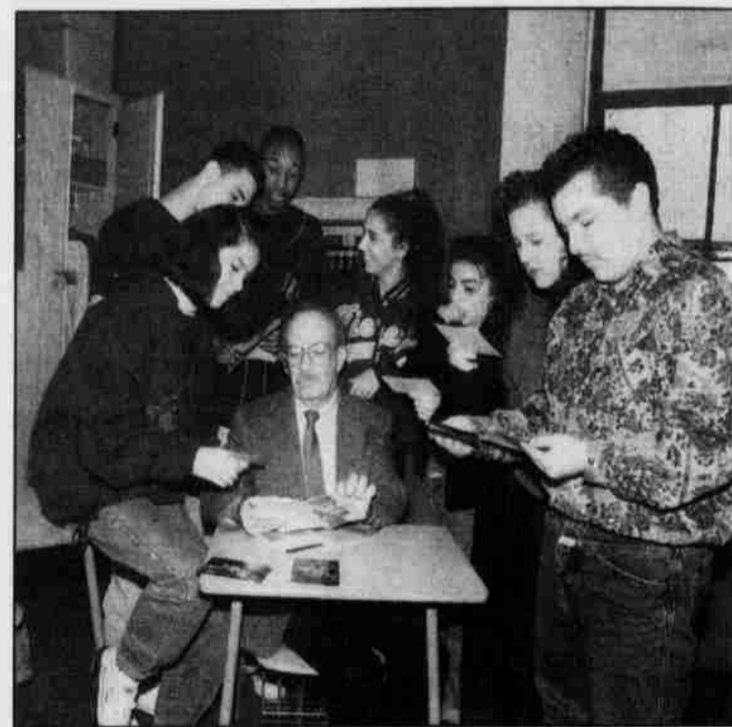
In the area of crafts, students will be given the opportunity to learn the history of, and how to make, a pinata. Mary Lou Muniz, wife of Alberto Muniz, a bilingual teacher and coordinator of the Hispanic heritage focus, will be the presenter.

Also on the agenda are the appearances by Honduran musicians, El

Salvadoran musicians, Central American dancers and Mexican Folkloric dancers. Students also will be provided glimpses into Colombian, Nicaraguan, and Cuban life.

Staff members such as Alberto Muniz and Ines Dejesus, bilingual chairperson, are taking a great deal of pride in this event and expending a lot of effort to make it successful.

Dejesus said, "This program will not only display Hispanic heritage, but it will also allow students and staff to become more sensitive to each other's cultures." She considers it teamwork as Western's staff and students gain understanding and respect for each other as a result of these exciting endeavors.



Richard Wisniewski shares pictures of the orphan party with his volunteers Rosalva Viramontez, Mauricio Saldivar, Joseph Mazique, Emmalisa Torres, Veronica Orozco, Margarita Chavez and Pete Soto.

Volunteers find rewards in charitable activities

By LORENA SERRATOS
and CHRISTINE GUTIERREZ
Staff Writers

It is the time of the year when every individual forgets feelings of resentment and tries to give and share with those who are less fortunate.

Western International has a special person who does this every year. Richard Wisniewski, American history teacher, is the organizer of several charitable activities for the needy.

Wisniewski recruits his "elves" (volunteers) to help in these activities. These volunteers give their time and effort in helping the community.

Recently, Wisniewski and a group of students hosted an orphan party at the YMCA on Clark. For several hours, abused and unwanted orphans experienced some joy as they "splashed" in the pool and later played in the gym.

Afterward, the young people had the chance to break a pinata and share pizza with their hosts. Grab bags prepared by the students which contained a coloring book, crayons and fruit were presented to the orphans.

Students who volunteered for this project were: Pete Soto, Veronica Orozco, Jason Muzzey, Rosalva Viramontez, Rita Ceballos, Joseph Mazique, Emmalisa Torres, and Margarita Chavez.

Wisniewski has been involved in these charitable activities for the past 13 years. Initially, he used these activities to persuade students to join his Ethnic Club. It later turned out students were more interested in the

activities rather than in the club. Wisniewski was not about to argue with that.

Wisniewski is also remembered for the force behind the annual Ethnic Festivals, which may re-appear as a result of the current emphasis on multiculturalism.

At this time, student volunteers are getting ready to work on Christmas baskets. With money collected from staff and students (which averages out to \$400-\$700), they will prepare these baskets and deliver them to needy families just before Christmas.

Is there a Santa Claus? Yes, there is. And if you don't find him anywhere else, you'll find him and his elves at Western International.

CORRECTION

The name of Native American dancer Robert Mounts was incorrectly spelled in a photo caption in last month's Western World.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

By RITA CEBALLOS
and AKINA JOHNSON
Staff Writers

It's time again for the excitement and competition of boys' PSL basketball.

With five returning seniors, the bas-

ketball team's goal is to make it to the playoffs under the coaching of William Goldsmith.

Opening games are with King, Dec. 11; Denby, Dec. 15; Northwestern, Dec. 18; Redford, Dec. 22; and Chadsey, Jan. 5.

SWIMMING:

Coming back for the '92-93 co-ed swim team are the returning Piranhas who swam their way to a fourth place finish in the city championships last season, earning six individual medals and eight medals in the relay events.

Practice began Nov. 23 in preparation for the first meets with Osborn, Dec. 14; Cass, Dec. 17; Southwestern, Dec. 21; and Mumford, Jan. 7.

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