

# Cinco de Mayo

## An artist at work

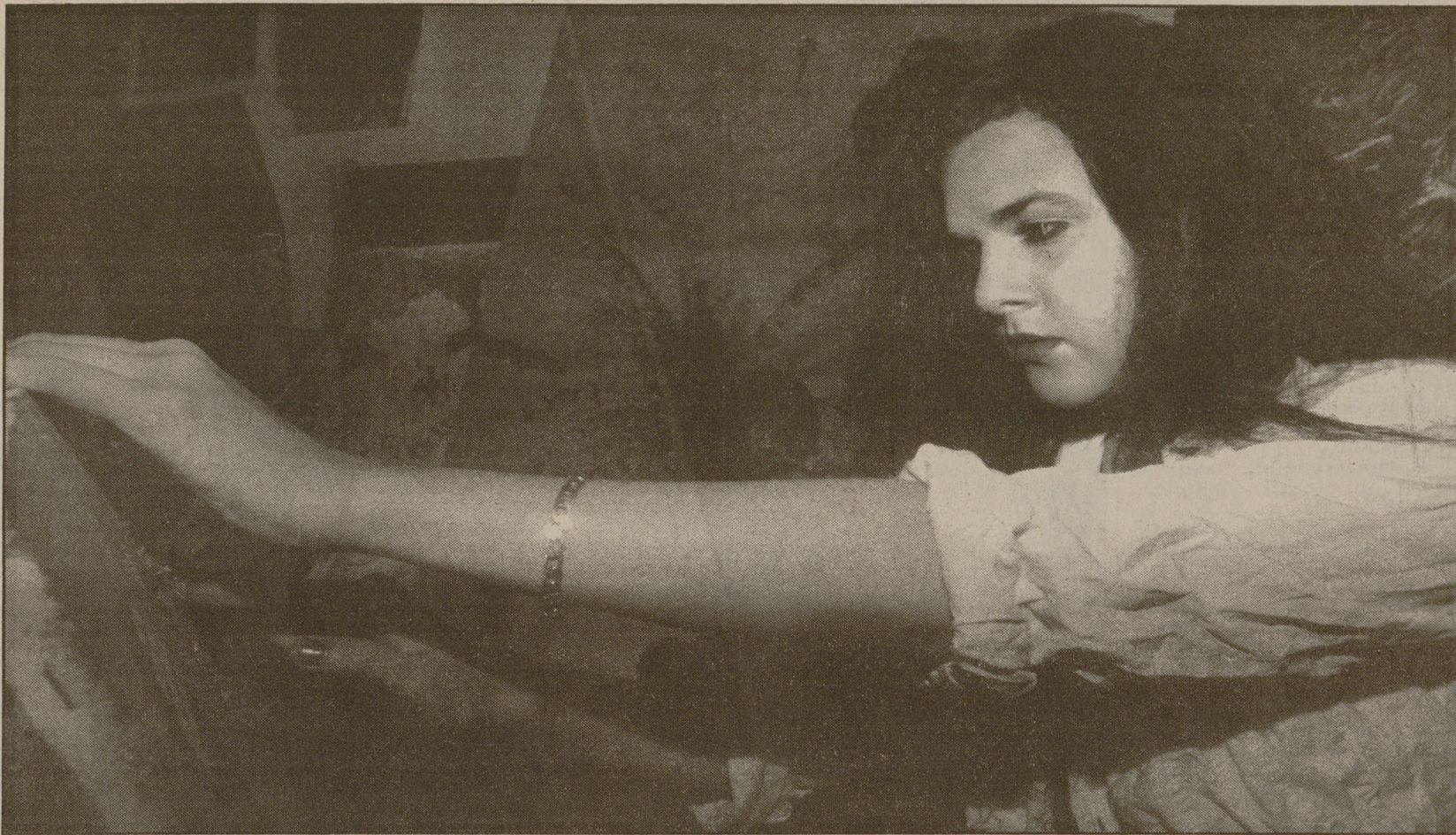


Photo by Penny DeLosSantos

Isabella Basombria, senior environmental design major at A&M, adds the finishing touches to one of her pieces. Isabella is currently an intern at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston and teaches art classes at the museum on a contract basis.

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## Association gives voice to Hispanics

### NAHJ provides opportunities

By FRANCES ALONZO  
Special to the Battalion

Brown vs. Black? When you hear the word "minority," the first thing that comes to mind is African-Americans. Many other minority groups are never considered. Yet by the year 2000, Hispanics are forecasted to be the largest minority in the United States. In the struggle for having the Hispanic voice heard, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists was created to complement, not compete with the National Association of Black Journalists.

Hispanic journalists from all over the country wanted to achieve for themselves what NABJ had done for its members: better job opportunities, training development and the opportunity to have the doors opened for as many people as possible. NAHJ was founded to gain the national visibility and united voice needed for more accurate portrayals of Hispanics by the media.

of doubt about whether we can pull it off and whether there is really enough Hispanic journalists who would be concerned about (creating a unified voice).

With NAHJ in its eighth year, it is very obvious that many Hispanic journalists are concerned.

NAHJ's most recent national conference, held in San Francisco

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—Gerald Garcia  
NAHJ president

April, had over 800 people attending with 97 recruiters available at the fair.

The organization will hold its 1991 convention in New York, described by media professionals as "media capital of the world," to highlight NAHJ's role in the industry.

"We just created a new vision, a new avenue and an important awareness," Garcia said. "I think that people understand now that we're here to stay and that our voices need to be heard."

## CAMAC promotes Mexican heritage

By VIVIAN ROJAS  
Special to the Battalion

The Committee for the Awareness of Mexican American Culture is a campus organization working to promote the heritage of one of the fastest growing American minority groups.

Joe Fenton, CAMAC adviser, said it is very important that the Mexican-American culture be understood by everyone because it is a beautiful culture and has long been a part of the southwest United States, he said.

CAMAC's job is to make others aware of the Mexican-American way of life through lectures, the arts and educational programs. Through these programs, CAMAC eliminates negative stereotypes, Fenton said.

Mexican-American students can also learn more about their heritage through involvement in this organization, he said.

"It is very important that they leave the university with an understanding of the Mexican-American culture, pride in their culture and the ability to promote their culture," Fenton said.

One of CAMAC's founding members Daniel R. Hernandez, who is now assistant general counsel at A&M, said CAMAC provides camaraderie for Mexican-American students.

The committee was founded in 1974 by a group of Hispanics who wanted to meet with other Hispanic students, Hernandez said.

"We had nothing at A&M to remind us of our ethnic heritage," he said. "We also felt there was a need for the A&M community to learn more about our culture and we wanted to inform the community."

Fenton said CAMAC has grown in importance and in its ability to make a statement about the significance of the Mexican-American tradition.

Michelle Alvarado, CAMAC chairperson, said the 80-member committee has a strong Mexican-American student participation, but a misconception about the organization is that it is only for Hispanic students. Membership is open to students interested in

learning about the Mexican-American culture, she said.

Many people believe that members of ethnic organizations are segregating themselves from the mainstream, but these organizations are established to meet needs of minority students not met by other organizations, Alvarado said.

One of CAMAC's priorities is to provide educational programs that deal with minority issues, she said. Last semester the committee sponsored "A War of Words on Drugs." The program discussed the drug problem among Mexican-Americans.

Educating through drama is the organization's theater group,

"We had nothing at A&M to remind us of our ethnic heritage."

—Daniel R. Hernandez,  
founding member

which performs poignant plays about the Mexican-American experience, she said.

Encouraging the appreciation of Mexican-American art by displaying murals in the MSC and sponsoring mariachi bands on campus is another way of educating the community, she said.

CAMAC also extends its services to the community by visiting the elderly at Oak Hill, a College Station residential center and tutoring students in Bryan, Alvarado said.

CAMAC's A&M community activities include: an annual conference, faculty receptions, former student banquets and other social events, Alvarado said.

Georgette Lopez-Aguado, incoming chairperson, is planning ahead for next semester's activities.

Aguado said her goals for the organization are increased awareness of the committee's purpose, continued growth in student membership stressing participation of non-Hispanic students, expansion of programs and a greater participation from faculty and staff.

## Groups provide cultural awareness

### Groups unite students, aid in academic, career development

By LETTY RODRIGUEZ  
Special to the Battalion

● COMMITTEE FOR THE AWARENESS OF MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURE (CAMAC) CAMAC wants to increase campus awareness of the Mexican-American culture. CAMAC provides opportunities for student development through membership retreats, freshmen activities and speaker forums. CAMAC also serves the Mexican-American students and community. CAMAC provides tutorial assistance as a service to students in the local community.

● MEXICAN AMERICAN ENGINEERING SOCIETY (MAES)

MAES wants to foster cooperation among industry, government and academic communities to improve educational opportunities for Hispanic engineers and scientists. MAES provides counseling and information of financial assistance to Hispanic students interested in engineering and science careers.

● ORGANIZATION OF MINORITY MEDICAL STUDENTS:

The goals of the organization are to educate members on the needs and health care issues of minorities and their professional members; to unite and provide social and academic assistance to members; to recruit students into the Texas A&M University College of Medicine.

● HISPANIC JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION (HJA)

HJA is open to all students who are interested in journalism and communications. HJA's primary

goals are to unite Hispanic journalism students; to provide information on scholarships and internships; to aid in employment and career development; to foster greater understanding of Hispanic culture, interests and concerns.

● Other Hispanic student career-related organizations include: Hispanic Business Student Association (HBSA), Minority Engineering Council, Minority Association of Pre-Health Aggies.

Several international student organizations also exist to provide members with social and cultural activities. They include:

- Guatemalan Student Association
- Ecuadorian Students Association
- Colombian Students Association
- Brazilian Students Association
- Bolivian Students Association
- Mexican Student Association
- Nicaraguan Student Association
- Panamanian Student Association
- Paraguayan Students Association
- Puerto Rican Students Association
- Honduran Student Association
- Peruvian Students Association
- Venezuelan Students Association
- Argentine Club
- Chilean Students Association
- Costa Rica Students Association
- El Salvador Students Association



The Mexican American Engineering Society is at their booth during *Caliente*, an annual fall festival sponsored by HBSA.

## Folklore

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and killed by a deer. These stories may indicate social punishment, Green said.

Other stories include:

● *La Lechuza* — If you glance up in the sky and see an owl flying beware! It could be La Lechuza, the witch who transforms herself into a screech owl.

● *La Llorona* — La Llorona is described as the wailing woman in

white who is looking for her dead children. She was originally an Aztec goddess who sacrificed babies and ran off screaming into lakes and rivers. She is said to appear near bodies of water.

Belief in these and other folktales and practices is not limited by age, nationality, or social status.

"There are so many factors," Green said. "It depends on the situation and on the cultural identity of the individual. It varies from situation to situation and from individual to individual."

## Celebración

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dad mexicana, Schmidt dijo.

"Eso es lo que significa el Cinco de Mayo," él dijo. "No es tanto la victoria de 1862, sino el comienzo del crecimiento de un nacionalismo mexicano y de como enfrentar al extranjero."

Así, el Cinco de Mayo ha llegado a ser una de las celebraciones más importantes en México y es celebrado

también en los Estados Unidos.

Schmidt dijo que se celebra el Cinco de Mayo en varios grados de intensidad según los diferentes lugares de México y de los Estados Unidos.

"Por ejemplo, el Cinco de Mayo es celebrado en distintas formas en Chicago, Houston, San Deigo y aun por todo México," Schmidt dijo.

La tradición del Cinco de Mayo es

más arraigada o desarrollada en algunos lugares que en otros, él dijo. Frequentemente, el modo en que se celebra el Cinco de Mayo depende de la comunidad en particular y de sus costumbres, Schmidt dijo.

"Cada comunidad encara la celebración del Cinco de Mayo diferentemente, pero en general la celebración cubre varios aspectos de la cultura mexicana, como la música

mariachi, un desfile, la presentación del charro, y un gran baile," él dijo.

En Texas A&M el pasado 27 de abril, se celebró el Cinco de Mayo con la presentación de, "El sabor del Cinco de Mayo," en Sbsa y en Commons Dining Hall, la cual cubren una carta tradicional de comida mexicana, charlas sobre la tradición del Cinco de Mayo, y canciones mexicanas.

## English

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those citizens and create a cohesive socio-economic system," Zaeske said.

Zaeske said 70-80 percent of Texans support the official English movement, according to a survey conducted by the Public Policy Research Lab at A&M. He said that most of those who oppose it probably don't know the issues.

Despite the numbers Zaeske quoted of voters in favor of it, legis-

lation in Texas has died twice in committee in the Legislature.

The two sides of the English-only movement have accused each other of harboring "hidden agendas."

Opponents of English-only say that it discriminates against Hispanics and is more of a movement to keep minorities out of political power, while supporters of the movement say that the Hispanic leaders opposing them are interested in recreating old Mexico with Texas, New Mexico, California, Arizona, Nevada and other western states.

"This is only the beginning of their (official English) agenda," Garcia said during the debate.

But Zaeske accused many Hispanic leaders of wanting to split up the United States and return most of the western states to Mexico. "Those people really raise my eyebrows," he added.

The English-only movement suffered a severe public relations blow in 1988 when a memo written two years earlier by John Tanton, the U.S. English founder, leaked to the public.

"As whites see their power and control over their lives declining, will they simply go quietly into the

night?" the memo said. "Or will there be an explosion?"

He said in the memo that Hispanics are more likely to accept bribes and are too reproductive. "Will the present majority peacefully hand over its political power to a group that is simply more fertile?" he wrote.

It was this memo that caused Cronkite to pull his support from the U.S. English organization and brought about the resignation of its president Linda Chavez.

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## Garcia

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tomorrow than you are today," Garcia said.

For minority students, particularly Hispanics, he said it is important to be conscious of your heritage and of your place in history.

Garcia said Hispanics need to be aware of the forces that helped them get the job in the first place. Hispanics must be conscious of the struggle of those who went before them, Garcia said.

He said it is important to build on that foundation and make it

stronger for those who will follow after them.

"I am a very proud man and am very proud of my achievements. But I would be very disappointed if there is not someone, somewhere, who will achieve more than I ever have in this business," Garcia said.

"When we were growing up and wanted to be cowboys, or firemen or nurses, we didn't look at the color of their skin. It's just what we wanted to be," Garcia said.

"It's the individual's character that carries them where they want to go. If you want to achieve it, you can get there," Garcia said.