

# Welcome, immigrants

*U.S. should make room for all types*

What do you think of when asked about Nebraska? Corn, football, farms? I thought of the same things; then I remembered I was Mexican-American (not that I would ever forget, for you Chicanos out there) and guess what I thought of? Illegal immigration! Maybe drugs and crime too! Issues which plague people of my own ethnic background—issues which, thank God, I haven't had to deal with personally.

I think that because I'm Mexican-American, I will tend to favor government programs and policies that benefit Mexicans who are affected by these issues, as opposed to an Anglo who claims to be "socially conscious" and sensitive to our needs.

Sometimes I don't know how I feel when I hear two Anglos talking about the latest batch of illegals getting shipped back to Mexico. I usually ask them how they feel about it and then react accordingly. After all, this is something that has been going on, is going on, and will keep going on, and there's nothing that's going to stop it.

I don't care if anyone from Russia, Ireland, Haiti, Africa, Germany or anywhere else came over by the thousands. That's who this country was set up for, wasn't it—the tired, the hungry and the poor? Oh, but as soon as all the tired, hungry and poor white folks get settled, fat and rich... that's it... this country served its purpose and laws and restrictions have to be set up so that we limit who can get a piece of the pie. This is wrong and I am against it 100 percent.

See IMMIGRATION on 10

# Fine comics still being ignored, even with new Vertigo imprint

Even though DC Comics has established the Vertigo banner for its mature-reader books, several fine comics still seem to be going unnoticed by readers.

This situation should change. DC began publication of one of its first true mature-reader books, "Hellblazer," in the '80s. Pulling an obscure, yet potent, character named John Constantine from the pages of "Swamp Thing," DC redefined the image of the magician/seer.

Constantine is a truly unique character—a type of character that was seriously missing in comics previously. His enemies far outnumbering his friends, Constantine indirectly killed several of his friends when he meddled with the occult. But still, Constantine's the "good guy." He is the true anti-hero, and that is his appeal.

Within the pages of "Hellblazer," Constantine sold his soul to the three devils in hell to save himself from lung cancer, saved a demon who committed the unthinkable act of falling in love with an angel, and battled a modern-day Jack the Ripper. Yet, the true extent of Constantine's powers are very carefully hidden, just a touch here and a touch there. His knowledge of the occult is unmatched, but beyond that, it is hard to say exactly what he can and cannot do.

Although the comic's language and violence is not for the timid, Constantine would be not be satisfied with anything less. "Hellblazer" is a great book—give it a try.

The "Garden of Pain" story line was just completed within the pages of "Shade: The Changing Man," and what a finish it

was. Shade found himself another body, that of a psychotic, and Kathy died. (Although she was brought back to life in order to keep Shade in line.) I have recommended this book before, and I'll gladly do so again. "Shade" is a fantastic book in which anything can happen, and usually does. Shade, Lenny and Kathy are now living in a hotel that is at a sort of crossroads of insanity. Now is the perfect time to jump on board this book.

Another seemingly unnoticed Vertigo title is "Animal Man," which is now being written by Jamie Delano, the original writer of "Hellblazer."

"Animal Man" is the story of Buddy Baker, his wife Ellen, and their two kids. Buddy has the ability to tap into the "M-field," which allows him to take on the characteristics of any animal he chooses. The consequences of this are finally being fully explored by Delano, with Buddy becoming more and more animal-like. (In the newest issue, when using the smelling abilities of a dog, he actually gets down and runs on all fours.) Also, Delano has started to explore how Buddy's powers affect his family life. Ellen's mother thinks Buddy is nuts, and Cliff, who is Buddy and Ellen's son, has reacted by rebelling against Buddy and everything he stands for.

"Animal Man" is a very good book. It works on a more personal level by focusing on Buddy's family, but that is what makes it original.

William J. Harms is an arts and entertainment reporter and a Diversions contributor.



Robin Trimarchi/DN

Misty Callero and her partner practice some of the Latin dances.

About 15 people gathered in the gymnasium of the Military and Naval Science Building to learn how to rumba, mambo, ranchetta, cumbia and merengue as a part of Chicano Awareness Week.

"This is another way to celebrate our culture," Andrea Juarez said. "I think it's a fun activity to have. We might do this some other time outside of Awareness Week."

Conrad Casteneda said that the Latin dance class was "more fun than Chesterfield's."

"Latin music is more sensual to dance than a lot of the mainstream stuff," he said.

# Everyone has a right to their history

I was once a teacher at a small private school in south Texas. I taught English and history to junior high and high school kids.

Most of my students were second generation Americans. Their parents spoke Spanish at home—which made my students bilingual, something that should have been an advantage to them in life.

But in this school the students were forbidden to speak Spanish, even among themselves in their free time.

And they were taught a white-washed history of the Americas.

I remember a textbook, the book most of my students had worked through just the year before, that claimed the biggest impact the conquistadors had on the native population of the Americas was: bringing them Christianity.

It was a parochial school, of sorts, a kind of fundamentalist detention camp really, run like a stalag by a woman in a black wig.

I tried to teach my kids a more broad-minded history; admitting that Christianity was an important import of the Spanish, I went on to tell them some of the other things they brought with them: syphilis,

small pox, blue eyes, mass murder and horses.

The kids seemed interested in the horses thing and we spent a lot of time trying to imagine life in the Americas before them.

All the mental pictures the kids had of the plains Indians included horses. We imagined their lives must have been very different before the Spanish came.

But I quickly found they had no mental image at all of the central and south American Indians, so we went into that.

Well, the Olympics were being held in Calgary that year and one day a boy in my English class said, "When those announcer guys from Spain talk on the TV I can kind of understand it. Why is that, Mr. Baldrige?"

I had been saying something else but his question struck me dead in my tracks.

"What did you say?" He repeated the question, making it clearer for me, his slow teacher.

This kid didn't know where his language came from. A school that forbade him to speak his first language with his friends, wanted to

take away even the memory of his culture, to rob him of his heritage—doing him the dubious service of North Americanizing him.

He didn't know why Spaniards spoke Spanish a lot like his own. All the talk of the conquistadors and the conquest by Spain of the Americas had been just more school stuff to him, mildly interesting at best, not really touching on who he was.

In the following weeks we spent a lot of time trying to get a grasp of what our history actually was, what it meant and what we could learn about ourselves from it.

I disregarded the book and brought texts from the library.

We talked about history in a new way after that.

I don't know if I got through to them, but I said over and over again, in as many ways as I could find: this is your history, it's part of who you are. Don't give up the right to question what you are taught and don't let anyone take it away from you.

Five weeks before the school year was up, I was "let go,"—a trouble maker. Mark Baldrige is arts and entertainment editor for the Daily Nebraskan.

## Achieve Your Peak Potential in the Field of Law.

**Become a paralegal.**

And start your exciting and respected career in law.  
Or take the first giant step toward your law degree.

With a 4 year college degree, you can begin working in the fastest growing profession — **paralegal** — in just 5 months.

- Approved by the American Bar Association
- Free lifetime national placement assistance
- Financial aid available for eligible students
- Includes a 100 hour internship

**New Sessions Begin In April, June & September**  
Call today for a free video **1-800-848-0550**  
"Your Career in Law"

**DENVER PARALEGAL INSTITUTE**  
1401 19th Street Denver, CO 80202

Please provide information on the paralegal profession.  
 Please send free video "Your Career in Law"

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

**DENVER PARALEGAL INSTITUTE**  
1401 19th Street  
Denver, CO 80202  
1-800-848-0550