

Do You Believe . . .

Mexican Superstitions

By MARIA HERNANDEZ

Interest in the supernatural is very popular in Mexico; many people sincerely believe in black magic, fortune telling, witches, witch doctors, and medicine men. All kinds of supernatural ideas are commonly feared in Mexico.

Let's talk about witches. Generally, females practice this profession. They are separated into two classes: white witches and black witches. The white witch is she who does good deeds, for she is of God. She foretells luck, predicts the future, or makes lost sweethearts return to their mates. Black witches, however, are evil and they are of the devil. They also practice the foretelling of luck and of future events. Many Mexicans believe that whatever is told them by a white or a black witch will occur.

Fortune tellers are those persons who charge expensive prices for their predictions. They use fortune telling cards and they create certain rituals in order to invent that which they tell their clients. At times their predictions come true, but often fortune tellers greatly exaggerate.

Palm readers are females and also males. The women dress in long skirts and wear many necklaces, rings, and fancy jewelry. The men wear huarache sandals and brightly colored shirts. They are all nomadic and never live in the same place for any period of time. Palm readers travel together with many families. They walk through the streets looking for clients. They always frequent the poorer neighborhoods, because the people living there can be exploited more easily. Poorer

people are usually more ignorant and more superstitious than other Mexicans.

The Mexican witch doctor practices a special "medicine," which appeals to those who do not have the money to pay a medical doctor. These people also seek his services from ignorance of better medical help.

The medicine man sells natural medicines that are often good, but have no chemical basis. Often these persons sell remedies which serve no purpose to the ill person; it is solely an easy way to make money from the poor Mexicans.



Who's For A Club Day?

By FREDIA BLACKMON

The club advisors are now in the process of organizing a club day during school which would allow students who ride the afternoon bus and those who leave early to participate in the clubs of their choice. According to a majority of club advisors, a club day is very necessary at our school.

"I would like for my French classes to be able to meet as a group for a culture program or speaker during the school day. It would be easier to obtain a speaker for one group than for individual classes. The more participation we have the more we can accomplish."



Mrs. Hampton

"DECA is an integral part of the Marketing and Distributive Education Program. Since my program is a cooperative one and my students work afternoon and evenings, and on weekends, it is an impossible task to have a meeting and have all in attendance.

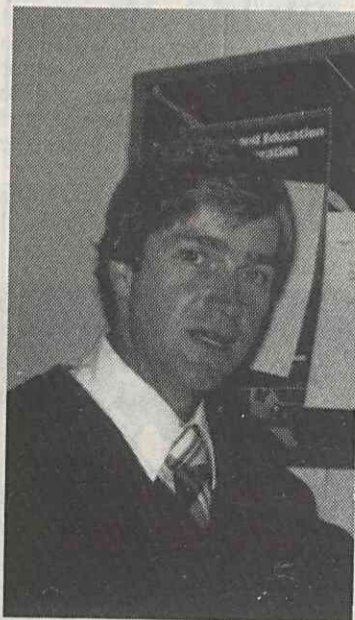
Having a club day for one period each month would be a great benefit in letting our officers receive leadership training and the club could act as a team in carrying out projects and activities.

Mrs. Sybil Brown
"ICT-VICA needs a club day

once a month to let the students function as a group. We have difficulty meeting at other times because the students are all employed. It is impossible to get the students together outside of school."

Mr. Hollis

This program has been successful throughout the other schools and could possibly benefit our school as well. All students who are interested in helping to organize such a special day should talk with their club advisors.



A Time for Thanks

Since Thanksgiving is rapidly approaching, everyone has begun to think about turkey, dressing, pumpkin pie, and all the other things associated with Thanksgiving. But has anyone thought about what he is really thankful for? Some students at ASHS have already been hard at work thinking about the things that they are thankful for. Some of their comments were:

Stephanie Pollard — "I'm thankful for wonderful sisters and loving boyfriends!"

Wesley Harris — "I'm thankful for my beautiful body!"

Maria Dennis — "I'm thankful for my Tarbaby!"

Mary Moose — "I'm thankful for Tarbaby's U.N.C. football buddies."

Debra Wall — "I'm thankful that the basketball season has started, because now Mrs. Talbert can take out her anger on her basketball players instead of on the cheerleaders!"

Kelly Herrin — "I'm thankful for wrestling moves!"

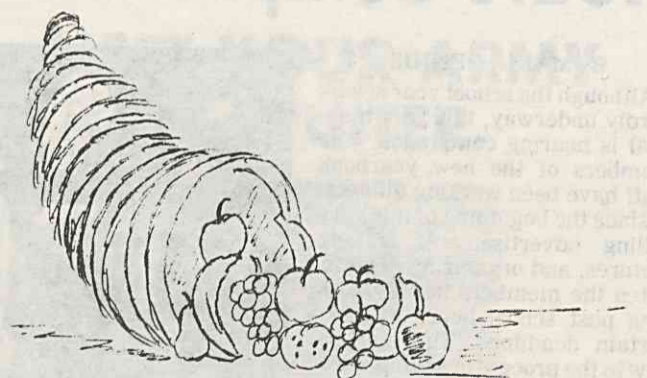
Bob Andrew — "I'm thankful for Barbara Ann Cesare!"

Ann Novak — "I'm thankful for my buddy, Bud!"

Fredia Blackmon — "I'm thankful for Marcus."

Kelly Watson — "I'm thankful that the officials called off the Powder Puff game with twelve seconds left! Also, I'm thankful for my best friend, Cheesy!"

The Journalism Class — "We're thankful for Mrs. Ellis!"



Euthanasia:

An Act of Mercy or Murder?

By MARY MOOSE

Today in America it has become increasingly necessary for individuals, families, and health-care professionals to face life and death decisions. For instance, what do we do about the lingering and often painful death of the incurably ill? This question has become a moral and legal dilemma for the medical profession as well as the relatives of the ill patient. Many people strongly feel that this dying period should not be prolonged by artificial means such as respirators, intravenous fluids, or other marvels of modern science. In such cases the doctors, by continuing treatment, are preserving life or merely prolonging death. Then there are the cases of the old and

senile who degenerate into human cabbages. And the accident victims with brains so severely damaged that they lie in a coma for months and even years.

It appears that today's society is leaning towards euthanasia, or the act of "mercy killing", as a result of the growing numbers of these seemingly hopeless cases. Public approval of the idea has increased sharply since a 1950 Gallup Poll, when 36 percent of Americans said they approved euthanasia. In a more recent survey, 53 percent expressed the view that physicians should be allowed by law to end the life of the incurably ill if the patient and family request it.

Euthanasia comes from two Greek words literally meaning

"good death". Two forms of euthanasia are generally recognized: active and passive. Active euthanasia is the deliberate use of measures which will hasten death, such as administering a fatal dose of a pain-killing drug. Passive euthanasia is the withholding of measures of treatments which prolong life, such as the withdrawal of respirators. Active euthanasia causes death, while passive euthanasia permits it.

In the past two years there have been dozens of books and articles on death, dying, and terminal care, all more or less commending less drastic intervention from physicians when death is near. Perhaps it is a matter which we should all take time to consider.



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