



MEREDITH HERALD

Volume XXV, Issue 20

Educating Women to Excel

March 26, 2008

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WEATHER

TODAY: Partly Cloudy.
Low 49, High 72.

**Thursday: Partly Cloudy/
Wind.** Low 56, High 76.

Friday: Partly Cloudy.
Low 60, High 82.

**Saturday: Isolated T-
Storms.** Low 49, High 79.

Sunday: Partly Cloudy.
Low 46, High 61.

Monday: Partly Cloudy.
Low 59, High 76.

Tuesday: Few Showers.
Low 53, High 73.

Source: www.weather.com
Information retrieved
Tues. Mar. 25 at 3:30 p.m.

The Question of Flamboyancy: Cultural Clashes

Julia Spruill
Contributing Writer

In America today there are many cultural clashes between Latin-American and Anglo-American cultures. Latin-Americans do not assimilate and accept that certain traditions in their culture can have other meanings in America. Anglo-American men also do not accept that the traditional dress of Latin-American women is not an invitation for a sexual advance. Both Anglo-Americans and Latin-Americans must learn tolerance towards the traditions of one

another.

In her article "Don't Misread My Signals," Judy Ortiz Cofer offers criticism of her own Latin-American culture. She first points out the paradoxical upbringing that she experienced as a young Puerto Rican-American growing up in New Jersey. Cofer tells of how her parents raised her under strict Catholicism, careful to preserve her purity, while encouraging her to wear traditional Latina dress of bright, flashy colors. Many Anglo-American parents thought it was too "mature" for teen-

age girls. According to Cofer, the traditional Latina clothing presents two problems for Latin-American women.

The first problem of traditional Puerto Rican dress is that it invites advances from men who do not understand "Island Culture." Cofer says that what Puerto Rican girls would think of as acceptable, "attractive" dress would be considered a "sexual signal" to the "mainstream" Anglo-American male. For this reason, a "cultural clash" ensues, in which the white man thinks it is appropriate to approach

the Puerto Rican girl because she is "asking for it." However, he is sadly mistaken due to cultural miscommunication. Puerto Ricans must recognize that the culture in America is different and therefore some of their traditions, such as dress, can become sources of miscommunication. However, men do not have the right to approach women in a sexual manner just because of their clothing. Primary colors and jewelry do not indicate that a woman desires every guy on the street to

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How to Spend an Unproductive Evening

Tiffany Medford
Contributing Writer

College students are very busy people. In one week they typically have a paper or test, countless homework assignments, organizational meetings, teacher conferences and for the really unfortunate, a job. Clearly, their time is very valuable. They must balance these activities in perfect harmony so they can be successful and sane. One false step and their final grade or job could be jeopardized. Knowing these facts, one would think that all college students incessantly work for either their education or their bank account. However, such is not always the case. Many college students have found loopholes in their laborious schedules. An outlet for some is a

Saturday night out with the girls; for others, it is a relaxing weekend home; for me, it is the curious pleasure of being unproductive on any given weekday evening. The process of doing nothing for an entire evening is quite simple and can be replicated by all college students.

Although I do not waste every evening, I find myself mystified on the days that it does happen. I wonder, "How is it already bedtime?" and "What did I do tonight?" My stupor is not drug- or alcohol-induced but rather a fascination with how someone as busy as I am managed to accomplish nothing throughout the evening. To get a grasp on that day's events, I retrace my steps. First, I returned home at 5 p.m. after a challenging day of

work and classes. I immediately trudged up the stairs to the office and put my book bag and purse by my neatly organized desk and proceeded to the bathroom. After my pit stop, I went into the bedroom, took off my shoes and put on my favorite gray sweatpants so as to prepare for the hours of homework that awaited me. I proceeded into the office at 5:20 p.m., sat at my desk, and took a deep breath before opening my laptop. I began preparing what I needed to accomplish that evening by logging into Facebook. Every college student knows that Facebook is the best resource for preparation because it provides up-to-date information on their peers as well as photo documentation of week-end activities (my favorite part). I began looking at

the newest photos and before I knew it, it was 6:05 p.m. Yikes! I spent 45 minutes Facebook stalking when I should have been doing homework. I logged off and scolded myself for the amount of valuable time lost on such a frivolous activity.

Following my Facebook expedition, I pulled out my notebooks and began thinking about my assignments for the evening. But in the middle of that action, I remembered I needed to check my webmail, gmail and Blackboard accounts. I wanted to make sure nothing had changed with my assignments before I spent countless hours perfecting them. I told myself that I would respond with only brief sentences to

Unproductive cont. on pg.