

HISPANIC
From Page 3

Peru, said language was the main obstacle standing in the way of Hispanics.

"The biggest thing I would stress to my community is the learning of English," she said. "There is an attitude among a lot of Hispanics that says 'I can't learn it,' but they have to get jobs to make money somehow."

"However, the English courses available are few and not very good, so I can't blame them completely."

Harper said difficulty in communication could be one reason most Hispanics could be found working in lower-class jobs.

"I notice that they are mostly involved in blue collar jobs, stocking shelves at grocery stores, cleaning hotels or working as kitchen and wait staff at restaurants," he said. "But the biggest field for Hispanics is definitely construction."

Palmer said the high cost of living in Chapel Hill had forced many Hispanics to work several jobs, and some families even shared small apartments to ease

the town's notoriously high rent prices.

"It's not a poor life compared to what their life would be like in Latin America," she said. "But compared to the Chapel Hill median income of \$75,000 a year, most Hispanics are far, far below that."

Both Harper and Palmer said a general misconception was that all Hispanics were in the United States illegally. "Most of them come with green cards," Harper said. "There is a stereotype out there that all Hispanics are illegal, and that is just not true."

Palmer said those who were here illegally faced amazing hardship.

"If they don't have papers, one of the biggest problems is exploitation in the workplace, since they have no defense," she said. "There is injustice out there, and I see it every day."

Chapel Hill Town Council member Pat Evans said the council was very attentive to the concerns of the Hispanic community. "We try to have Hispanics on boards and committees to get them involved in town government," she said. "It's important to reach out to them, and I think we try to do that."

Evans said several issues came to

mind regarding the Hispanic community in Chapel Hill. "Housing is a very important issue," she said. "As a town, we've also started doing more printing of bilingual documents so that people can do what they need to do, whether it is getting a library card or a driver's license."

"We were even talking about having a story hour at the library in Spanish," Evans said. "So, obviously, there are a lot of different issues."

She said Chapel Hill was lucky to have such a prominent Hispanic community because of their addition to the area's work force and diversity.

"We have a very low unemployment rate, and we are fortunate to have the people to fill the jobs we need to fill, no matter who they are," she said.

Harper said that though Hispanics could perform many jobs, they had not yet broken into at least one field.

"There are only a few Hispanic-owned businesses," he said. "However, I expect that number to grow as we have more Hispanics move into the area."

"We haven't seen many Latino businesses because, a, there haven't been that many Latinos until recently and, b, they haven't stayed that long," Harper

said. "But as their command of English grows and they move into managerial positions, more Hispanic businesses are sure to be created."

Tony Sustaita, owner of Bandido's Mexican Restaurant and the Hideaway, both on Franklin Street, said one of the reasons for the lack of Hispanic-owned businesses in the area was cost.

"It's too expensive for most Latinos," he said. "It costs a lot of money to open a business, and rent prices around here are outrageous. I pay more in rent in Chapel Hill than I did in Atlanta."

Sustaita said that although Chapel Hill was for the most part racially peaceful, some surrounding areas did not share the same harmony.

"I have not faced any prejudice in Chapel Hill," he said. "I have not experienced any particular problems. In places like Hillsborough, however, being of Mexican descent is not a plus."

As far as law enforcement is concerned, the main problem with dealing with the new population of Hispanics is difficulty in communicating.

"Lack of communication is the biggest problem, and we're taking steps to fix it," said Chapel Hill Police spokes-

woman Jane Cousins. "We've recruited Hispanic officers and bilingual officers, and that helps."

"We've also applied for a grant from the Governor's Crime Commission to provide better services to Spanish-speaking victims of domestic and sexual abuse, as well as more specialized training for our officers."

Cousins said some of the difficulties could result from some Latin Americans' different views of law enforcement officers and their role in society. Most Latin American countries have endured military dictatorships at some point in their history, and the image of police as an oppressive force continues in many of these countries.

"Part of the communication problem is the preset image of police," Cousins said. "In Latin America, there is a different relationship between the people and the police, and we try to educate (Hispanics) about what law enforcement is in the United States."

Carrboro Police Chief Carolyn Hutchinson echoed Cousins' concerns about communication problems with minorities. "Obviously, the language barrier is the largest impediment,"

Hutchinson said. "Half of our officers have been taking a nine-week occupational Spanish course, and we'll probably enroll the other half as well."

Hutchinson said her officers were doing their best to accommodate the new residents and serve them as well as possible.

"I wouldn't call it problematic, but it is something we deal with on a day-to-day basis," she said. "The best thing we can do is increase our ability to get our point across, and I think we're trying to do that."

Palmer said that though work and living conditions could be worse than those found in Chapel Hill and Carrboro, some stereotypes and attitudes still needed to be conquered for the Hispanic community to truly feel at home.

"Some people have called me and told me that Americans were getting along fine before Hispanics came along," she said. "This attitude, and the abuse of Hispanics in the community, is incredible."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

PROFILE
From Page 3

the hardest elements of her family's transition to the United States.

"We had no credit history," she said. "We had been here as a tourist, but when it came to applying to a bank, they couldn't provide us with loans because they didn't know how good we'd be."

Fort said they were lucky enough to be put in contact with an agency for people moving to the United States from other countries.

Fort said another major challenge fac-

ing new arrivals was trying to learn the everyday procedures American residents took for granted. "It was very hard to get along," she said. "When you don't know the procedures, you can't get the information easily."

She said she found it frustrating to navigate the area after her husband left for work because she was not sure of her whereabouts. "Everyone feels lost at the beginning," she said. "I didn't know where to go to get information."

For many immigrants, language can also stand in the way of being informed in a new community.

But the Fort family did not find that

a significant barrier.

"My children were brought up in England, and my husband speaks English," Fort said. "It has been difficult to communicate because of my family; I learned English at the oldest age."

"Living in England, I couldn't communicate and felt isolated, and I cried a lot. I kept thinking to myself, when will this be over, and instead of crying I went and learned (English) and that's when I really started my life."

When Fort moved to America, she said she felt that even though she was able to communicate in the same language as her neighbors, she did not

always understand the society in which they had grown up.

Fort said she had questions concerning the unfamiliar American perspective surrounding women's issues and independence.

She said it was the American culture's acceptance of women that gave her the ability to enter the work force and gave her 8-year-old daughter Andrea the confidence to dive into community programs.

"My daughter was able to do soccer here," Fort said. "She never thought of doing that before - a woman soccer player (in Latin America)? No way!"

When Fort moved to the area, she began working by volunteering in Andrea's school, Mary Scroggs Elementary. "In the Carrboro school system, I could see children that were coming to the (United States) and help them get situated on a one-to-one basis and give them confidence," she said.

Fort volunteered with the Lincoln Center Offices, which houses several outreach programs for immigrants, and then started working for the Early Head Start program, where she helps educate immigrants about English and American culture.

"They were open to me bringing my

experiences to them, and I learned from them," she said. "I work with a team of professionals and go to them for help or if I have any questions or doubt."

Working with Early Head Start's family programs for mothers and children from newborn to 3-years-old, as well as visiting numerous families at home, Fort comes into contact with Hispanics struggling to adjust to their new homes.

She might not have had the typical immigration experience, but Fort said she identified with those who could not adjust as easily to the area. "They come from Latin America," she said. "They are different. People need to understand that they may speak the same language, but they are not all the same."

But Fort said the academic climate of the University helped promote interest in foreign cultures and opened the possibility of taking courses and learning more. Fort said seeing young people everywhere made a difference. "They are more willing to help with directions," she said. "They are always laughing, smiling and there is a positive atmosphere."

Fort's 20-year-old son, Prem, is a junior biology major at UNC, and she said he helped his family find out about Latin American events.

Although the University provided a stimulating and diverse environment, working with these local groups prompted Fort's realization that Chapel Hill still had a long way to go before becoming a totally accepting and understanding community for immigrants.

"People (don't) understand why we immigrate," she said. "There are certain situations in peoples' countries so that people want their children to have a better life."

As a resident of Chapel Hill, Fort said her goal was to offer to the community what she could, and she said she hoped that others would not hesitate to approach her.

"People need to know more about Hispanic heritage," she said. "They don't know much, and that's why they don't approach us to see how we are, what we are and how we think."

Fort said that even with all of the challenges she had faced, she did not regret her move to Chapel Hill.

"There always exists certain obstacles, and a person has to go beyond them," she said.

"Challenges - I like challenges, and I like to know the culture. It is like you bring something to me and I bring something to you."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

OPENING
Tip off this
Sunday at 11am

Go Heels
Good Luck!

SUNDAY BRUNCH
Served 11am-3pm
All items served with seasonal fruit.

23 EGGS
2 1/2 inch fresh eggs, any style, with grits or potatoes, toast or english muffin.
Choice of 3 strips of hickory smoked bacon or 2 sausage links. \$4.50

SAUSAGE & EGGS
Mildly spicy cajun sausage chopped & scrambled with two eggs.
Choice of potatoes or grits, toast or english muffin. \$4.50

OMELETTES
Served with grits or potatoes & toast or english muffin.
Choice of two. \$4.95
Swiss, jack, cheddar, cream cheese, tomatoes, onions, mushrooms, spinach, sprouts, bell peppers, ham, bacon, andouille sausage. 50 additional items.

SMOKED SALMON BENEDICT
Two poached eggs on toasted english muffin with cream cheese, house smoked salmon, and hollandaise sauce, served with chopped onion and potatoes.

EGGS BENEDICT
Toasted english muffin with smithfield ham, two poached eggs covered with hollandaise sauce and served with potatoes. \$6.50

HUEVOS RANCHEROS
Two pan fried eggs over black beans, peppers, onions, green salsa, and corn tortillas. \$5.50

HOTCAKES & SUCH

BELGIAN WAFFLES
Choice of:
Glazed apples, banana compote, or fresh strawberries
As toppings, with whipped cream & powdered sugar. \$4.50

MANGO PECAN PANCAKES
Three buttermilk pancakes filled with fresh mango and pecans served with real maple syrup. \$5.25

BUTTERMILK HOTCAKES
Three traditional pancakes with butter and maple syrup. \$3.75

BANANA NUT FRENCH TOAST
Thick sliced dipped in fresh eggs, cream and cinnamon cooked to a golden brown. 4.95

23 BREAKFAST BURRITO
A crepe filled with scrambled eggs, onions, spinach, cheese served with salsa, sour cream & potatoes. \$5.95

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THE Daily Crossword By Phillip J. Anderson

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ACROSS

1 Stimp's pal
4 Steer clear of
9 Lesser Sundas island
14 Actor Wallach
15 "The Mutiny"
16 Distinctive smell
17 1972 Oscar winner and her film
20 Bomb blast, in headlines
21 Fish like a stick
22 Mature
23 1990 Oscar winner and his film
28 Talk baby talk
29 Morales of "Bad Boys"
30 Hardships
34 PAT value
36 Wristwatch part
40 1977 Oscar winner and her film
44 Ford flop
45 Bro's sib
46 Nervous
47 Landed
50 Mom-&-pop store grp.
52 1978 Oscar winner and her film

DOWN

1 Revise charts
2 Select few
3 Baseball teams
4 Of vinegar
5 Actor Kilmer
6 OPEC product
7 Architect Jones
8 Ten years
9 Bar bill
10 Fury
11 Upright
12 Greek letter
13 Evaluates
18 Presidential advisory grp.
19 Pound sounds
24 Hired thug
25 Ms. Chaplin
26 Relaxation
27 Supple
30 Guy with an alibi?
31 Went first
32 Spanish article

33 Stand one in good
35 Skinny twins?
37 Way cool!
38 Math subj.
39 Double over
41 Spicy stew
42 Unless, in law
43 Publishing ID
48 God's image
49 Alley denizen
51 Appalled

52 _ fatale
53 During a broadcast
54 Bellini opera
55 Stiller's partner
56 Daughter of Loki
57 Stan's partner
58 Goo-goo-eyed
59 Practice piece of music
64 Old pro

65 Altar words
66 Germanic god of war
67 Interdiction

PAUL ULSTER SPY
ACNE SELENE PEA
SHAVEPOINTS LEN
TEPID TEETHING
ESTEEMS TREAT
SNOOT RILED
DOS IDLEST ROPE
ABE CUTAWAY GEL
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RITAS SALUTER
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The Carolina Law School
Welcomes the University community to hear
Senator Paul Wellstone, UNC alumnus,
speak about leadership, public service,
and his experiences as a U.S. Senator,
Friday, March 24, 6 p.m., Law School Rotunda.
Reception to follow.

"Too Many Babies? Feminist Perspectives on the Population: Environment Debates"

Come listen to **Joni Seager**, Associate Professor of Geography from University of Vermont, discuss Feminism, Geography, and the Environment.

Friday, March 24 4:30pm
Saunders 212

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Fri March 24 - 8:15pm
Sat March 25 - 8:15pm
Sun March 26 - 8:15pm
Mon March 27 - 4:00pm
Tues March 28 - 5:00pm

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Sunday, March 26 3-5pm

Talk/book signing
Bingham Hall Room 103
UNC Campus
Monday, March 27 4pm

Any questions, call 962-4031
Part of UNC Latina/o Cultures Speakers' Series