between the Latinos and the dominant society has served, in great measure, as a leitmotiv for innumerable studies which from anthropological, literary or socio cultural perspectives intend to define the identity and the importance of Latinos in the United States of America.

Nowadays, political and economic spheres are conscious of the specific weight and importance of this group (Latinos) within U. S. society. Politicians speak to Latinos as a group and are very concerned with the hispanic vote. Perhaps this explains how President Bush, a conservative republican, has on occasion, while addressing the nation, pronounced some phrases in Spanish... and even celebrates the Cinco de Mayo at the White House, surrounded by Latino artists! Furthermore, during national electoral campaigns, part of the publicity speeches are done in Spanish.

We Latinos are not excluded from the economic spheres, either. The purchasing power of Latinos in this country is evident and the strategies of publicity campaigns for many products have taken into account the presence of our community. The music, the food and many actors, actresses and singers have become a part of the national cultural discourse. Curiously, many large companies such as Sony and Columbia Records have begun to produce and "package" "Latino culture" to sell to the working capacity of our community. Nevertheless, there is still much to do!

When this nation took us in and offered us opportunities that we have today, the imperatives imposed by the adaptation process forced us to become a group, in spite of the aforementioned differences. In this nation, we exist artificially, not as individuals, but as a group. Negotiating this logic is the most important task for new Latino generations. We are not excluded by the state, but are we well represented in the nation's administration? Our community will be adequately represented in the power spheres of the nation when well prepared leaders set on representing us appear. It is necessary to comprehend that being "Latino" is a condition, NOT a right, a type of culture and language, NOT a social benefit or attribute. We Latinos, will be prepared to defend our rights when our work and our capacity speaks for us. Those who aspire to benefit from quotas, without acknowledging and dignifying their rights as individuals, will become inadequate leaders. To study, to work, and to create are the assets of our time. To grow with a solid foundation, to develop a generous character and a human interest should be the path to follow. And when our orators and leaders share the podium of power with other influential figures, it is imperative that they be the most cultured, the most just, the most egalitarian, and the most dedicated to the struggles and interests of our community.

When this moment comes, not far from the horizon of this nation, then we celebrate the 12th of October, as the "Day of Latino Culture," with the same pride and unity with which the Irish celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Until then, the path will be one of conscious preparation and much work. This responsibility rests on all of us.