

THE BRONX
Journal

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Editorial

BILLY COLLINS HAS BEEN NAMED POET LAUREATE OF THE United States. This is indeed an honor, not just for the poet himself, a Distinguished Professor of English here at Lehman College, but for the College as well.

Dr. Marlene Gottlieb, Dean of Arts and Humanities, said "The naming of our own Billy Collins as Poet Laureate is especially heartwarming to me, because poets are seldom afforded such recognition.

In these times, when the corporate model is being imposed on the university and accountability, productivity, and measurable assessment are the buzzwords, it is truly refreshing to celebrate the human spirit in all its unpredictability and resilience.

Billy's poetry does precisely that. It is the essence of the humanities and reminds us of the true goals of a liberal arts education."

The fact that Billy Collins was named Distinguished Professor by the CUNY Board of Trustees just days after being honored as Poet Laureate only adds to Dr. Gottlieb's words. Across the nation, the academic arena is currently fighting attacks from those who would limit resources to the arts and humanities because they do not necessarily provide students with a path to a specific career. Honoring Billy Collins for his poetry once again points out the importance of the arts, and the disservice we do to our students if we neglect the development of their creative sensibilities. Artists and writers not only introduce fresh ideas with their work, but also motivate subsequent generations to try their hand at artistic endeavors. The Bronx Journal joins all those who celebrate Billy Collins achievements. We agree with President Ricardo Fernández that Billy should not only be celebrated for his poetry, but also for his commitment to the classroom, something which has remained a constant in his life.



Miguel Pérez is a columnist for The Record

Never mind the fact many Latino immigrants fear filling out census forms. Never mind that, as a result, Latinos are traditionally undercounted, that even census officials admit it, and that politicians refuse to allow the use of statistical sampling formulas to correct the inequities.

Now it turns out that the Census Bureau managed to undercount even those who were counted.

Thanks to a confusing question in the 2000 census, the bureau is now charged -- by demographers and community activists -- with severely undercounting most Hispanic groups.

"The real numbers are about 50 percent more than the reported numbers," said John Logan, a demographer and professor at the State University of New York at Albany. "These groups are actually present in much

more substantial numbers than we can tell simply from the Hispanic origin question, as it is reported by the census."

Logan and others have charged that many Latinos were confused by the part of the form where "other Hispanics" were supposed to specify their nationality. This doesn't apply to Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans -- three groups that are privileged to have their own check box on the census form.

But it is obvious there was a problem with the part that asked "other" Hispanics to spell out their nationality.

Particularly affected are the other large Hispanic groups, including Dominicans, Colombians, Ecuadoreans, and Peruvians. In 1990 -- when the question included more detailed instructions and even the suggestion that one write in "Colombian" or "Dominican" -- there were 76,887 New

Journalists from Argentina join new International Communication group

During the meeting of Hispanic journalists this past April in Miami, a group of communicators discussed with you the need of creating the International Association of Journalists for Education, Science and Culture. (AIPECC). I am glad that this project is now a reality and that you are willing to play an important role in its administration.

As head of the Asociación de Periodistas de Internet (AIP), I am happy to inform you that our association and its members happily joins the ranks of AIPECC.

At the same time I must inform you that we are preparing internet capacitation courses for students and journalists in Mar del Plata. We are also in the process of launching a radio program through internet with various themes, including a web site tutorial.

In addition we are planning a special "pull-out supplement" in the local newspaper *La Capital*, which has a daily circulation of 100,000

copies. We will devote this supplement to everything related to digital journalism and other issues related to AIPECC.

As we proceed with our plans, we would like to suggest expanding AIPECC, our umbrella organization, not only throughout our continent, but Europe as well.

The era of globalization is here, we simply cannot afford to be left behind.

Miguel Angel Schettino
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Comments on 168 HORAS

I am a mass communication major at Lehman College, and I am pleased to say that 168 Horas is a great show. It's very exciting to see a fine production come straight out of the Multilingual Journalism Program. In the future I plan to intern in the show.

There are, however, a couple of areas that need to be corrected. In a previous show I noticed some audio problems during a trivia question: the voice-over sounded very low.

The other error occurred when there was a break followed by a sudden return to the program.

The show runs smoothly, although the crew needs more training. The male host does a marvelous job, but the female host seemed a bit nervous. In an earlier show I noticed she pointed her hands to the camera, and she also interrupted a guest. In another show, however, which she hosted alone, there was considerable improvement.

The show is great, the topics interesting and the graphics superb. I would like to see, however, more variety with the graphics, and new music when displaying the MLJ logo.

Name withheld by request

Letters to the Editor must include your name, address, and telephone number so we can verify your comments. The letters may be edited to conform to space limitations. Readers may also send comments via e-mail to: tbj@lehman.cuny.edu



Commentary

Down on the Count

Jersey Latinos who failed to specify their nationality or declared a generic term such as "Spanish-American." But according to census figures released today, the number of undefined Latinos went up to 209,993.

Census officials are using all kinds of excuses to justify the huge jump in "other" unspecified Latinos, even suggesting Latinos in 2000 simply embraced a pan-Hispanic identity, and preferred a general term that reflected them more accurately than a more narrow, national one.

"What some are seeing as our possible missing of groups, or people identifying themselves with those groups, might be a change in how people chose to identify themselves between 1990 and 2000," said Kevin Deardorff, the chief of ethnic and Hispanic statistics at the Census Bureau.

Logan doesn't buy it. "There was a very

large difference, and this is why I think everybody can be quite sure that the numbers reported for specific groups are not realistic," said Logan, who did an analysis for The Record of the figures.

Using a formula based on the Census Bureau's own monthly surveys, Logan calculated that of 210,000 New Jersey Latinos who failed to identify a nationality, 181,000 might have done so if the census form was simpler.

Based on the proportion of the New Jersey population, Logan parceled out 181,000 New Jersey Latinos by nationality and discovered that the census counted 51,564 fewer Dominicans, 32,695 fewer Colombians, 22,806 fewer Ecuadoreans, and 18,927 fewer Peruvians than he believes are actually living in New Jersey.

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