

We pay homage to the family

Mother preserves family, culture in a new world

By Silvia Vega

With many barriers that my mother had to overcome when they decided to bring our family to the United States, I am very proud to say that she did a great job of raising six of us in a different country, with a different culture and a different language.

Socorro came from Mexico to Wisconsin in the 1990's not knowing how to speak English. She worked along with my father to get a job and be able to put us in school and still have enough food on the table.

Even though we were going to be growing up in a different world than what they had been brought up in, she made sure to maintain our own culture. They still made sure to celebrate and teach us their traditions and to stay united as a family.

For all the sacrifices that they had to make, I am what I am now and have what I have now. And I will be able to teach my children the values and morals that they taught us.

Just one look, that's all it took

By El Khanssa Tmiri

He was born Angel Adam Nunez on September 20, 2003 in Libertyville, Illinois at Condell Medical Center. It was my first and last baby and the first grandchild in my family. Everyone was shocked, but they managed to move on and enjoy the little one.

It was hard going through the nine months of pregnancy, and giving birth is so hard, but once I took a first look at my son, it was all forgotten.

I am a proud mother with one wish, that my son will grow to be a better person and make the right choices. He makes my life easy, and he is my everyday inspiration. I want him to be proud of me and look up to me someday. I love him so much that I pray God day and night to keep him and return him safe to me again.

Father stands like a rock for his family

By Farrah Lott

Alexander Lott III was a dedicated, courageous, strong and honorable man. Friends and family call him "The Rock." He worked for the Chicago Heights police department and was the chief of security at St. James Hospital for 20 years.

One day "The Rock" had a hard fall. His blood pressure had gotten up so high that his kidneys failed. For a hardworking father of six children, this was a tragedy. He fought for 15 years, transplant after transplant, none successful, all failing, one after another. Still he stood as if he had no disability, standing tall and strong. Renal failure didn't stop his constant dedication to his family, his strength overcoming being weakened.

He generously shared his love with everyone and most of all his glorious walk with God. He taught us to never give up. Your life should be peaceful, he said, not filled with chaos and conclusion, and most of all, you should treat others as you want to be treated.

He was wise and humble to the day we buried him in the ground. He was the true glue in our family. All his children and grandchildren still know him as Dad.

He always said, "If God can bring you to it, He can bring you through it."

Tonight's special guest words (Thanks to Jean Feraca and Walt Whitman)

Messianic

Iconoclastic

Immortal



All eyes are on ...

My friend

By Aaron Blacks

Charlotte Hills is a very special friend, the mother of my two children. Although we're no longer together in a monogamous relationship, we're definitely cool with each other.

Charlotte has a seizure disorder and last summer went through two brain surgeries. The last time she came home she was rushed back to the UW hospital for emergency care and ended up in a coma for five and a half weeks. That was hard on the family, especially our girls. Charlotte had so many wires and needles in her, she looked like someone from a sci-fi movie. It would have scared the girls to see her like that for sure. Even though she was unconscious, I still would talk to her and reassure her that we all loved her and expected her to come home, and she did.

I had to speak to nine neurologists before they released her. They needed to be reassured that she'd take her meds and be properly taken care of. I found out very quickly that taking on that additional responsibility was more than I could handle. She needs help with everything from balancing her checkbook to doing laundry to being driven from A to B.

Charlotte's doing so much better now, but she still has seizures, so all the operations didn't isolate and stop what they were supposed to. She's such a trooper, she mentioned to me that although she felt as if they were using her in an experiment, at least maybe because of the failure of her operation they wouldn't try the same procedure on anyone else.

She called me one day after purchasing a kid's book for her grandson. It was a book of pictures that you look at with a child and tell them what they're seeing. There was one picture that she tried her best to describe to me on the phone, but I just couldn't make sense of what she was saying. I drove to her apartment to see what the picture was, since it bothered her so much, and was stunned to see that the thing she had so much trouble identifying was a shoe. She's relearning the ABC's, and other things she used to do still come naturally. The doc said it will always be a struggle for her in certain areas, but that's okay, because she's not only the mother of my children; she's my good friend.

“

If it don't kill you, it will just make you stronger.

Martha Noble

Strong woman bears heavy burdens

By LaToya Ward

Martha Noble is a strong, black, determined fifty-nine year old woman. She's the oldest of eight sisters and brothers. She also has seven children of her own. Martha was born in St. Louis, Missouri. Her mom died when she was twenty-six, leaving her to care for her younger sisters and brothers.

Life for Martha was extremely hard. Raising my mom and the rest of my aunts and uncles was a lot of hard work. She had to work extra hours just to have enough money to support her family. As the second oldest sibling, she had to get a job to help out. She couldn't afford brand new clothes, so she would have to go to a second hand store.

During this time, she had three kids of her own to care for. All together she had to care for 11 children. All of them stayed in a three bedroom apartment. They had just enough food to eat. Being the strong woman that she is, she never gave up. She wanted to see all her sisters and brothers grow together.

When she thought things couldn't get any worse, she was diagnosed with diabetes. She was pragmatic about it; she didn't let it get her down. She just carried on as if nothing was wrong. She always said, "If it don't kill you, it will just make you stronger."

Lori shines at Daybreak

By Martha Grogan

You would never guess how shy and quiet Lori really is when you see her at work. She's petite and thin, with short brown hair, always dresses in jeans, and has an impish smile. She's the manager and lead cook of a small café named Daybreak. She knows the customers by name, teases them constantly, and has a great sense of humor. Lori shoulders a lot of responsibility and stress, but she feels most at home working in the café.

Lori dreams of owning her own café/restaurant one day where she knows every employee and can be a part of a team. She would love to travel to see the ocean on either coast and to one day adopt a child. She lives in a comfortable home with her domestic partner, Lynn, and Lynn's youngest son. She admires Lynn's tenacity, perseverance, and strength, qualities she also has.

She's an avid reader and enjoys gruesome crime stories and biographies of serial killers. She loves taking her dog, Frankie, for walks in any kind of weather. Lori is very good at taking care of the people in her life. She's full of compassion, affection and strength. I'm glad to be a part of her team at Daybreak.

Peacemaker's memory lives on

By Joanna Lopez

Adrian was a good child; my mother didn't have problems with him. He was the fourth of the five children my mother had. At times when there was a physical fight at home, he would try to break up the fight. He was always a peacemaker.

Adrian and I rarely had a fight; we were the closest siblings. He was really the only sibling I got along with. I always made sure he had what he needed—if it was money, candy, or a game for the Play Station. When he was younger, kids tried bullying him, but I was the real bully and defended him.

In school he had the best grades in the household. He was very active in sports. First he started running track, then came to football,

and later he joined the wrestling team. He also played the viola very well. Even though he was very active, he kept straight A's. All the girls from Whitehorse and Senate Middle School wanted to be his girlfriends.

At 13 he was tall, muscular, and handsome. He was just a few months from graduating with a 4.0 grade point average. Then on a cold January morning in 2000, the devil knocked on my door. He took Adrian's life, his dreams, and his goals, leaving over 500 people mourning his death at the funeral. The devil did not win in this case; the Lord punished him. Adrian's memory will never be forgotten. He is still alive in my heart, just awaiting my arrival at the gates of heaven.

Next week's profile will be:

Muhammad Ali
The class will select one for the following week. Then each of you will select a person to research and profile.

Building a Paragraph on Walt Whitman :

Thesis sentence: Walt Whitman displayed a democratic outlook in both his life and writing.

He believed he spoke for all people in his poetry. His notions of democracy included women, and he wrote in "Song of Myself," "I am the poet of the woman the same as the man" (21.425). Whitman wrote articles on the arts, civic affairs, and political questions. He stated his views on slavery openly as an antislavery Democrat. Just as the U.S. got rid of kings and aristocrats, Whitman needed to break free of existing models and create a new literature, a new poetry.

Martha Grogan

Whitman was second of nine children and left public school to help take care of his family. At twelve he started to learn the printer's trade and fell in love with the written and printed word. Both these examples tell how Walt Whitman displayed an outlook that was "democratic," defined by *The American Heritage Dictionary* as displaying "principles of social equality and respect for the individual within a community and people in general." Whitman was a school teacher who let the students call him by his first name. In "Song of Myself" he describes feeling part of nature when he writes, "I am he that walks with the tender and growing night, I call to the earth and sea half-held by the night." **Denise Hardnett**

He believed in the concept of the United States: that all people within a democracy had a voice and that each had value. As a writer he pulled away from tradition in both his subject matter and in the delivery of his ideas. Sometimes he spoke as an individual and other times as a member of a democracy where every voice is given an opportunity to be heard. In "Song of Myself" he draws parallels showing the relationship of we the many to I the one, showing the common threads that bind all humans together within a democracy. He writes, "It is time to explain myself—let us stand up." **Terry Fox**

He worked in many places, from low-level carpenter to editor and many other jobs which helped him understand the lives of human beings. He went to a lot of meetings about democracy to learn and improve his knowledge. He became a famous person after his first edition, and he was called "the greatest democrat." Whitman always claimed to speak for each of us and wanted us to change, to be different, for the good of all of us. He is the poet of potential, of power, and he created his own rules in his own way. He writes, "every atom belongs to me as good belongs to you" (p. 165, line 3). **Abby Martinez**

Walt Whitman viewed poetry as freedom of expression and something natural. Whenever Whitman stated "I" throughout his poetry, he spoke for all people—men, children, and women. He believed that women are equal to men: "I am the poet of the woman the same as the man . . . And I say it is as great to be a woman as to be a man" (p. 179, lines 425-426). Although people didn't believe that Whitman's writings were considered poetry, his honesty, creativity, and strong-determined thoughts made poetry what it is today. **LaShaunda Rimson**

Odyssey

Oracle

Number 16
Wednesday,
February 16, 2005
Director:
Emily Auerbach
262-3773
eauerbach@dcs.wisc.edu
Founder
Jean Feraca
263-1233
feraca@wpr.org
Coach
Marshall Cook
262-4911
mcook@dcs.wisc.edu

Oracle 4

The life of Jack Roosevelt Robinson

You've been assigned to write a five-paragraph profile of **Jackie Robinson, the first black man to play major league baseball in modern times**. You find the following information.

- 1) Born January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia.
- 2) His father abandoned the family six months later.
- 3) His mother, Mallie, took her five children west to Pasadena, California in 1920 to seek a better life.
- 4) Robinson went to public schools and then to Pasadena Junior College, where he excelled in all sports.
- 5) He transferred to UCLA and became the first four-sport letterman in the school's history, starring in football, basketball, track, and baseball. (Baseball was his fourth best sport.)
- 6) After Pearl Harbor, he was drafted into the Army and wound up a second lieutenant.
- 7) He was court-martialed for refusing to move to the back of an Army bus. All charges were dismissed, and he received an honorable discharge.
- 8) In 1945, he played shortstop for the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro League.
- 9) Brooklyn Dodger general manager Branch Rickey selected Robinson to integrate "professional" (meaning "white") baseball and signed him in 1946 to play for the Montreal Royals, a Dodger farm team in the International League.
- 10) He led the league, hitting .349, with 40 stolen bases.
- 11) Married college sweetheart, Rachel, February, 1946.
- 12) Played his first major league game-- the first black man to do so since the turn of the century-- on April 15, 1947.
- 13) His own teammates threatened to go on strike rather than play with a black. The St. Louis Cardinals also threatened to refuse to play against him.
- 14) Fans threw black cats on the field when he played. They yelled racist epithets and cursed him. He received numerous threats on his life.
- 15) He was named the National League Rookie of the Year.
- 16) Voted the Most Valuable Player in the National League, 1949, when he led the league in hitting at .342.
- 17) Selected as an All-Star every year between 1949-1954.
- 18) Retired in 1957, after 10 years in the major leagues. During those 10 years, his Dodgers won six pennants and one World Series.
- 19) Became a successful business executive and civil rights advocate.
- 20) Died October 24, 1972, at age 53.
- 21) Quote from JR: "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."
- 22) Quote about JR: "Robinson could hit and bunt and run. He had intimidation skills, and he burned with a dark fire. He wanted passionately to win. He bore the burden of a pioneer and the weight made him stronger. If one can be certain of anything in baseball, it is that we shall not look upon his like again." -- Roger Kahn, *Boys of Summer*
- 23) Quote about JR: His first major league game "was the most eagerly anticipated debut in the annals of the national pastime. It represented both the dream and the fear of equal opportunity, and it would change forever and complexion of the game and the attitudes of Americans. -- Robert Lipsyte and Peter Levine, *Idols of the Game*.

Write your thesis statement about Jackie Robinson, including three assertions about him.

Drawing on his tenacity, his courage, and his unparalleled athletic ability, Jackie Robinson changed Major League Baseball forever.

Assertion one: **Jackie Robinson was a tenacious fighter.** (7, 13)

Assertion two: **He faced danger with unflinching courage.** (12, 14)

Assertion three: **He was also one of the finest all-around athletes who ever lived.** (4, 5, 10, 16, 18)

Restate and extend the thesis in your conclusion:

By integrating Major League baseball, Jackie Robinson became the most important ballplayer in baseball history and a force for positive social change in America.