

Everyone has opportunity

Editor, the Caller:

One day in our classroom in Mexico City our teacher told us the story of the United States. She said that in the early days of the republic they called the United States the melting pot. That immigrants came to the United States from all over the world to make a new life for themselves. Opportunity and freedom was something that they had never dreamed possible. They became citizens and their love for the United States came first in their hearts and their love for the country they came from came second.

There are 37 nationalities here that have a fewer number of people than the people of Mexican descent.

Have you ever heard any of them say they were a minority or that they were being discriminated against?

Why didn't the melting pot work on the Bonillas and Garcias like it did on the rest of the people of the world? They don't know when they are well off. . .

Everyone has the same opportunity to advance in a society or stagnate in it, and as long as the Bonillas and Garcias preach dissension the rest of the Mexican people won't try to help themselves.

I am an exchange student from Mexico and I intend to return to the United States when I finish school. I will be proud to become a citizen of the United States.

JUAN MARTEINEZ
(New York, N.Y.)

*Thought perhaps you missed
this in the Caller.*

Motivation is key

Editor, the Caller:

All this complaint about the "minority" group rating low on student achievement tests, then blaming the teachers and the school officials, gives me a pain.

First let me say I have the highest respect for the hard-working school teachers who pursue their thankless and low-paid jobs with singular dedication. Then let me say there actually is no such thing as a "teacher." Nobody can "teach" you anything — you have to "learn" it yourself. Motivation, then, is the key to education. I have instilled in my numerous family the old truism: "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink."

Now don't blame the poor Mexican kids for lack of motivation. Most of their parents speak Spanish in the home and when the kids start to school they are engulfed in a relentless sea of foreign words. Naturally their interest is short-lived. So lack of motivation in the minority children can be laid squarely at their parents' door.

Before someone accuses me of prejudice against the Mexicans let me say I have been married to a fine Mexican girl for 27 years. We have six wonderful adopted Mexican daughters and six Mexican grandchildren. So I speak with authority on the subject.

If you would remedy the deplorable situation I have outlined, lay off the school officials and get to work on the parents.

P. H. CHILTON JR.

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