

PAGS Notes
April 18th 2005

Announcements:

- 1.) Wednesday 6:30-8:30 Take Back the Night. Meet on the heart and walk over to municipal building by 7:00. Mayor Sally Hutton will be speaking at 7:00. Then they will March through the city and there will be a candlelit vigil.
- 2.) On Thursday at 4:00 there will be the Dialogue debate on 2nd floor LBC

Internships Reports:

Laura: Border Studies Program Internship

- Teaching English
- Substitute teaching
- Oral history and ethnography
- Taught mostly adults who were there for career advancement
- Language as a medium for world view- never objective, contains biases
- Social categories and identity struggles especially in light of economic injustice
- Her boss gave motivational speeches- set up an imaginary character in order to build the solidarity of the group. Touched on homophobic themes. Brought to light how we use scapegoating to create solidarity.
- English as the language of the imperialist.
- Literacy and language as a tool for self advocacy
- Earlham Classes that were helpful:
 - 1.) Economic and Political Development in Latin America: economic escalator, neo-liberal economics rife with biases, not an objective science.
 - 2.) Hispanic Poetry and Art Course: means of political change through creativity.
 - 3.) Post Colonial Theory: reading Robinson Caruso, Friday's development- putting words in people's mouths as a form of violence.
- Advice: Do not have too many expectations

Annie: Corrymeela in Northern Ireland

- Originally intended to be a dispersed ecumenical community
- Put together in the late 60s before conflict started
- Became a reconciliation center to adapt to the needs of the community
- Mission of the summer program: Provide respite.
- Served as a group worker- running shuttles, taking care of kids, coordinating meals...
- Summer intended for respite so they do not talk about the conflict. Very different from Seeds of Peace.
- Required a very informal method of getting to know people.
- The intensity of the space- city vs. country- changes group dynamics

- No football tops or flags allowed- do not want to incite conflict or make people uncomfortable.
- 12 long term volunteers and many short termers.
- She did not realize that the summer program was for respite and not for mediation- had to tone herself down.
- Corrymeela's attitude: we are there when you need us, but we are not going to push you. Opposite of Seeds of Peace attitude: go out and give your other a hug.
- Underlying theme: we can get along because we are one- we are all Christians
- As Northern Ireland changes, Corrymeela will probably shift too.
- Advice: talk to someone who has been there for a longer term. Make sure you are informed in advance.