

## Letter to the Dartmouth Community May 5, 1998

To whom it may concern:

Since 1994, Latino students organized under the leadership of La Alianza Latina--the college's only Latino/Hispanic student organization--have petitioned the administration repeatedly, publicly discussed almost excessively within groups of Latino and non-Latino students, spoken with Dartmouth's media consistently, and appealed relentlessly to the faculty, with the hopes of gaining and attaining one thing ... a Resource Center tied specifically to administrative, faculty, and student products supporting those persons academically interested in subjects related to, or encompassed by, Latino and/or Latin American and Caribbean studies at the College.

Now, symbolically, on Cinco de Mayo, 1998, I ask you if it is not time that every sector of Dartmouth College acknowledge and reward the hard work of those students who over the years have sought such a Resource Center? I would like to see a commitment in writing within the next **four weeks** of this, the last term of the '97-'98 academic year, from this college's new figurehead, President James Wright, that Dartmouth College will unveil plans during the '98-'99 academic year for a Resource Center tied to the Latino and Latin American and Caribbean Studies Department. Whether the blueprint for such a center involves the renovation of a small existing college building--such as North Hall--or whether it involves the construction of a new facility is unimportant. What is important is the sense of urgency this letter attempts to convey. **There is no reason why the Dartmouth Community should go one more full year without such a Resource Center.**

May 5, or "Cinco de Mayo," is a date of great importance for Mexican and Chicano communities. It marks the 1862 victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the Battle of Puebla. Although the Mexican army was eventually defeated during the course of the war against its European invaders, the "Batalla de Puebla" came to represent a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism. It is said that with its victory at the Batalla de Puebla, Mexico demonstrated that the countries of Latin America were willing to defend themselves from forcible foreign intervention. While Cinco de Mayo is a national holiday in Mexico, it is a far more important date to those of Mexican descent living in the United States of America. Here it is taken as an opportunity to celebrate Latino culture in general.

Cinco de Mayo is seen by many Latinos as a prime opportunity to remind the communities in which they live of the positive influence they have upon the United States. Beneath the statistics revealing the amount of beer, salsa, tortillas, empanadas, and other foods, beverages and sweets of

Latino and/or Latin American origin consumed nationwide, there are more important and tangible chronicles of the blood, sweat, and tears shed by those persons of Latino/Hispanic descent in pursuit of the "American dream."

Latinos are industrial workers, professionals, business people, psychologists, migrant farm workers, engineers, housekeepers, nannies, garment workers, teachers, professors, police officers, etc. It should not be surprising that many of us are also students. Latino/Hispanic students do more than simply "check boxes" on college admissions forms. Besides all of the extracurricular--related to affinity organizations--and academic work--in any and all areas of study pursued by any other student regardless of racial or socioeconomic background--thrust onto the shoulders of students whose presence on college campuses, such as this one, is questioned from day one, Latino students are interns, leaders, food workers, admission's office representatives, undergraduate advisors, student assembly/class council members, journalists, athletes, language instructors, computer technical assistants, "webmasters," senior fellows, scholars, and paid researchers.

Latino students at Dartmouth College are exemplary, but we are burdened by a tremendous flaw: we have been too patient ... read on.

### **Brief History of the Search for a Resource Center**

**Dean of Residential Life, Mary Turco's Records of La Alianza Latina Requests Made or Actions Taken in Pursuit of Affinity Space --** In 1989, La Alianza Latina students met with Dean Turco to discuss the need for a residential space at the College.

**Dean of Residential Life, Mary Turco's Records of La Alianza Latina Requests Made or Actions Taken in Pursuit of Affinity Space --** During the 1990-91 academic year, La Alianza Latina students submit a formal petition for La Casa to the College.

**Dean of Residential Life, Mary Turco's Records of La Alianza Latina Requests Made or Actions Taken in Pursuit of Affinity Space --** During the 1992 Summer Term, Professors Beatriz Pastor and Marcia Swislocki meet with Deans Lee Pelton and Mary Turco regarding the development of La Casa.

**Dean of Residential Life, Mary Turco's Records of La Alianza Latina Requests Made or Actions Taken in Pursuit of Affinity Space --** During the 1992-93 academic year, the College establishes La Casa as an academic affinity house under the supervision of Beatriz Pastor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

**Dean of Residential Life, Mary Turco's Records of La Alianza Latina Requests Made or Actions Taken in Pursuit of Affinity Space --** In November, 1993,

Dick's House Counselor Patricia Arroyo, shares with Dean Turco several Latino/a students concerns about La Casa's mission as it has been expressed.

**Dean of Residential Life, Mary Turco's Records of La Alianza Latina Requests Made or Actions Taken in Pursuit of Affinity Space** -- In January, 1994, La Alianza Latina members, as well as a plurality of students, faculty, and administrators meet in 101 Collis regarding Latino/a students miscellaneous needs [including space needs not being addressed by the college].

*The Dartmouth (Dartmouth's only daily newspaper) --*  
Wednesday, May 18, 1994  
Section: Comment, page 4  
Word Count: 344

Spanish Affinity House Inadequate for Latinos  
by: RAMYAR ROSSOUKH, President, La Alianza Latina

To the Editor:

Over many years La Alianza Latina has attempted to empower and support Latinos and Latinas, and also to educate the Dartmouth community about Latino issues. Yet today Latinos and Latinas continue to have to justify their unique ethnicity to a community of skeptics. Among Dartmouth students, faculty and administrators, "Latino" at times can become synonymous with "Latin America" or "Spanish." It seems they have forgotten that Latinos and Latinas are American. The deconstruction of this perception is central to the empowerment of Latinas and Latinos and to the legitimacy of their concerns. La Alianza Latina's association with La Casa not only perpetuates this myth, but is unimportant, if not detrimental, to the organization's efforts to establish a Latino resource center and to secure a residential living space prioritizing the promotion of Latino issues and culture. Latinos are the largest underrepresented minority group not to have a space designated specifically for their use. La Casa is explicitly a Spanish Affinity house, complete with a proficiency requirement, and thus is discriminatory towards non-Spanish speaking Latinos and Latinas and can only incorporate Latino issues on a periphery level. The administration's efforts and suggestions that Latinos and Latinas use La Casa as their designated space marginalizes Latino issues and culture and is unacceptable. La Alianza Latina can no longer sit passively while assumptions of the organization's relation to La Casa circulate throughout campus. As a result, La Alianza Latina has decided to formally announce the discontinuation of the use of La Casa as a meeting and social space. In addition, La Alianza Latina will no longer seek or accept funding from La Casa, nor participate in, organize or sponsor any event in La Casa.

La Casa is inconsequential to the long run goals of La Alianza Latina. La Casa has not and will not conform to Alianza's vision of a Latino resource center or residential house, and therefore all discussion and argument over La Casa's responsibility to Latinos and Latinas is irrelevant, and in fact a categorical mistake.

RAMYAR ROSSOUKH  
President, La Alianza Latina

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**La Alianza Latina Records --** On August 17, 1994, Ana Henderson '94 met with Dean of the College, Lee Pelton to discuss the Resource Center. She defined for him the purpose of such a Center.

***The Dartmouth* (Dartmouth's only daily newspaper) --**  
Friday, August 19, 1994  
Section: News, page 1  
Word Count: 813

La Alianza wants social space  
by: SCOTT ANTHONY, News Editor

Latino students are asking the College to increase support for their community by giving it space on campus and an advisor. Executives of La Alianza Latina, the College's Latino student group, met with Provost Lee Bollinger, Director of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Mary Childers, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Karl Fursternberg, Dean of the College Lee Pelton and Dean of the Faculty James Wright on Wednesday.

Ramyar Rossoukh '96, La Alianza's secretary and former president, said he thinks Latino students need to have their own space for meetings and events. "The Latino community is the largest under-represented ethnic community that doesn't have a space of its own," he said. Pablo Barrutia '96, La Alianza's treasurer said having some kind of space is "important for the future of La Alianza." The group currently has its meetings in the Collis Center. Although many Latino students live in and use La Casa, Rossoukh said La Casa's primary focus is as a Spanish affinity house. La Alianza currently has no formal connection with La Casa and will not cosponsor events with La Casa or host events in the house. "The reason why La Alianza is taking that stance is because of the need for our own space," he said. "It is a way to make the College recognize that demand for space." He said there is no animosity between La Alianza and La Casa. La Alianza is also asking the College for a

full-time advisor, a permanent budget and increased recruiting of Latino students.

But Rossoukh said the meeting with the administrators was about more than that. "The issue may be more importantly the lack of permanent institutional support from Dartmouth for Latino students," he said. Pelton said the College is currently looking into finding an advisor and giving La Alianza a budget. "Frankly, we haven't found any money," he said. "We're completely in a discussion stage. Even if we were to be able to locate or identify the funds, it is unclear what this person would actually do."

Rossoukh said the administration has been "responsive" to La Alianza's requests, but said he was not sure if or when something tangible would get done. "If pressure is continued ..." he trailed off. "I'm not here to work for the College but to require that the College works for me and the other communities of color." He noted that the College has made efforts like creating a dissertation position for a Latino scholar and increasing the number of Latin American and Caribbean Studies courses. Because of the difficulties of finding space and funding, changes will happen "long after I'm gone," Rossoukh said. "Clearly the first step the College can take is to look for an advisor," he added.

Barrutia said Pelton told the group that he would "look into" finding space and an advisor, but was vague and offered no time table. "It seemed to be going well," he said. "They seemed very responsive, very open. They agreed with many of our issues," he said. "I don't know what's going to come of it ... no promises were made," he said. He said the biggest stumbling block in the way of increasing support for Latino students is money. "Everything seems to revolve around money - is the money around for this?" he said. "At the moment, that isn't existing around here."

Latino students currently make up about 4 to 4.5 percent of the student body, according to Rossoukh. He said the College is realizing the increasing numbers of Latinos in America, but noted that there are about one-half as many Latinos as African Americans in the Class of 1998. "More [Latinos] are applying, but less are matriculating," he said. "There's clearly something about the College that is steering them away." Rossoukh suggested that the lack of a central space where Latino students could have as a resource or for housing might make Latinos not want to come to Dartmouth. "What separates the Latino community is that we don't have a space, we don't have a resource center, we don't have an advisor," he said. Barrutia said he agreed, saying Latino students are turned off by the fact that there is no space. "It seems to be one of the deciding factors for Latino students in their decisions," he said.

Pelton said he did not know when the College could possibly provide space to Latino students. Wednesday "was the first time I've heard of it," Pelton said. "All I am saying is that we'll consider it," he added. "We all know space is very precious around here."

In a panel discussion Wednesday night, La Alianza President Ana Henderson '94 said there is a large demand in the Latino community for some sort of living area. Henderson, who also was at the Wednesday meeting, was out of town and could not be reached for further comment.

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**La Alianza Latina Records** -- On October 24, 1994, Ana Henderson '94, submitted an updated and finalized written proposal for a Resource Center to Dean of the College, Lee Pelton, President Freeman, Provost Bollinger, and to La Alianza Latina advisor Patricia Arroyo. The proposal was divided into three sections: "Purpose of the Center," "Required Physical Space," and "Proposed Physical Space."

**Dean of Residential Life, Mary Turco's Records of La Alianza Latina Requests Made or Actions Taken in Pursuit of Affinity Space** -- In November, 1994, Executive Officer Matt McManness discussed the proposal for a "Latino Resource Center" with the Facilities Work Group-- the organization responsible for "finding space at the College" for groups necessitating it.

**La Alianza Latina Records** -- On January 23, 1995, Dean of the College, Lee Pelton, met with Ana Henderson '94 and Unai Montes-Irueste '98 to inquire about the status of the [most recent] Resource Center proposal submitted to the administration in November of 1994.

**La Alianza Latina Records** -- On February 17, 1995, Sol del Este, the official publication of the East Coast Chicano Student Forum--an organization comprised of Latino Students from Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Georgetown, Mount Holyoke, Princeton, Vassar, Wellesley, Amherst, Bryn Mawr, Harvard, MIT, Penn State, Smith, U. Penn, Wesleyan, Williams, and Yale--discussed the work La Alianza Latina of Dartmouth College had done in pursuit of a Resource Center. Yvonne López '96, Alianza's ECCSF representative for Winter term--an exchange student from Wellesley--authored the article.

**The Dartmouth (Dartmouth's only daily newspaper)** --  
Friday, March 31, 1995

Section: Weekend Gazette, page 2

Word Count: 981

Groups, vying for limited space, try to establish affinity housing

by: James M. Hunnicutt, Staff Writer

Considering the intimate living arrangements, and the academic and cultural opportunities associated offered by affinity and special interest housing, many campus groups seek to establish their own living units on campus. "The wonderful thing about affinity housing," Dean of the College Lee Pelton said. "Is that it takes some of the best features of Dartmouth and recreates them on a small, intimate, accessible scale."

Yet limited space makes it impossible for the College to house all groups seeking living units. Right now, no space is available," Dean of Residential Life Mary Turco said. "We're in sort of a holding pattern. But people with good ideas should come forward because we can always assess the need and try to find a physical plant that meets that need," she added. Specific academic departments sponsor affinity houses, while student groups may seek special interest housing. The process involves approaching the Office of Residential Life and the Dean of the Faculty with a clear description of a house's purpose, Turco said. Turco said typically, she and Pelton discuss the idea of new housing with those petitioning. "We would meet with them," Turco said. "Then we'd add their petition to a list."

The Standards and Guidelines for Academic and Special Interest Affinity Housing, a document prepared by ORL, is constantly under revision. Vague and not completely defined, the guidelines infer more of a sentiment behind the institution of a house rather than strict requirements, said Assistant Dean of Residential Life Allison Keefe. Petitioners must eventually compose a formal proposal with a concrete statement of purpose for a house. Motivated faculty and students describe goals, guidelines, election timetables, and criteria for residents. During the petition process, faculty and students need to inform Turco and Pelton about the amount of support behind the proposal, so they can weigh it against other requests. When deciding which groups to grant special housing, Turco said she, Pelton and other administrators would consider free space on campus, public support for new housing, and how professional the petitioners have been in their request. "It's based on need, interest, and there must be housing available," Pelton said. Turco said the proposals are evaluated considering "the appropriateness of space and competing institutional priorities," she said. "Things happen in an opportunistic way."

Within the last five years, the College purchased the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, which opened up a lot of space on campus, she said. Around that time, the International House moved to Brewster Hall, which opened up

space for the Francophone House, the French department's academic affinity house. Turco said the availability of space is very important. "I'd have to consult with the people and find out if the physical plant could possibly meet the need," she said.

Once ORL and the Dean's Office lend some support to a petition, Associate Provost Bruce Pipes would become involved. Two groups under him, the Facility Work Group and the Facility Advisory Committee, would discuss housing proposals and any financial considerations. Finally, all decisions are finalized by College Provost Lee Bollinger. Currently, several special interest groups are on the petition list.

Ana Henderson '94, president of La Alianza Latina, the College's Hispanic students' organization said the group petitioned for special interest housing over four years ago. Last fall, Henderson decided to change the request to one for a resource center. She said she hopes La Alianza can utilize rental housing for the resource center. Henderson said she thinks the College "doesn't want to have houses based on ethnicity." "The Native American house model is no longer an option," Henderson said.

Pelton said the College is placing its emphasis on academic affinity housing. "Our affinity housing program has been and will be focused on resident environments that will allow students to engage with one another and with faculty in the interest of academic activities," he said. He said special interest housing, like the Native American House, Cutter-Shabazz Hall, and the International House are open to all students and should not be construed as a private, ethnic institutions. "The emphasis has been on academics," said Associate Dean of Residential Life Bud Beatty. "All the new houses have been academic affinity housing," such as the Francophone House and La Casa, the Spanish-speaking affinity house, he said. "They provide more intellectual and academic opportunities for students," Beatty added.

Considering the First Year Report, Pelton said he didn't think it would change the affinity and special interest housing program at all. "The goals of affinity housing are consonant with those of the First-Year Report," Pelton said. New to the affinity housing program are student liaisons. A student from each house communicates with ORL to provide more thorough understanding and cohesion for the housing program. "This year, we formalized and standardized liaisons' roles," Turco said. Although students in affinity housing have corresponded with ORL before this year, now they fill an official position and earn \$200 each term. Liaisons only have to live in residence at Dartmouth for two terms out of three, like undergraduate advisors. However, Keefe found this unsatisfactory and plans to request future liaisons to live in residence for full years at a time. Each house has its own guidelines for selecting new members. Administrators associated with



individual houses review applications and choose who will live under the roofs of their houses, Keefe said.

Usually, students have to put their names on a waiting list for a bed in an affinity house. Leonard Lantz, liaison for the International House, said his house's wait list is quite long. However, he said 30 to 40 percent of the house's current residents are domestic students, including himself. "It's a good environment to learn about people and circumstances in other countries," Lantz said of his house. "It's more social than academic." ORL financially supports the maintenance of all affinity and special interest housing just as if they were dormitories, Turco said.

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**La Alianza Latina Records** -- On April 10, 1995, La Alianza Latina's Executive Board decided after a discussion with Ana Henderson '94, concerning the previous weekend's Trustee Breakfast, to author a formal letter to the Trustees about needed affinity space at Dartmouth.

**La Alianza Latina Records** -- Also on April 10, 1995, Unai Montes-Irueste '98, President of La Alianza Latina, and Sarah Cho '97 from the Asian American Task Force met to discuss the shared purposes and goals of these organizations. Affinity space was defined as a central issue for both. Both commented on experiences related to meeting repeatedly with members of the administration. Both expressed a mix of optimism and frustration.

**La Alianza Latina Records** -- On April 12, 1995, La Alianza Latina met to update its members on the state of its on going projects. Members were informed that the Trustees had been privy to a conversation with Ana Henderson '94 about the Resource Center proposal the Saturday before. According to minutes from that meeting, the Trustees were sympathetic to the proposal, but were more curious to engage in a discussion about affinity space in general than to affirm or deny the need for the Resource Center itself.

**La Alianza Latina Records** -- On April 15, 1995, Ana Henderson '94 sent the following blitz to La Alianza Latina President, Unai Montes-Irueste '98:

"I'm sorry to bother you ... I just wanted to tell you something ... before I forget.

It's about the resource center. ORL and the school should be able to handle the rent agreement that we have been talking about [with the administration]. In fact, they should even be able to handle the issue of an organization housing students in a privately owned house, but through college billing

(although we won't bring that phraseology up directly). They handle this type of thing all the time with several Greek houses which are privately owned. That's right!! (Sorry if you already know this) ... the deal is that they have tried to get many frats to sell their houses to the college, but several are still privately owned ... usually by a corporation of alumni--brothers. This is the case of Chi Gam, at least ... so, the people are in a private house, but pay rent on the college bill. The money then goes to the corporation. ( I think). It goes for maintenance, etc.

This type of situation, it seems, would be much easier than working with rental housing already owned by the college and rent collected by the college, no? Any how, this is a good argument to know for the future if and when they start to screw us over. So I wanted to get it to you before I forgot about it myself ... "

**La Alianza Latina Records --** On April 23, 1995, Ana Henderson '94, spoke with Dean of the College, Lee Pelton about the possibility of meeting to discuss the status of the Resource Center proposal amongst other issues of importance to La Alianza Latina's long term efforts.

**La Alianza Latina Records --** On April 24, 1995, Linda Kennedy, director of COSO, contacts Unai Montes-Irueste '98, President of La Alianza Latina via blitzmail. The subject of her message is "98 Family Weekend." The text (ironically) is as follows:

"Hi - it's getting down to the wire and I need your info. on the Alianza open house ... where will it be? Thanks! Linda."

**La Alianza Latina Records --** On April 26, 1995, Ana Henderson '94, Unai Montes-Irueste '98, and Dean of the College, Lee Pelton discussed the 14 day old hunger strike by the members of the Asian American Advisory Board at Northwestern University. Also discussed was the sit-in at the Office of the University President of Princeton University, the Thursday before. These respective demands by students at competitive universities for Asian-American and Latino studies courses were discussed in the context of the "cooperative relationship" that La Alianza Latina enjoyed with the administration. It was concluded that "working within the system produced more tangible results for student demands."

**La Alianza Latina Records --** Also on April 26, 1995, La Alianza Latina formed a "Steering Committee" to advise its long term projects comprised of Pat Arroyo (Dick's House Counselor), Ernesto Cuevas Jr. '98, Marysa Navarro (History Department), Georgina Garcia '96, Jaime Guzmán '97, Joe Ybarra '96, and Maria Simental '97. Also agreed to on this date were list of executives and advisors for the upcoming summer term to maintain Alianza's consistency in leadership and in long term demands before the Administration. This group included: Patricia Frausto '97, Ramyar Cruz '96,

Jaime Guzmán '97, Ana Henderson '94, and Maria Simental '97. In addition, César Peralta '98 led efforts to begin a discussion with those interested in the relocation of the Women's Resource Center. This was done in order to present a joint effort to expand the amount of specialized space available to Dartmouth students.

**La Alianza Latina Records** -- On May 8, 1995 Ana Henderson '94 and Unai Montes-Irueste '98 met with Dean of the College, Lee Pelton. They discussed the theoretical timeline associated with the acquisition of space for the Resource Center.

**La Alianza Latina Records** -- On both the 16th and 19th of May, 1995, Unai Montes-Irueste '98, President of La Alianza Latina, and Peter McHugh, College Photographer, discussed the upcoming (May 24th) photo shoot for the front cover of the edition of "Latinos at Dartmouth" to be sent to class of 2000. Mr. McHugh suggested Collis Commonground as meeting place for students interested being in the picture. Unai Montes-Irueste '98, laments that there is no Resource Center to serve as a backdrop for such a picture.

**La Alianza Latina Records** -- At the conclusion of the '94-'95 academic year, La Alianza Latina received the first "honorable mention" ever granted to a student organization competing for COSO's group of the year award. In a 5 page--single spaced--summary of Alianza's year long activities it was explained that the organization's achievements were severely limited by the lack of permanent space available to the organization. Alianza noted its commitment to the foundation of a Resource Center at the onset of the summary submitted for the award.

**Dean of Residential Life, Mary Turco's Records of La Alianza Latina Requests Made or Actions Taken in Pursuit of Affinity Space** -- On June 29, 1995, Ana Henderson '94, sends a letter to members of the administration, regarding the need for a Resource Center on behalf of La Alianza Latina.

**Dean of Residential Life, Mary Turco's Records of La Alianza Latina Requests Made or Actions Taken in Pursuit of Affinity Space** -- On August 2, 1995, Ana Henderson '94, Ramyar Rossoukh '96, Unai Montes-Irueste '98, and Uriel Barrera-Vasquez '98 meet with Mary Turco, so that she may pass along the status of the Resource Center proposal to Alianza's "new leaders."

**Dean of Residential Life, Mary Turco's Records of La Alianza Latina Requests Made or Actions Taken in Pursuit of Affinity Space** -- On October 13, 1995, Ana Henderson '94, La Alianza Latina President, submits the Resource Center "Interim" Site Proposal to all relevant members of the College administration (It is comprised essentially of a request for an office and a large common room as opposed to insisting immediately upon a site which includes a residential space). The text of that proposal is as follows:

### "Latino Resource Center -- Interim Proposal

This proposal seeks to secure a space for the Latino Resource Center that would serve as an interim location during the search for a permanent Latino Resource Center. The guidelines for the permanent Latino Resource Center submitted in November of 1994 are still the optimum option, but in the mean time there is a real need for a space which could be devoted to Latino Resources and the activities of the College's Latino organizations. For instance, La Alianza Latina could not hold some meetings at the desired times in the Collis Center due to a lack of available space. La Alianza Latina is a quickly-growing organization, and as it grows it requires more time in scarce campus spaces. The establishment of a Latino Resource Center, even in the form of this interim description, would hopefully elevate some of the competition for campus spaces as well as provide a place for the goals outlined in the original proposal. Furthermore, given the recent establishment of the Latino/a Advisor, the needs of the Latino Resource Center change. It would be optimal to have the Advisor's office and the Resource Center in close proximity to each other, if not connected, in order to foster interaction between advisor and students in both formal and informal settings. For these reasons, we submit this proposal for an interim space to accommodate the Latino Resource Center during the time it will take to secure a permanent, residential space.

#### Physical Space:

An open room or suite which could accommodate several students (at least 30-35 for meeting purposes) as well as academic resources such as books, magazines, and newspapers.

An office space which would adjoin this space but have a door or its own entrance. An adjoining office could be used by the Latino/a Advisor, but should be able to lock so the Resource Center could remain open without the presence of the Advisor.

Access to the Resource Center would be open to any and all members of the Dartmouth community, but would be designed for students. The only limitations on access would hopefully be building hours, if any."

**La Alianza Latina Records --** On October 29, 1995, The La Alianza Latina Constitutional Committee comprised of Federico O. Rivera '95, Ramyar D. Cruz Rossoukh '96, Joseph J. Ybarra '96, Victoria T. Martinez '97, Maria D. Simental '97, Unai Montes-Irueste '98, Yolanda Lara '98, Jorge S. Valcarcel '99, James D. Gallo '99, and moderated by Jaime Guzman '97, affirmed that the "goals and aims of La Alianza Latina be ... to advocate to the administration an increase ... and expansion for ... resources [including space tied to academic programs]." The group was explicit about its understanding that no space on this campus will ever be "strictly Latino space" and thus concluded that, "Alianza should be the advocate for space tied to resources that might benefit Latino students; those interested in issues concerning the Latino presence in the Dartmouth community; as well as faculty, administrative, and academic resources tied to Latino and Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the college." All the findings of this committee were submitted to COSO for review and approval--COSO being the College's chief body responsible for the supervision and funding of student organizations.

**Dean of Residential Life, Mary Turco's Records of La Alianza Latina Requests Made or Actions Taken in Pursuit of Affinity Space** -- In November 1995, Mary Turco meets with La Alianza Latina at the request of Abraham Hunter, the new advisor to Latino/Hispanic students at the College, Ana Henderson '94, Ramyar Rossoukh '96, Ernesto Cuevas '98 and Patricia Frausto '97 to examine the history of the College's actions to secure a Resource Center and to review administrative processes for proposing and approving new spaces.

**Dean of Residential Life, Mary Turco's Records of La Alianza Latina Requests Made or Actions Taken in Pursuit of Affinity Space** -- In December, 1995, Dean Mary Turco (re)mentions La Alianza Latina's interim site proposal for a Resource Center to the Facilities Work Group in attempt to seek a solution to the immediate space needs outlined by the organization.

**Dean of Residential Life, Mary Turco's Records of La Alianza Latina Requests Made or Actions Taken in Pursuit of Affinity Space** -- In April, 1996, Uriel Barrera-Vasquez '98 and Ernesto Cuevas '98 consult with Abraham Hunter, advisor to Latino/Hispanic Students, Lee Pelton, Dean of the College, and Mary Turco, Dean of Residential Life, about the interim proposal for Resource Center space; on-campus residential options for Resource Center space; and a possible off-campus rental housing option for Resource Center space.

***The Dartmouth* (Dartmouth's only daily newspaper) --**  
Wednesday, May 1, 1996  
Section: News, page 1  
Word Count: 492

Students discuss lack of campus social space  
by: Erik Tanouye, Staff Writer

Students met at Psi Upsilon fraternity last night to discuss their experiences with and opinions about affinity housing and the College's policies regarding different social spaces on campus. More than 50 students and administrators attended the roundtable discussion on social space organized by Dartmouth United. Members of different affinity groups discussed the difficulty of obtaining space for their organizations.

Unai Montes-Irueste '98 said it is difficult for some groups to obtain the necessary academic affiliation required by the College to grant living space. Participants in the discussion pointed out that even among groups with a departmental affiliation, there is not enough space to go around. Dean of the Class of 1997 Teoby Gomez stated that even Dean of the College Lee Pelton, who is responsible for allocating space to various student groups, must compete with faculty and other interests for campus space. "A lot of it just depends on what people want," Gomez said.

Some members of La Alianza Latina described their frustration with having only office space in the Collis Center, rather than an affinity house. Many participants said the discussion helped them better understand why groups ask for affinity houses. "I know I learned a lot," said Katy Bieneman '98, who helped organize the event for Dartmouth United. Although many attendees said a large number of groups deserve affinity housing, several stressed the importance of using current spaces effectively, at least as a short-term solution. Student Assembly President-elect Jon Heavey '97 said it is important to recognize residence halls as social space. Heavey pointed to the planned renovations of the East Wheelock cluster as a positive change in how residence halls are viewed. Heavey asked the participants to consider how many of their residence hall neighbors they had conversed with for more than 10 minutes at a time. Some participants said even if it were better utilized, residence hall space could not decrease the need for more affinity housing and space.

Students pointed out that residence hall buildings do not contain sufficient amounts of large meeting spaces for the College's many organizations. One participant blamed the D-Plan and frequently changing neighbors for the difficulty in acknowledging residence halls as social space. Gomez said the search for a new director of Collis has raised the question of why the it closes as early as it does, and many students commented that Collis does not offer enough events during later hours in the night which could serve as alternatives to the Greek system. Becky Rottenberg '98, who also helped organize the event for Dartmouth United, said Dartmouth United chose to discuss social space because "recently with all the discussions on affinity houses and the supercluster, it's gained a lot of attention on campus."

Bieneman said this roundtable discussion is the first of many bi-weekly events. The roundtable discussion was co-sponsored by Beta Theta Pi fraternity, Chi Heorot fraternity, La Alianza Latina and the Women's Resource Center.

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**Dean of Residential Life, Mary Turco's Records of La Alianza Latina Requests Made or Actions Taken in Pursuit of Affinity Space --** On May 16, 1996, Uriel Barrera-Vasquez '98, Ernesto Cuevas '98, James Gallo '99 and Mary Turco discuss the process for drafting a formal program statement pursuing the on-campus residential option for Resource Center space. This proposal, when completed, is to be sent to all relevant sectors of the College administration.

*The Dartmouth* (Dartmouth's only daily newspaper) --

Friday, June 21, 1996  
Section: News, page 3  
Word Count: 752

Students to propose establishment of Latino center: Supporters say resource center would benefit many, but lack of available space makes future of plan uncertain  
by: Erin Loback, Staff Writer

Latino students and supporters are currently drafting a proposal requesting a resource center to promote Latino issues at Dartmouth, according to La Alianza Latina President Uriel Barrera-Vasquez '98. Abraham Hunter, advisor to Latino/Hispanic students, said the proposal is still far from completion. "There is a lot of new information that needs to be submitted," he said. Hunter said there are "no assurances or promises" that a Latino resource center will be established at Dartmouth in the near future, but "as we are moving ahead, we see it is important to have space."

#### An ongoing process

The process of submitting the proposal is ongoing, Hunter said, and several drafts will probably have to be written. He said he expects it to be finished this term. "We want to go ahead and present as much as possible," Hunter said. "I can put together a lot of data from my three terms as the advisor." Dean of the College Lee Pelton said the proposal for a Latino resource center has gone through several forms and he has not seen the latest one. He said he believed the latest proposal asks for an academic affinity house. A proposal for a Latino resource center was "submitted about a year and a half ago, and recently some revisions are being made to it," Hunter said. Ernesto Cuevas '98, intern to the Latino/Hispanic Advisor's office, said Latino students at Dartmouth have been seeking a space of their own for many years. Barrera-Vasquez said the proposal for a Latino resource center is "something La Alianza has been working on for a few years."

#### Many potential functions

Cuevas said if it were created, a resource center would be "the center of the Latino community." Hunter said the resource center would have a big area for programs and resources for a small library. The center would also serve as a place for meetings of Latino students as well as for programs to educate the community about Latino issues, he said. The drive for a Latino resource center has a "multi-faceted goal involving the Latino community and the general Dartmouth community," said Cuevas, who is also a former president of La Alianza. Cuevas said Hunter's office in Collis is small, and a new resource center could instead house this office. The resource center would

also ideally have a room for a fellow to live in, Barrera-Vasquez said. He said the Latino students and their supporters are looking for a resource center, which is different from an affinity house because it is for anyone who is interested in Latino studies, issues and culture. A resource center "would be open to everyone, like the Native American House and [Cutter-Shabazz]," Barrera-Vasquez said. He said the resource center would be a meeting place for Latino students which would also have beds. He said having students live at the house is not the main concern, but it could be a way to pay for the resource center.

#### Competing for space

Barrera-Vasquez said Pelton has a committee to determine which groups have priority for space. "We could be at the top, we could be at the bottom," Barrera-Vasquez said. He noted that for events, "La Alianza has always had trouble finding space." "We even have trouble reserving rooms in Collis for meetings," he said. Barrera-Vasquez said other groups that are looking for space are the Dartmouth Rainbow Alliance, Dartmouth United and the Dartmouth Asian Organization. Pelton said there is an "informal committee on campus which advises the College on how space should be used" that works with his office. "The bottom line is, there is very little space available for the kinds of things student groups would like," Pelton said. "Whenever needs are matched with availability, then some arrangements can be made," he said.

#### Other schools

Hunter said the universities of Harvard, Yale, Stanford and Cornell all have Latino resource centers. However, he said, these schools also have larger Latino populations than Dartmouth. Cuevas said that he does not know whether the lack of a Latino resource center is reflected in the number of high school students who have chosen to attend Dartmouth. "Students need to feel at home or they aren't going to do well," Cuevas said. "People begin to miss a lot of where they come from and what their community was like in the past," he said. "At the same time," Cuevas said, "people come here and want to learn about different cultures and communities."

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**Dean of Residential Life, Mary Turco's Records of La Alianza Latina Requests Made or Actions Taken in Pursuit of Affinity Space -- On October 24, 1996, Marysa Navarro, chair of Latino/Latin American and Caribbean Studies, James Gallo '99, President of La Alianza Latina, Mary Liscinsky of ORL, and**



Mary Turco, Dean of Residential Life, begin the process of writing the final program statement requesting an on-campus residential Resource Center.

*The Dartmouth* (Dartmouth's only daily newspaper) --

Thursday, October 31, 1996

Section: News, page 6

Word Count: 363

Campus heads explore space and community

by: Erin Loback, Staff Writer

About 20 students attended an informal panel discussion titled "Issues of Space on Campus" following the coeducation panel yesterday evening in the basement of Mid Fayerweather. Representatives from Amarna undergraduate society, Bones Gate fraternity, Milan, the Panhellenic Council, Phi Tau coed fraternity and the Student Assembly discussed issues of space on campus as well as issues concerning the Greek system and student voice on campus.

Danielle Benware '97, an Amarna member, began the discussion by asking what issues concern students about space on campus. Panhell President Jess Russo '97 said, "The number of students hasn't increased, why does [space] seem to be such an issue now?" "There are a million different groups sprouting up all over the place" that are wanting space on campus, Russo said. She said La Alianza Latina and the College's new sorority are applying for space in addition to among other groups.

Assembly Vice President of Student Life Meredith Epstein '97 said she thinks one important space issue on campus is that "a lot of social events happen at fraternities" where women might not feel comfortable. "Is there the right amount of social space where everyone can feel comfortable?" Epstein asked. Russo said the Women's Resource Center often shares its space with other groups. "It is good they share their space," Russo said. "But it is too bad they don't have a space all their own." Sarah Callies '99 said a sense of ownership comes when a group has a house or space. She said it seems as if these houses are not a part of Dartmouth, and "there are places I don't feel comfortable."

Other students said they wished there was more space open to everyone. Danika Vittitoe '97 said something that has always bothered her about Dartmouth is the fact that there is space for people affiliated with certain groups, but "where is Dartmouth space?" She said she thinks a student union area would be an important addition to Dartmouth, and the Collis Center does not fill this role because people are always studying there. Jaime Bedrin '98, a member of Amarna, said she thinks there needs to be more "generic social space" on the Dartmouth campus.

**La Alianza Latina Records** -- In September, 1997, (at the onset of the Fall term of this '97-'98 academic year) a committee designed to follow up on the proposed Resource Center was formed. The group met several times, but concluded that there was "nothing further that could be done within the college, other than to wait for the administration to 'find space' for such a center."

The members of this group included: Natalie Garza '98, José Daniel Paredes '01, Karina Hernandez '00, Ramón Zertuche '01, Nick Dominguez '01, Andrew Vera '01, Xochitl Codina '01, Jes Lacson '98, Irma Gómez-Davidson '98, José Casal '01, Daniel J. Rivera '98, Ernesto Cuevas Jr. '98, Fernando Díaz '00, Jasmine Elwick '99, Micaela Díaz '00, Patricia Frausto-Rodriguez '97, Uriel Barrera-Vásquez '98, and Unai Montes-Irueste '98.

**The Dartmouth (Dartmouth's only daily newspaper) --**  
Friday, February 27, 1998  
Section: Comment, page 4  
Word Count: 803

A Vision of Diversity  
by: Kially Miguel Ruiz '98

A Dartmouth with an ever-stronger commitment to diversity is my vision. As we enter a new century, the excellence of our College is undisputed. Everyone agrees that Dartmouth is one of the finest institutions of higher learning in the world. What people don't seem to agree on is whether Dartmouth is still an elitist school without any firm commitment to racial and ethnic diversity amongst its students or a place where brilliant young minds of every background are provided with tools to succeed. There is a subtle debate going on campus and in the minds of many prospective students and parents. The question frequently asked is whether Dartmouth truly values diversity.

I still hear from many people how Dartmouth is a "white rich kid's school" and that it only accepts minorities because it has to, and once they are on campus it gives them no support and no help. I keep hearing how the retention rate is terrible for minorities because the school doesn't care about their needs. Many of these accusations are unsubstantiated myths rooted in the not-so-glorious past of our school, and I don't believe them. Yet I also believe Dartmouth is not doing everything it can to promote and value the diversity of its student body. As a case in point, take the administration's response to the report by the Task Force on Social Life. The task force found minority students and students from urban backgrounds are especially

unhappy with the social options at the College, but it has done little to improve the situation.

What we need is ideas on how Dartmouth could improve its record when it comes to diversity. One way Dartmouth could demonstrate the value it places on diversity is by integrating its academic programs in African-American, Latino, Asian and Native studies more closely with existing or future residential centers and student organizations which would strengthen those departments, their classes and programming. For instance, a proposal for an academic affinity house related to the LALACS Department was presented to the administration about two years ago. This center would integrate the components of Dartmouth's support for Latino/Hispanic students and other students interested in Latino culture and bring them together in a location which would make them more effective. The administration has been slow to move on the proposal, partly because of a lack of space on campus. Yet I know if the will is there, the space will be found.

"Why have such a center?" you might ask. For one, as of now there are resources on campus for Latino students, but they are scattered and rendered fairly ineffective because they lack cohesiveness. There is an Advisor to Latino/Hispanic students office, a Latino and Latin American Studies Department, an undergraduate society called La Alianza Latina and a range of professors and staff of Latino/Latin American descent. In the present scheme of things, it is almost impossible for them to come together and provide the Dartmouth community with the kind of intellectual, academic and social programming which would enrich our campus. Contrary to myths that accuse them of being separatist or segregationist, these organizations have the goal of bringing our campus together in different ways. They are only hampered, I believe, by an inability to work together in the present status quo, without a physical space to unite them and by a lack of any consistent support from the College. If the College would approve of an academic affinity house for the Latino Studies program – to be named the Jose Clemente Orozco academic affinity house, after the great Mexican muralist whose works grace the Baker Library corridor – it is my conviction that Dartmouth's commitment to diversity would be strengthened, as well its commitment to integrating academic and residential life. The same could be said of other programs such as Asian, Native and Afro-American studies. They all need support from the administration, the student body and the faculty to become leaders in these important fields which will impact the nation as it becomes more diverse. Dartmouth lags behind other Ivy and top-notch academic schools in its commitment to ethnic and cultural studies. That is unacceptable for a school like ours that claims to value both scholarship and diversity.

As a senior who will soon be an alumnus, it is my dream to see that commitment continued and bolstered for the benefit of our school and future students. My vision is one where Dartmouth continues to "measure its

success by the quality of the educational experience it offers" (from the Mission Statement of Dartmouth College) and while doing so, it does not forget an important, if not vital, part of that experience – diversity. An excellent way of enhancing that educational experience is by maintaining a strong vision of diversity.

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**On April 1, 1997 -- Uriel Barrera-Vásquez '98, Edmund Campos, James Gallo '99, President of La Alianza Latina, Mary Liscinsky, of ORL, Marysa Navarro, Chair of the LaLACS Department, Yolanda Romagnolo, Advisor to Latino/Hispanic Students, and Mary Turco, Dean of Residential Life, submitted the Final Program Statement requesting a Resource Center to Lee M. Pelton, Dean of the College and Dan Nelson, Senior Associate Dean of the College ... it was 10 pages single spaced.**