

<sup>12</sup>Jesse M. Vazquez. "Exploring the Ethnic Self of the Bilingual Teacher in Training." *Journal of the New York State Association for Bilingual Education*. Vol. 1, No. 1 (Spring, 1985), 26-36.

<sup>13</sup>Rodriguez, 18.

<sup>14</sup>*Oxford English Dictionary*. The Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary. Vol. I. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1971).

<sup>15</sup>R. Fernandez-Marina, E. Maldonado Sierra, and R. D. Trent. "Neurosis and Traditional Family Beliefs in Puerto Rico." *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*. Vol. 6, Nos. 3 & 4 (Autumn, 1960) 244.

<sup>16</sup>Rodriguez, p. 18.

<sup>17</sup>Rodriguez, p. 17.

<sup>18</sup>George Will. "In Defense of the Mother Tongue." *Newsweek*. (July 8, 1985) 78.

<sup>19</sup>C. Wright Mills. *The Sociological Imagination*. (New York: Grove Press 1959) 71.

<sup>20</sup>Daniel Goldman. "Interview with Gregory Bateson: Breaking out of the Double Bind." *Psychology Today*. Vol. 12, No. 3 (August, 1978) 47.

## Critique

Vazquez brings to the fore a number of elements which should be of concern to educators as well as counselors today. His article is primarily concerned with the intertwining of cultures in the United States as ethnic minority groups increase in numbers.

Although the author illustrates how Gordon's theory is one which suggests foreigners divest themselves of their cultural garb in order to be assimilated by this society, many graduate counseling programs with cross cultural components are urging American professionals who will be cross cultural counselors to not only accept but encourage their foreign clients to retain their cultural garb. American counselors and educators are being encouraged to take advantage of the enrichment which would come from learning about a different culture and seeing things from a different perspective.

Vazquez also suggests that many ethnic minority groups cannot penetrate the surrounding American society. For example, many Cuban immigrants of the 1960s chose to infiltrate American society. Many of them, like some other ethnic minorities, want to retain their culture and live it to the fullest, regardless of where their domicile happens to be. President John Kennedy forecasted what lay ahead. He urged many of the newcomers to settle in other parts of the United States, to avoid the problems of overcrowding which have developed in southern Florida. Many Cubans who were living in that area at the time were remaining there because, they told this reviewer, they wanted to recreate another Havana as close to home as possible.

The author indicates the severity of health and educational problems among Puerto Ricans living in New York City. Future studies might address the issue in order to determine whether educational problems stem from an underprivileged status or from maladaptation to American surroundings, i.e., trying to ward off ultimate assimilation into American society and way of life.

The author did not fully address the role of American society in helping in the assimilation process. Nor does he deal with "disassimilation": An example in question is what is happening with Hispanics in this country. On most employment applications, Hispanics are referred to as a separate "race," thus segregating them from what have always been considered the three major races, namely, Caucasoid, Negroid and Mongoloid. The same society which is encouraging assimilation is also promoting more segregation among its ethnic minorities.

Although Vazquez suggests assimilation is a uni-directional process, future studies should determine whether that is truly the case. Questions which need to be addressed include: Does the prevailing culture absorb certain elements of all foreign culture? Are foreign elements seen as "different" and refused, or are they seen as being in a "minority" and ignored? Would it be possible for the host society to be shown that what is being turned down may be a source of enrichment?

Some ethnic minorities strive for complete assimilation while others want to retain their ethnicity, risking prejudice and rejection in the process. Researchers may want to attempt to determine which ethnic minorities fit into what group and try to analyze the quantity and quality of the problems experienced by them.

Vazquez's article provides an interesting perspective on *the ethnic matrix*, and shows how his concept is at work in our society. It is a thought provoking article for cross cultural research.

— Albert F. Inclan