

learn something new. Yes, *EW* could run stories written by the Latinos in our community, and I am confident that their stories would be entertaining, informative and probably uncomfortable as well. Their voices, along with others from the Vietnamese, Korean, Native American and other communities deserve to be heard, and certainly more often than National fill-in-the-blank Week. Maybe a forum for these voices could be the focus of a future *EW* column. If enough readers requested such a column, I'm sure *EW* would be open to the idea.

Thank you, *EW*, for bringing us "¡Ask a Mexican!" and maintaining a forum for free speech. And thank you, Eugene, for being so passionate and vocal about so many issues. Just please be careful not to close your mind too quickly!

Chris Sprague  
Eugene

**WILL GABACHOS GET IT?**

I was delighted when the *Weekly* decided to run Gustavo Arellano's "¡Ask a Mexican!" column. I thought, "Finally, a *Weekly* columnist who looks like my family, and who isn't afraid to take on issues I find important in a fresh, well-researched and humorous way."

Then, I began reading the letters to the editor. I was struck by how many were written "on behalf of" local Latinos. Many letter-writ-

ers had impressive Latino-loving credentials, and one even offered to send in names of local Latinos who would be willing to write a column of their own (I bet some of his or her best friends are Latino). What I noticed, too, was the dearth of letters from actual Latinos. Maybe it's because, like me, they were alternately jumping for joy that "¡Ask a Mexican!" was running in the *Weekly* and shaking their heads wondering if the *gabachos* would ever "get it."

I am one Mexican who doesn't need anyone to speak on her behalf. I have enjoyed the "¡Ask a Mexican!" column online for some time and am glad it's running in the *Weekly*.

Progressive, liberal, well-meaning, paternalistic, *gabacho* racism is still racism.

Racquel-Maria Yamada  
Eugene

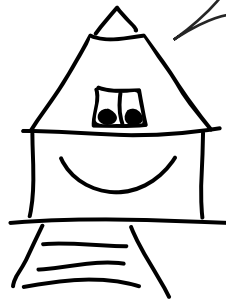
**SQUANDERED TIME**

Your look at Kyoto 10 years on (cover story, 12/6) served as a stark reminder not only of how quickly time passes, but of how squandering time when facing urgent matters has the almost inevitable tendency of both worsening them and narrowing the options available to address them.

There is no more urgent matter facing us than that of global climate change. The efforts of the apocalyptically fervent and of well-paid corporate charlatans to deflect concern to the

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