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- Opiniones ome

Weeping woman? Or Latina Loca?

There's going to be an addition to the Halloween festi-es this year at Universal Studios themepark in Holly-yood. Mixed in with the images of killer clowns and of

no much.

We're talking about La Llorona, the weeping woman.

SO NOW, WE have images from Mexican folklore working their way into the horror stories of our society. Although I must admit that I never thought of the stories of La Jorona as being something that would fit in with images uch as the Killer Klown Gang or the other hideous figures hat are part of the Universal Studies annual Halloween resentation.

Then again; they always your ment to be tales to come.

Then again, they always were meant to be tales to scare oung children into submission. "Do what your parents so relse La Llorona will come and snatch you away while

For those of you who are not familiar with the tales, keep in mind there are variations – some of which get detailed and graphic, and others of which take on feminist charac-

and graphic, and others of which take on ferminist characteristics.

But the way I heard them, La Llorona was a beautiful
Mexican woman with two children, who learned that her
husband was being unfaithful.

IN HER ANGER, she threw her children into the river,
where the current carried them away and they drowned.
When the woman came to her senses, she became so
anguished at the loss of her children that she tossed herself
into the river as well, where she drowned.

So as it is told by Mexican parents wishing to scare their
kids into submission, the wailing of the wind they hear on
dark stormy nights is the ghost of La Llorona crying about
the loss of her children. In her mad desire to replace them,
she is looking for new children, perhaps them.

And she will snatch them away out of their beds in the
middle of the night – IF they misbehave.

Admittedly, it's not quite Freddy Krueger with his razorfingered glowe slashing away indiscriminantly at people.

I'm sure there are some people who will think that the La
Llorona tale is a bit lame, compared to some of the other
gross-out images they will see.

AFTER ALL, WHAT does La Llorona do except cry annoyingly? Even though the press release put out by Universal Studios describes her as "the bloodthirsty spectre of
Mexican legend" who will "stalk guests on the Universal
But I do "the interesting that a Halloween production

But I do "the interesting that a Halloween production."

backlot."

But I do find it interesting that a Halloween production that definitely is commercial in intent (ie., they exist to try to make money) is willing to turn to Mexican folklore when trying to find new images for what is considered by its fans to be a Halloween scare-fest.

It is the wave of the future. While the growing Latino population in this country is assimilating into the society at its own rate, we also have to consider that cultural assimilation also includes elements of the one-time foreign cultures becoming a part of the U.S. mass of pop culture.

That means we're going to get elements of Latin America someday dropping the "Latin" portion and becoming a part of the culture of the Americas as a whole.

COULD IT BE that Mexican culture's contribution to the United States will someday include the La Llorona tales? That certainly strikes me as being more significant than the proliferation of third-rate taco stands that now exist in this country, or the fact that there's actually a brand of coffee bean made in Mexico that I plays off the La Llorona image. I get a kick out of the idea of future generations of children of all ethnic origins being able to understand the stories explaning that the wail of the wind is really La Llorona expressing her sadness over the loss of her children. But it does have me wondering how her image will be received come Halloween of this year.

Will La Llorona bow up at Universal Studios themepair in search of a cheap thrill? Or will she be the figure whose wailing gets so nervewracking that she drives her fellow hideous figures in the show crazy?

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Kagan, 50 is the sec-ond woman dent Barack

mayor. The third woman is Justice Ruth Bader

West Side. She graduated Summa cum laude from high school, and attended Princeton for her undergraduate educa-tion, where she served as editorial chair for the

"Daily Princetonian."
Upon graduation, she was awarded the Daniel

Oxford, where she earned

with a law degree from Harvard, graduating magna cum laude in

Abner Mikva and for Jus-tice Thurgood Marshall. For a time she practiced

She joined the Law faculty at the University of Chicago in 1991, where she wrote a number of earned tenure as a Law

professor.
From 1991-1995, she
served as associate White
House counsel under
the Clinton administration. She also served as
Deputy Assistant to the
President for Domestic Policy and Deputy Di-rector of the Domestic

Policy Council.
In 1999, she was nominated by Clinton to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

academia later that year. accepting a professorship at Harvard. In 2003 she

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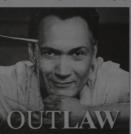
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Family Memories of El Editor's Summer Vacation

The LULAC Council 263 held it 21st Annual Scholarship Recipients Recep The LOTAN, Council 203 feet it 21st Annual Scholarship Reception on Thursday, Aug. 5th. The following are the recipients: Adriana Barrientos, Marisela Barrientos, Richard Garcia, Christyn Amaris Garcia all of Texas Tech; Sierra Gonzalez, Pedro Hernandez, Adelaida Izeta all of South Plains College. Congratulations to all the recipients for their congratulations. Photo by John P. Cervantez 744–1654

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