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### EDITORIALS

## Rudolfo Anaya Gets Deserved Recognition

*"It's humbling. I don't know what to think. ... I don't know how one handles these big honors except you show up."*

So spoke Albuquerque writer Rudolfo Anaya of his designation to receive a National Medal of Arts for 2001 by selection of President George Bush.

But Anaya is too modest. Considered the dean of Chicano literature, he captured the heart and soul of Hispanic New Mexico — and readers worldwide — in his writing. The classic "Bless Me, Ultima," published in 1972, takes the reader into the mind of a boy's coming of age.

His other works of note include "The Albuquerque Quartet," a series of four cultural mysteries, children's books including "The Farolitos of Christmas," essays and plays.

"The Season of La Llorona," a play that began as a novella, is in the process of being turned into an opera.

A professor emeritus of English at the University of New Mexico, Anaya said he will attend an April 22 ceremony in Washington, D.C., where he will receive the arts medal. All of New Mexico will swell with pride along with his family as President Bush bestows the honor.