

The Arts Column



"It was in the fiestas of the people that I discovered the essence of my people, the Mexican heritage of my mother.... It was a ceremony, the taking of the animal's life to provide meat for the family.... It was a tradition as old as the first Hispanos who settled along the river."

Rudolfo Anaya, from "Albuquerque,"
on the South Valley matanzas

Tricentennial Matanza honors Rudolfo Anaya

Love good food, great music and writing about New Mexico? Then get ready for the Albuquerque Tricentennial Matanza honoring New Mexico author Rudolfo Anaya. The event will be held from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26, at the New Mexico Wine Festival Grounds, 237 Camino del Pueblo near the UNM – Los Alamos in Bernalillo.

The Matanza, organized by UNM's creative writing program, will feature a traditional matanza menu, music and dancing, special guest tributes and a raffle.

Proceeds from the Matanza will benefit the new Rudolfo Anaya Scholarship/Fellowship Fund. The scholarship will provide support for a Hispanic student in the UNM master of fine arts in creative writing program.

The initial goal is to raise an endowment of \$50,000 to support a yearly scholarship of \$1,500. Anaya will award the first scholarship in his name at the Matanza.

Sharon Oard Warner, director of the creative writing program, said this scholarship "will continue the tradition of excellence in Chicana/o literature. We are extremely proud of our colleague and friend, Rudy Anaya."

A UNM professor emeritus in English and alumnus, Anaya is widely regarded as the father of modern Chicana/o literature. His novel, "Bless Me Ultima," is a modern classic, hailed by *The Nation* as "the most important and influential Chicano novel ever written." The Matanza is sponsored by the Town of Bernalillo, Bueno Foods, Sysco Foods, The National Hispanic Cultural Center, UNM, Bookworks, UNM – LA in Bernalillo and Greetings Etc.

Students from the English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta, will serve traditional New Mexican fare, included in the price of admission. A cash bar will also be available.

Tickets cost \$10 and are available at the NHCC Gift Shop, Bookworks, through the English Department or at the door.

For more information or to make a tax-deductible contribution, contact Warner at 277-5572 or swarner@unm.edu.

