

Important Quotes From the Peirano transcripts by Andrew Lovett  
AL= Andrew Lovett AP= Alberto Peirano

AL: What type of feedback did you experience first of all from students of the migrant program and later the ESL program?

~~IV~~ AP: Well, the parents were very happy because these people are poor, so the only way they can go to work is to leave their children at this (migrant education) center...we tried to them (the children) as much as we can so they (the parents) were happy with the program.

AL: Were the children happy?

AP: The children were happy too. They learned English because the classes were taught in Spanish and English.

AL: What were the parents' reactions to the academic outreach programs of their children? Do you feel that the parents were happy...that their student was able to learn English while continuing Spanish at the same time?

~~IV~~ AP: I think they are very happy having their children here. We need to integrate more, get the families into school activities ...I think the teachers are doing good work and we're trying to do the best we (teachers) can to be able to achieve (success) of the educational program, but I think the parents should do a little bit on their own.

AL: As an ESL aide, you notice any reoccurring issue or problems that Hispanic students have (hindering) academic success?

~~IV~~ AP: Well, lack of language really, that's one of the problems...they feel frustrated because they can't speak the language. They can't communicate their own ideas. One of my ideas is to create a language lab...they can go in there and sit there with a recorder and listen to English on different tapes. They will learn how to pronounce words and learn more vocabulary...the only way you are going to learn a language is by listening...and imitating somebody. I hope all the high school in the Hillsboro area will have a language lab someday...

AL: Any suggestions for Spanish speakers?

~~IV~~ AP: Well, I think as kids integrate themselves to the majority of the school, like English (speaking) kids, they will learn English faster...The only way you are going to learn English faster is to make friends with American kids and integrate yourself to the American style of life.

~~V, IX~~ AL: Is there any improvements, do you believe would better address the needs of the students besides the lab?

AP: I think we should get the parents more involved in the education. I think that's one thing we have to work more on. When we have conferences, we should do something to attract families into the school. Do something like a fiesta... We should have a council of (Hispanic) parents with a president, vice president and councilors, so the parents can organize academic seminars and train the parents. We need to bring the families into the school.

AL: What is your response from students in the ESL classes?

AP: I think they really enjoy my presence. When I'm not there, they always ask about me...why I was not there.

AL: Could you discuss survival English? Who is mainly targeted, just students or parents?

V

AP: Well, survival English is targeted to the parents of kids and taught to teach them how to survive, how to buy a car, get a social security, go to the grocery store...what to do in an emergency. We had survival English class at Century. I think this is one of the first high schools in the Washington County that has a program directed toward the parents.

AL: Did you think it (survival English) was very effective?

V

AP: Yeah, I think it was very effective and they (the parents) feel very welcome. We had parents of the children from Century and people outside the school coming into it.

AL: The ESL program, Migrant workers program and survival English. Where do you see these programs going in the future?

V

AP: ...you are going to find more Spanish speakers in this country...there's going to be a need to keep these programs. I hope this language lab will be built because you can put a lot of programs on tapes so you are going to save money as well. Yeah I think these programs are going to continue...I think Spanish is going to be second language in this country in the future. So I think a lot of people should learn Spanish. Spanish should be taught (as a mandatory class)

AL: What type of advice would you give to a fresh ESL student who has just entered the building?

IV

AP: Make friends with American kids. Integrate yourself into the new culture...make friends with American kids outside of school. I will say the same for American kids to integrate with the Spanish kids.

AL: Do you think that mainstream teachers that have ESL students are cooperative and work well with this?

AP: Oh yeah, I think they are very cooperative. They always respond well when I need to talk them and we work together to aid a student experiencing difficulties but at the same time teaching him or her the same material but in a different style.

AL: If ESL was not in function, do you feel that more Hispanic students would dropout?

~~IV~~ AP: I don't think so. I think one of the purposes of Spanish kids coming into Century is to learn English.

AL: Is there anything in the ESL program that you wish we could be doing or some special class you could be doing that is not happening right now?

~~V~~ AP: I am satisfied in what we are doing but like I told you before, I wish we could have this language lab.