

JOURNAL OF ORDINARY THOUGHT

Instead of Sleeping

Winter 2003

JOT writers from Hall, King, and Mabel Manning Branch Libraries, and Project Hope, Pausa.

Photography by John Brooks.



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The Journal of Ordinary Thought
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THE LETTER

Esther Vargas

I have counted the days, months, and years and up until now nothing. Every day I wait for the immigration letter since, with that letter, I will know with more certainty how many days are left before all my papers are in order. Above all, I'll be able to go to my very beautiful Mexico and see my family after having been here nine years. The pillars of my family are no longer there, but my daughters, my siblings, and friends I would like to see are there. I would like to return and find a dignified and secure job. I hope some day immigration procedures change, because there are too many years of waiting and wishing for their letter in my mailbox.

LA CARTA

Esther Vargas

He contado los días, los meses y los años y hasta ahora nada. Todos los días espero la carta de la inmigración, ya que con esa carta yo sabría con más seguridad cuántos días me faltan para tener todos mis papeles en regla. Sobre todo para salir a mi México tan bello, ver a mi familia después de nueve años de estar aquí.

Los pilares de mi familia ya no se encuentran, pero están mis hijas, mis hermanos, y mis amistades que me gustaría ver. Me gustaría regresar y encontrar un trabajo digno y seguro. Ojalá algún día cambien los procedimientos de la inmigración, porque son muchos los años de esperar y de desear su carta en mi buzón.

MENTAL SICKNESS

Charlie Clements

At the window of midnight,
Peering out with eyes of
Burning coals,
He stands in a rigid silence that is
Almost holy to melancholics.

10 ITEMS OR LESS

Janice Powell

I have 1 item, you have 11.
Do the right thing!

A HAIKU

Pennie Brinson

A lot can be said
About a man too proud to
Accept charity.

COAT CHECK

Lolita Hughes

I sat quietly in the coat check area
I sat there for hours
Only one coat checked
I should've told them that
Coats was free
I was wasting my time
Sitting in coat check
Thanks
Coat check was finally closed