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# Mexican Mothers of America

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## **MEXICAN MOTHERS OF AMERICA**

by Mallory Dickson

Let your kids belong!  
Get them out of their casas and cuartos

and into a friend's beat-up Chevy lleno de  
music, not bachata but country

guitarras swaying to blonde hombres and chicas.  
And when you cook chicken, rice, and beans

and cook them you must, give it to the abuelos.  
Slip dollars into brown hands

venturing through the electric arches  
of fast food and fake Hispanic buffets.

Let them play football, the American  
kind, and leave their soccer balls olvidadas.

Fifteen is no longer the fiesta, Hola is no  
longer a serious greeting.

Forget your abrazos and warm latino  
soul. Shake hands instead, when

absolutely necessary.

They'll thank you for the neutral colors,

the white hips and flat r's.

Soon they will forget the meaning of their names.

*-After Frank O'Hara*