

The Department of Mathematics presents the  
**Dr. Marjorie Lee Browne Colloquium**

as part of the University of Michigan's  
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium



**Dr. William Yslas Vélez**

Distinguished Professor of Mathematics  
University of Arizona

**The Parakeet is Gaspig**

In the late 1970's, when I joined the faculty at the University of Arizona, I knew seven Chicano mathematicians at Ph.D. granting universities in the Southwest. Over the next twenty years, almost no hiring of Chicanos by these universities occurred. What happened? It is possible that ten years from now there will no Chicano, full professors of mathematics at these universities. Like the proverbial parakeet in the mines, this bodes ill for the Chicano population.

This country needs to have a mathematically literate society. I consider it to be my personal responsibility, as a mathematician, to promote the study of mathematics among our student population. The main focus of this talk will be to present my own modest efforts at increasing the number of minority students pursuing undergraduate degrees in mathematics. It will be clear from the talk that my successes, modest though they are, have nothing to do with the fact that the students I work with are minorities.

**Monday, January 20, 2003**

**3:00 p.m.**

**1360 East Hall**

**525 E. University, Ann Arbor, MI**

**Reception to follow in the Mathematics Atrium**

The Colloquium honors Dr. Marjorie Lee Browne, the University of Michigan's first and the nation's second African American woman to earn the Ph.D. in Mathematics.

For information please contact the Math Department at (734) 764-0335  
or see [www.math.lsa.umich.edu/mlk/](http://www.math.lsa.umich.edu/mlk/)