

'Cinco de Lie-O' ignorance needs to change

By **Sonia Ventura**

With so many countries and cultures in our world, Americans sometimes slip up attempting to copy another country's celebrations.

One well-known Mexican holiday that is wildly popular in the United States is Cinco de Mayo.

Americans often call it Mexico's independence day, but they are wrong.

Many who go out, drink and party on Cinco de Mayo don't know what this day actually represents.

The 5th of May is the day Mexico's army beat the French empire in the battle of Puebla in 1862.

In Mexico, Cinco de Mayo isn't celebrated much or at all like it is in the United States. Bigger, more important Mexican holidays don't get celebrated in America or are ignored. Being aware of which holidays have actual meaning and taking the time to see and learn what they mean will lead to greater world understanding.

Instead of seeing Cinco de Mayo

as an excuse to party, recognize it as a day Mexico's army won in battle, and instead honor the people who fought in that battle.

Read Mexican history like so many Mexicans read about U.S. history. Americans can also ask those of Mexican heritage to help them understand particular holidays or traditions.

Celebrating these holidays in a way that is not factual or culturally appropriate is offensive to Mexicans and Mexican Americans.



'Greatest rapper alive' wins first Pulitzer ever for hip-hop

By **Kellen Smiley**

Rapper, songwriter, grammy award winner and now — Pulitzer Prize recipient — Kendrick Lamar is the first non-classical and non-jazz artist to receive a Pulitzer since the arts awards began in 1917.

Winning a Pulitzer for artists is like football players winning the Super Bowl.

Many have hailed Lamar as the "greatest rapper alive," and with his fourth studio album released on April 14, "DAMN", Lamar only further solidifies that prestigious title.

Lamar's Pulitzer was "for distinguished musical composition by an

American that has had its first performance or recording in the United States during the year." It came with a \$15,000 cash prize.

That album's predecessor, "To Pimp a Butterfly," released in 2015, amassed great success, winning a Grammy for album of the year. The record includes elements of funk and soul along with the hip-hop Lamar is known for.

"Damn" builds off those elements in spectacular fashion. The writers at Pulitzer.org describe the record as "a virtuosic song collection unified by its vernacular authenticity and rhythmic

dynamism that offers affecting vignettes capturing the complexity of Modern African-American life."

In other terms, Lamar demonstrates a keen understanding of not just hip-hop, but music in its purest form. The words he speaks are more than just lyrics, they are beautifully poetic and brutally honest.

With lyrics like, "I'd rather die than listen to you/My DNA not for imitation/Your DNA an abomination" and "I feel like friends been overrated/I feel like the family been fakin" Lamar uses honesty to convey his feelings.

While some lines focus on an al-

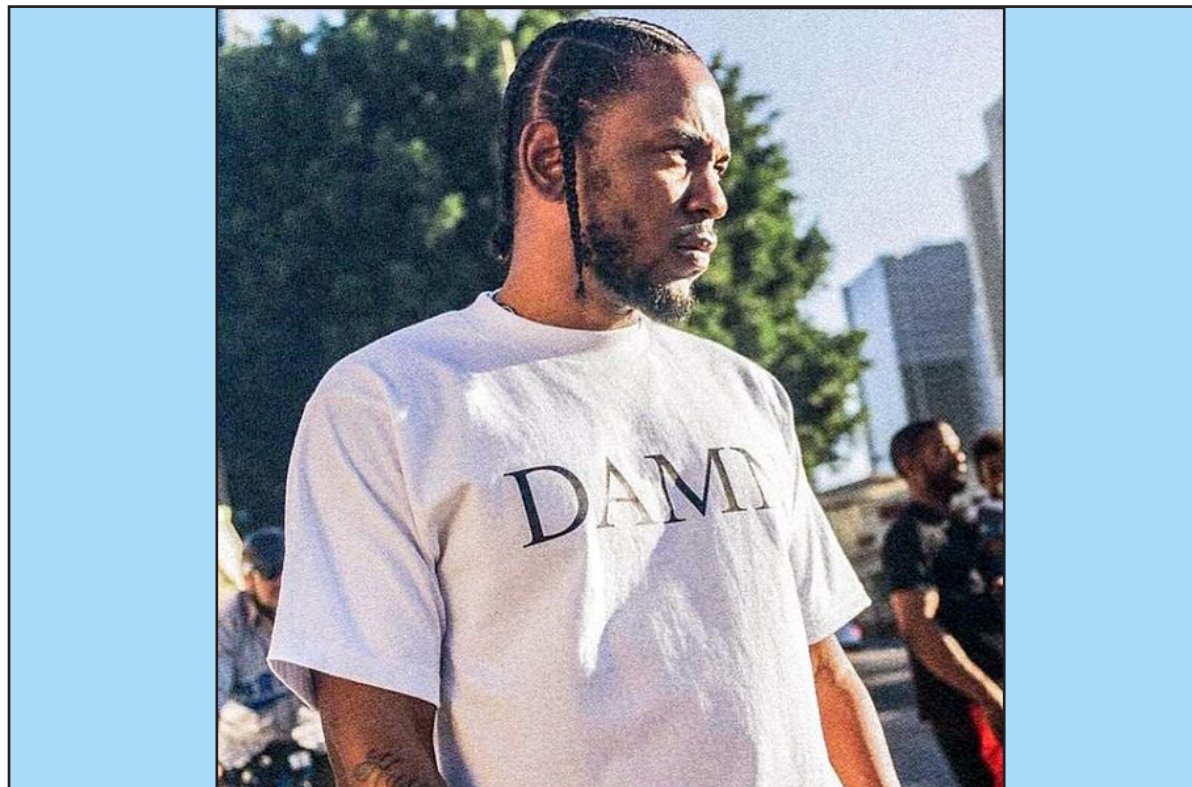
most angry retort to what the media throws at individuals of his stature, these use raw emotion to reveal his difficulties. This is a common theme throughout "Damn." A wide audience can relate to the words he is speaking; and thus, be more apt to enjoy the music.

The lyrics the 30-year-old writes flow from his mouth with ease and rhythm not seen or heard of before. I find myself lost in his voice and the rhythms of his words, taking in every lyric.

The music is eclectic, expanding the limits of what people know as hip-hop, such as the hard beats of DNA leading seamlessly into the slow beauty

of Yah, the third track on the record.

When you listen to Kendrick Lamar rap, you hear words worth listening to, you hear emotion, and most of all, you hear an artist who has mastered his craft.



Kendrick Lamar's album "DAMN" was released on April 14. As of this week, his song "DNA" is No. 12 on the Billboard 200.

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