

# Pregones' original play delves into Allentown's past

**Kate Forman**  
Staff Writer

If you missed the last production of Pregones Theater give yourself a good kick because you missed an amazing play. *AllenTales* was a captivating and moving piece of entertainment and the people who performed in it have every reason to be proud of their production.

The cast was composed of members of the Pregones Theater group, Muhlenberg students and members of the Allentown community. Aside from the excellent actors and ac-

tresses the play also benefitted from an impressive set design which focused on a main structure that served as a restaurant, nightclub, memorial, school, and general meeting place throughout the play. The music and dancing throughout the play was equally impressive; the vocal and musical talents of the cast members were breathtaking.

The plot of the play centered around a young man in present day Allentown named Louis (Brian Homer) who attends Allen High and, for a school report, is trying to discover who was the first Puerto

Rican in the Lehigh Valley, and what he was like. Louis runs into difficulty because there is very little information on the man, or boy, who he believes is called Lewis (or Louis) E. Chavarrias. Because he is having trouble finding what Lewis was like, he imagines what the people of Lewis's town thought of him. The play gave many peoples' views. What made it so interesting is that the story changed with each new character who told it.

Realizing the futility of imagining the past, Louis attempts to find someone in Allentown who

might be able to shed some light on who Lewis E. Chavarrias really was. Some of the people he interviews are indifferent to the whole idea and cannot understand why Louis is interested. Others are convinced that Lewis is the man who should be paying them child support, or a player for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The play was entertaining but, also managed to provide insight on the struggles and achievements of the Puerto Rican community. Many "mini plots" existed outside of the main one. The relationship be-

tween non-Puerto Ricans and Puerto Ricans in Allentown was examined as well as the difficult topic of what role Puerto Rico will be assuming in the future.

Although the play did an excellent job of depicting the Puerto Rican culture, it was successful because it also managed to tap into universal human emotions that are true for any culture. This was especially clear at the end of the play when Louis realized that he will probably never know exactly who

*Continued on pg. 6*