



FYI



>February 19, 2003

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>Arizona Department of Education

>Charter School Division

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>Phoenix, Arizona

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>This letter is to inform you that La Congregacion de las Danzas Aztecas en
>Aztlan, traditional teachers of Aztec Dance, held a meeting on January 25,
>2003 in San Diego, California. The teachers who participate in La Congregacion
>must carry traditional authority or "palabra" for 15 years or longer. Issues
>that we discussed at the meeting included the charges of child sexual abuse
>against Arturo Paztel Mireles at Escuela Mexicayotl, a charter school in
>Nogales, Arizona. According to the information we have received from victims,



>this is the third cluster of sexual molestation charges on young girls and
>teenagers by Paztel under the guise of "teaching" the Aztec Dance.
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>Members of La Congregacion had alerted Mexicayotl Academy in August 2000
>regarding information that Mr. Mireles had molested 14 girls in California
>prior to 1999. Apparently the Administrators' reaction was to ignore this
>information. The letter that was provided to the principal from La
>Congregacion is attached. We have also attached a signed statement by one of
>the victims in California.
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>Please be advised that La Congregacion does not recognize the claimed
>authority by Sr. Mireles as a spiritual leader, healer, or teacher of
>Indigenous or Native American traditions in our communities. Elders have
>informed us that he has never received this authority in Mexico or the United
>States.
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>La Congregacion is deeply outraged by his continued misrepresentation and
>violation of the traditional teachings of la Danza Azteca. His behavior is not
>acceptable within the danza tradition as taught by many respected elders and
>teachers. Most of all we are outraged that he has violated children -
>physically, emotionally and mentally. Unfortunately this individual has used
>the pretext of "teaching" Aztec dance and of being a "traditional healer" to
>set himself in a position of trust, which he then proceeds to abuse.
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>We encourage the Arizona Department of Education not to reject the idea of
>incorporating the appropriate teaching of Aztec Dance in schools and programs
>because of the negative actions of this one man. We advise you to pursue
>criminal charges and fully prosecute any case of sexual abuse against Mr.
>Mireles. Please be assured that la Congregacion will support your efforts and
>support the children as they begin the healing process.
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>Sincerely,
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>La Congregacion de las Danzas Aztecas en Aztlan (E.E.U.U.)
>(Xolalpan na Ihtotilmeh Mexicas Aztlan)
>
>February 19, 2003
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>Todos los Padres de la Familia de la Escuela Mexicayotl,
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>This letter is to inform you that La Congregacion de las Danzas Aztecas en
>Aztlan, teachers of Aztec Dance who carry traditional authority or "palabra"
>for 15 years or longer held a meeting on January 25, 2003 in San Diego,
>California. Issues that we discussed included the charges of child sexual
>abuse against Arturo Paztel Mireles at Escuela Mexicayotl in Nogales, Arizona.
>The participants at the meeting have several concerns we want to express to
>you.
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>First of all, La Congregacion does not recognize the claimed authority by Sr.

>Mireles as a spiritual leader, healer, or teacher of Indigenous or Native
>American traditions in our communities. He has never received this authority
>by elders in Mexico or the United States. According to the information we have
>received from victims, this is the third cluster of sexual molestation charges
>on young girls and teenagers by Paztel under the guise of "teaching" la Danza
>Azteca. We are deeply outraged by his continued misrepresentation and
>violation of the traditional teachings of la Danza Azteca. His behavior is not
>acceptable within the danza tradition as taught by many respected elders and
>teachers. Most of all we are outraged that this person has violated children -
>physically, emotionally and mentally.

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>Your school officials were alerted in August 2000 regarding information that
>he had molested 14 girls in California prior to 1999. Apparently the
>Administrators' reaction was to ignore this information. The letter that was
>provided to the principal from La Congregacion is attached. We have also
>attached a signed statement by one of the victims in California. In addition,
>La Congregacion will take steps to address this issue. A letter will be sent
>to the Arizona State Department of Education regarding our concerns. Further
>La Congregacion will write an open letter of concern and distribute it to the
>best of our ability to Aztec Dancers who are currently dancing under the
>direction of Mr. Mireles.

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>We ask that each of you consider the many positive aspects of la Danza Azteca
>that should not be rejected because of the actions of this one man. Nor should
>the pride we share with regard to our indigenous cultures and our native
>heritage. We advise you to pursue criminal charges and fully prosecute any
>case of sexual abuse against Mr. Mireles. Please be assured that we will
>support you and the children as they begin the healing process.

>
>Sincerely,

>
>La Congregacion de las Danzas Aztecas en Aztlan (E.E.U.U.)
>(Xolalpan na Ihtotilmeh Mexicas Aztlan)

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>OPEN LETTER

>
>February 2003

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>To: Followers of Paztel
>Cuauhtemoc Dancers
>Mexica Nation
>Harmony Circle
>All Others

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>We are saddened and outraged at the third cluster of charges of sexual
>molestation on young girls by Paztel (Arturo Mireles) currently coming out of
>Nogales, Arizona. Paztel has used the guise of "teaching" Aztec dance and of
>being a "spiritual healer or curandero" to set himself in a position of trust,

>which he then proceeds to abuse.

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>Paztel to our knowledge has absolutely no authority by elders or traditionalists

>either in the United States or Mexico.

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>In order to protect our communities and traditions, please join with us by

>taking these two steps:

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>1. Do not accept Paztel as a leader. Do not affiliate with or support Paztel.

>2. Do not accept his misrepresentations or teachings.

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>Sr. Mireles as well as others must end unacceptable behavior within our danza

>circles. All danzantes must have a safe place to pray and dance. No one should

>be at the risk of sexual predators whether they are male or female. We

>encourage all danzantes to pursue indigenous spirituality in a responsible and

>careful manner. Be guided by Creator and your own heart, not by an individual.

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>With respect,

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>La Congregacion de Danzas Aztecas en Aztlan, (EEUU)

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