

## The Indignant Grandmother

Consuela Valdéz, an eighteen-year-old Mexican woman, uneventfully delivered a baby boy a year and a half ago despite a diabetic condition, and she has been bringing her firstborn in for well-baby visits and immunizations scrupulously.

One Tuesday afternoon, however, Sra. Valdéz, her mother-in-law, and a brother-in-law entered the health center without an appointment. The senior Sra. Valdéz stormed up to the reception desk and demanded to see the nursing supervisor, Cora Rostyn. When her request was not granted immediately (Ms. Rostyn being at lunch), the older woman and her son began to shout imprecations and threatened to sue the facility for discrimination against Mexican Americans. At this point, Ms. Rostyn returned from lunch and, having been apprised of the situation, asked the Valdéz family to enter her private office to talk things through.

When the family members were seated, Ms. Rostyn asked, "What is wrong?" She was told that Sra. Valdéz wanted Dawn Gilmore, the nurse who had seen Consuela's baby the day before, fired. "She hates Mexicans. She told my daughter-in-law the baby is too fat and should eat less for a while," sputtered the older woman.

Why would Sra. Valdéz feel Ms. Gilmore is prejudiced against Mexicans?

## Possible Explanations

- (1) Mexican Americans often believe a fat baby is a healthy baby, so Sra. Valdéz thinks Ms. Gilmore wants the baby to get sick.  
(Turn to page 130.)
- (2) Sra. Valdéz heard Ms. Gilmore call the baby "Chico" and assumed she meant "Chicano," which used to be considered a pejorative term for Mexican Americans.  
(Turn to page 107.)
- (3) The elder Sra. Valdéz has had such a long history of being subjected to discrimination and hostility that she automatically assumes everybody is prejudiced against Mexican Americans if they are not of Latino background themselves.  
(Turn to page 108.)
- (4) The Valdéz family is highly regarded in Mexican American circles and, therefore, expects to be treated with deference. Nurse Gilmore criticized the baby (and hence the care given to him by the family). Only a prejudiced Anglo would dare to do that.  
(Turn to page 101.)

From p. 130

**For The Indignant Grandmother, you chose**  
**Answer No. 1**

*Mexican Americans often believe a fat baby is a healthy baby, so Sra. Valdéz thinks Ms. Gilmore wants the baby to get sick.*

Some Mexican Americans (and members of other groups as well) do equate fatness with health in babies and assume health professionals agree. Therefore, Ms. Gilmore's behavior seems wrong to Sra. Valdéz. This is the best choice. "

From p. 107

**For The Indignant Grandmother, you chose**  
**Answer No. 2**

*Sra. Valdéz heard Ms. Gilmore call the baby "Chico" and assumed she meant "Chicano," which used to be considered a pejorative term for Mexican Americans.*

There is nothing in the description about Ms. Gilmore's reference to the baby as "Chico." Return to page 55 and try again.

From p. 108

**For The Indignant Grandmother, you chose**  
**Answer No. 3**

*The elder Sra. Valdéz has had such a long history of being subjected to discrimination and hostility that she automatically assumes everybody is prejudiced against Mexican Americans if they are not of Latino background themselves.*

Sra. Valdéz may have been so psychologically scarred by lifetime discrimination that she is prejudiced against members of other ethnic groups, but this is an unlikely explanation for her behavior. Go back to page 55 and try again.

From p. 101

**For The Indignant Grandmother, you chose**  
**Answer No. 4**

*The Valdéz family is highly regarded in Mexican American circles and, therefore, expects to be treated with deference. Nurse Gilmore criticized the baby (and hence the care given to him by the family). Only a prejudiced Anglo would dare to do that.*

There is nothing in the description about the social status of the Valdéz family. Moreover, even if the Valdéz family is highly placed and accorded deference in their own ethnic group, they would not necessarily expect similar treatment in an Anglo setting. Return to page 55 and try again.