

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Richard Vargas: "salvation... for Ray Bradbury"

Richard Vargas · Thursday, September 27th, 2012

Richard Vargas has edited/published five issues of *The Tequila Review*, 1978-1980, including poetry by Gerald Locklin, nila northSun, Kirk Robertson, Michael C Ford, Alberto Ríos, Jimmy Santiago Baca, Ron Koertge, Dennis Cooper, and others. His first book, *McLife*, was featured twice on Garrison Keillor's Writers Almanac, in February, 2006. A second book, *American Jesus*, was published by Tia Chucha Press, 2007.

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### salvation... for Ray Bradbury

i was in the third grade  
spending the weekend  
at my nana's when i found  
my uncle's old playboy magazine  
laying on his bed in plain sight  
i picked it up and flipped  
through the pages  
i knew it was supposed  
to be a big deal from the way  
grown-ups talked about it  
but i have to tell you  
i wasn't impressed  
although i now had a  
pretty good idea why  
ladies were so soft  
in certain places  
the cartoons were interesting  
but they weren't funny to me  
and just as i was going to  
put it down i came across  
an illustration of a T-Rex  
and since i was all about  
dinosaurs i started reading  
the text which turned out  
to be a story about men  
paying money to travel

back in time so they could  
hunt the biggest baddest  
meat eater ever to roam  
the planet and when T-Rex  
showed up some guy  
got scared and ran off  
stepping where he  
wasn't supposed to  
squashing a bug which  
totally changed evolution  
the story struck me like  
lightning and my blood  
began to boil between my ears  
i started looking for anything  
the author had written  
finding his books at the  
local library as his words  
and stories eased the pain  
of growing up with a father  
who i thought loved the needle  
in his arm more than me  
the next year my old man  
o.d.'d and i sought comfort  
in the pages of those books  
looking for something to step on  
a bug to squash and turn back  
the clock so i could start over with  
my not-so-happy 10 yr old life  
then i started to write stories  
diving deeper into the  
sea of words and language  
until i couldn't come up for air  
and that led to my  
first poems  
now  
48 yrs later  
i'm still at it  
and Ray,  
you magnificent  
storytelling s.o.b.  
it's just me  
apologizing  
for how long it's  
taken to say  
thanks

*You may also be interested in this video from Ray Bradbury: [Love What You Do, Do What you Love.](#)*

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