Jessica Jimenez's interview
March 16, 2014

Do you remember the first time you heard a corrido?

Yes, yes.

What was the title of it?

The title was Camelia de Texana [Camelia the Texan].

Camelia la Texana?

Yes, la texana

How old were you?

I think I was around, oh god, I think seven but I grew up listening to corridos my whole life. But, I think that was the time when I realized that there was a corrido and actually understood the lyrics.

So the first time that you heard this corrido, what were you doing?

What was I doing? I was going to Mexico. Every year we go, we drive to Mexico and its like a thirty-eight hour drive, so my dad just plays the CDs and that was one of them.

So you were in the car?

Yeah.

Do you know the difference between a narcocorrido and a corrido?

Yes.

What would you say that a traditional corrido is?

A traditional corrido would be one that talks about family or a culture or something like that. I believe it originated from, people with start of, because of Mexican idols. I think that is where it originated.

What do you think the purpose was?
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Jessica’s interview was very short, mostly because she would give short answers. In her interview, she mentioned she was about seven years old when she first heard a corrido and was able to understand the lyrics. Every year when she travels with her family to Mexico, her dad plays the narcocorridos in the car. She thinks that drug traffickers or even the main drug lords are somewhat responsible for the popularity of the current narcocorridos. She mentions how powerful these songs are and that is why they generate a lot of money in the U.S. while they are being banned in Mexico. She believes that music bands and other artists who sing this genre have no other option but to write lyrics about the drug lords because they fear that will hurt their families if they reject to work for them.

She thinks that corridos and hip-hip started with moral believes but now is all about money and women. Since that is what it sells more, then they do it more often, so they get more money. For her, there is no difference between corridos and narcocorridos because the only songs played in the radio are about drug lords. According to her, little kids are growing up wanting to be like the drug lords because the narcocorridos portray them as heroes and that is becoming the norm. For adults, this becomes a sense of empowerment while they listen to these songs because they feel like they can control the world.