

Legal Alien

Pat Mora

- Bi-lingual, Bi-cultural,
able to slip from “How’s life?”
to “*Me’stan volviendo loca,*”
able to sit in a paneled office
- 5 drafting memos in smooth English,
able to order in fluent Spanish
at a Mexican restaurant,
American but hyphenated,
viewed by Anglos as perhaps exotic,
- 10 perhaps inferior, definitely different,
viewed by Mexicans as alien
(their eyes say, “You may speak
Spanish but you’re not like me”),
an American to Mexicans
- 15 a Mexican to Americans
a handy token
sliding back and forth
between the fringes of both worlds
by smiling
- 20 by masking the discomfort
of being pre-judged
Bi-laterally.