



# The UAA/APU Encountering Controversy Project

is pleased to announce the

## Book of the Semester - Spring 2007 -

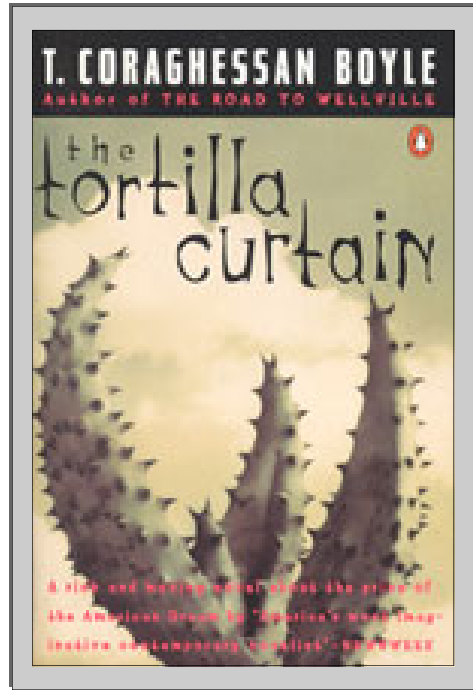
### Meet the Author

T.C. Boyle  
will be at the  
Wendy Williamson  
Auditorium on

**Tuesday  
March 27, 2007**

for a public lecture  
and booksigning.

**Save the date!**



When wealthy nature writer Delaney Mossbacher collides with illegal immigrant Candido Rincon on the L. A. freeway, the stage is set for a conflict between the rich and the poor who occupy the same L.A. canyon but find themselves on opposites sides of the *tortilla curtain*.

Critics have compared this novel to John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* and to Voltaire's *Candide*, calling it "...profound and tragic," "...funny and serious," "horrifying and horrific," and "a thundering good read."

For more information, visit  
[www.tcboyle.com](http://www.tcboyle.com)

## Reviews

“...a memorable portrait of the almost imperceptible slide from decency to intolerance that occurs when ordinary people feel threatened by alien forces...

[Boyle] has achieved that rarest of literary doubles — creating a message novel that’s also a thundering good read.”

— Stephan Amidon  
*Esquire*

“Boyle is one of those rare and unmistakable authors who can make us laugh at the tragic content of life... [This book] fully rewards the reader who is, like the author, both literate and gutsy.”

— Anita Finkel,  
*The Baltimore Sun*

“This highly engaging story subtly plays on our consciences, forcing us to form, confirm, or dispute social, political, and moral viewpoints. This is a profound and tragic tale, one that exposes not only a failed American Dream, but a failing America.”

— Janet St. John  
*Booklist*

## The Issues

*The Tortilla Curtain* raises social, political, and economic issues concerning

- Immigration
- Discrimination
- Social responsibility
- Poverty
- Materialism
- And the darker sides of the American Dream.

## Resources

### Reader’s Guide

[http://us.penguin.com/static/rguides/us/tortilla\\_curtain.html](http://us.penguin.com/static/rguides/us/tortilla_curtain.html)

### Immigration topics

<http://www.libraries.psu.edu/delaware/immigration/researchguide.htm>

### Recent legislation

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/nation/4227210.html>

## About the Author

T. Coraghessan Boyle is the author of nineteen books of fiction including *World’s End* (1987), *The Road to Wellville* (1993), *After the Plague* (2001), *Drop City* (2003), and *Talk Talk* (2006). His short fiction has received numerous prizes, including five O. Henry awards. *World’s End* received a PEN/Faulkner award in 1988; *Drop City* was a National Book Award finalist in 2003; and *The Tortilla Curtain* was named best foreign novel by the Parisian Prix Medicis Etranger in 1997. Boyle is on the faculty of the University of Southern California.

### APU

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THE UAA/APU ENCOUNTERING CONTROVERSY PROJECT addresses the increasing polarization of our society and the need for university faculty to deal more effectively with breakdowns in civil discourse. It seeks to find a middle ground between voices that are so forceful that they overrun the complexities of other people, cultures, or traditions and voices that are too seldom heard because of personal or cultural inclination or because they have been intimidated into silence. The overall goal is to improve the learning climate on our campuses, making them more inclusive of minority voices and ways of knowing and safer places for learning and the free exchange of ideas.

ENCOUNTERING CONTROVERSY is one of 26 projects selected for funding by the Ford Foundation’s nation-wide *Difficult Dialogues* initiative. It was created in partnership between the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) and Alaska Pacific University (APU).