

## Unit 3 The Repressed and the Repressors

### III El Eternauta

- What types of activities cause people to be exiled from their homeland?
- Why are people so afraid of artists and writers that they feel they have to censor them?
- How do writers and artists express their most important sociopolitical views?
- How can literature inspire social change?
- What is the role of group heroism in comics?

*El Eternauta* is a science fiction comic book series created by Héctor Germán Oesterheld in collaboration with artist Francisco Solano López. The first version (1957-1959) is about a nuclear attack by aliens on the earth. *El Eternauta II*, published in 1976, reflects the sociopolitical climate early in *El Proceso* and it is critical of the junta. Oesterheld, himself, appears in the comic. It is a story of people surviving catastrophe by working together, a story of the collective hero. Oesterheld and his daughters were all members of the Montoneros guerrilla group, and all disappeared during the Dirty War.

In this assignment, as Francisco Solano López, you will write a letter to your friend Héctor Germán Oesterheld. Explain to him why you left Argentina and express your concerns for his safety. Your letter should reflect what you know about the political situation under the junta, and what is rumored to be happening in Argentina. The pressure is on, the OAS and other human rights agencies are watching Argentina closely. Discuss Oesterheld's ideals and activities, remind him of the importance of his work, and plead with him to take care.

Learn more about the creators of *El Eternauta*

Héctor Germán Oesterheld and artist collaborator Francisco Solano López at *Graffitimundo*  
<http://graffitimundo.com/new-art/el-nestornauta/>

*Words without Borders* <http://wordswithoutborders.org/graphic-lit/the-eternonaut>

*Dan Dare Pilot of the Future* <http://www.dandare.info/artists/lopez.htm>

