

NUESTRA COSA





The **NUESTRA COSA** Staff

Supervisor Estella Acuña

Estella is Director, Chicano Student Programs at the University of California, Riverside. After high school she attended Riverside Community College where she received AA degree and later transferred to UC Riverside and graduated with a BA degree in Chicano Studies. Estella is the first in her family to attend college. She joined the Chicano Student Programs staff in 1996 and in a span of seven years went from being the Student Assistant to the Program Director. Estella states, "I truly enjoy my job; it is absolutely my dream job. I enjoy working with the students, faculty, and staff. My involvement, mentors and studies have influenced me to give back to the community and try to make a difference." I grew up in a single family household. My mom's values, survival and love for her children have also influenced my life. Tune in to KUCR 88.3 FM on Friday Nights and you might hear a familiar voice. *Adelante!*

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My career in teaching has been developing slowly through part-time positions in Sociology & Ethnic Studies from 1986 to the present. I have been able to develop and hone my intellectual understandings of the course subject matter and more importantly, the dynamics of lecturing in the classroom and student interaction through the opportunities I have had to teach. I have proven to be a very humanistic, caring, and student-oriented professor who is able to teach at an intellectually challenging level while remaining in touch with and sensitive to, the needs of students. I have also worked closely with students and have always encouraged students intellectually, emotionally, and through my willingness to write letter of recommendation on behalf of students of students seeking further opportunities beyond the undergraduate level.

I support student activism on campus and in the Inland Empire communities and I support many causes such as the Southern Poverty Law Center; the United Farm Workers, KPFK Radio Programming, the Inland Empire Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Chicano Student Programs, Raza Graduation Banquet, and other causes on a periodic and ongoing basis.

*The Views and the opinions expressed in Nuestra Cosa belong solely to the staff and are not the views or opinions of Chicano Student Programs or the University of California.

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Time for Justice: Help Pelican Bay Prisoners in the SHU

By Yessica Garcia Hernandez



During Fall 2011 the Ethnic Studies department at the University of California Riverside hosted a press Conference regarding The Pelican Bay Hunger Strike. Five Women: Dolores, Patricia, Teresa, Maggie and Daletha came to the press conference to offer their testimonies about the injustices committed to their love ones during their time in the security housing units at Pelican Bay State Prison (PBST) also known as the SHU. They came to ask for support since the Prisoners were holding another peaceful hunger strike against unjust prison treatment. The women demonstrated fear, anger, worries, and sadness because they knew their husbands, brothers, and sons were not physically ready for another hunger strike, but they knew how important this was for them. The Purpose of this article is to make students, community members, administration, and faculty aware of the harsh treatment committed inside the SHU, and also to invite you to take action regarding the many injustices that occur daily in the Prison Industrial complex. Every day Prisoners are being severely abused by correctional officers and by the current "validating and debriefing process" of the SHU.

The Pelican Bay State Prison opened Dec 1, 1989 as the first maximum-security prison in California. However California has four SHU's: Pelican Bay (Men's), Tehachapi (Men's), Corcoran (Men's), and Valley State (Women's). The SHU is known to give far harsher punishment than the rest of the two facilities inside PBST. Prisoners in the SHU are isolated in a concrete windowless cell that is 8 x 10 or 9x6 feet for 22.5 hours a day; as mandated,



prisoners obtain ninety minutes to exercise, yet they never go outside, instead they are only taken to another concrete room that is bigger than their cell. Prisoners are not assigned to the SHU because of their offenses; they are assigned to the SHU by correctional administration. There are two different types of assignments for the SHU the disciplinary, which usually involves a determinate sentence of years, and the administrative that usually is based on an indeterminate sentence and is usually decided by "validation" a process that identifies inmates as gang members. The only way to get out of the SHU is to *debrief*, a process that includes one inmate snitching on another inmate. By law the sentence for a prisoner inside the SHU should be only six years, yet correctional administration has ways to revalidate inmates for additional sentencing. The conditions inside the SHU are very isolating and many inmates have suffered from what has come to be known as the SHU syndrome, a psychiatric condition that is induced by "psychological torture" which is the consequence of cultural deprivation, sensory/environmental deprivation and social isolation. As a result of the SHU syndrome many inmates suffer from hallucinations, paranoia, insomnia, panic attacks and delusions. An inmate testified,

"Being in solitary confinement for well over 20 something odd years has caused me to feel closed off from the rest of the world. I seem to be losing my ability to socialize with people even on the most basic of levels. This is especially true here in PBSP where they've buried us back here in the short corridor and strictly enforce rules of little or no contact/communication with any other prisoner outside our immediate pods - almost like we're being "conditioned" to become anti-social human beings".

The way inmates are treated in the SHU has to change and prisoners have tried to take action to change the way they are treated through legal suits and hunger strikes. In 1994 a class action suit representing 3,500 prisoners was filed, **Madrid V Gomez**, against the violations committed in the SHU. In 1995 a year after, **Castillo V Alameida** filed, a suit that also requested a legal change for violations committed in the SHU. In 2001 after years of no change, 1000 inmates undertook a hunger strike that lasted six days. Since then prisoners have engaged in this method of peaceful protest to fight for change. There have been two hunger strikes by prisoners just this year, one occurred in July and another in September due to the lack of commitment by CDC to follow through with its promises to improve the prisoners conditions inside the SHU. The goal would be to remove, or reform the SHU, but the prisoners are not even asking for that, they are only making five demands: adequate food, elimination of group punishment, abolishment of the debriefing policy plus modification of the active inactive gang status, and the expansion of constructive programs.

The way you can participate to create change for these prisoners and family members is by signing a petition that is available at <http://www.change.org/petitions/support-pelican-bay-shu-prisoners-five-core-demands-hunger-strike>. For more updates on the status of these prisoners add California Prison Focus via facebook.



No Child Left Behind

By Reema Moosa

The law that is known as "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) is the current version of the original 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the primary statute governing the federal government's role in the K-12 education. The initial ESEA legislation was a centerpiece in President Johnson's "War on Poverty." In 2001, Democrats joined with President George W. Bush to make the law's new focus the use of standardized tests scores in schools, and updated criteria for evaluating teachers serving at-risk and minority students. This is how Bush's "compassionate conservatism" became the basis of the "No Child Left behind" doctrine and a greater emphasis on back to basics (reading and mathematics) in the classrooms of America.

In March of 2010 the Obama administration proposed a sweeping overhaul of the law that would require states to raise academic standards for "failing" schools. Among the many goals, the law would restructure thousands of schools that are in the worst shape, and develop effective ways to evaluate teachers and principals. Since then, the law has remained stagnant through several attempts at reform since 2007.

Under No Child Left Behind, every American child should be proficient in math and reading by 2014. This goal is widely dismissed, however, as being based on unrealistic expectations, because current performance benchmarks have proven to be unattainable for many US school children.



In March, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan cited a study in which 82% of the schools would not be able to meet their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals- these goals are linked to whether students meet proficiency targets in math and reading- in 2011. Many criticized Duncan's study assertions. Yet, data from the 2011 standardized assessments show a large percentage of schools are failing to meet test-score proficiency targets and AYP goals (<http://tiny.cc/ud5n3>).



Due to seemingly unrealistic expectations, Governors across the country have petitioned Secretary Duncan for some relief from the No Child Left Behind AYP requirements, that, if not met, will call for teacher reevaluations and school restructuring. In September 2011, President Obama said that states will be able to seek relief from key provisions in the law, including the 2014 deadline of reading and math proficiency.

In a move to provide states some flexibility under the law, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan will offer waivers to schools for the 2012-2013 academic year. Built into the No Child Left Behind law is a provision that authorizes the Department of Education to issue waivers if necessary. In 2009 alone, 351 waivers were issued where schools could not excel fast enough. Duncan has stressed that the waivers are not a replacement for comprehensive legislation. The main priority of the Department of Education and the Congress still remains, to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind law. States that are allowed waivers would be allowed to design their own accountability system, in order to move forward.



This sets a dangerous precedent," said Representative John Kline, Republican of Minnesota, the chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee. "Make no mistake — this is a political move that could have a damaging impact on Congressional efforts to enact lasting reforms to current elementary and secondary education laws."

"Whether waivers set a 'dangerous precedent' or whether the real danger is in a law that's destined to label as 'failures' the vast majority of public schools in America is certainly debatable," says Robert Ream, Associate Professor of the Graduate School of Education at the University of California Riverside.

The week before states were allowed to petition for waivers, the first of a series of bills proposed by Mr. Kline in an attempt to rewrite the No Child Left Behind law had been passed, but there was no bipartisan consensus in the House or Senate for a complete rewrite, of the No Child Left Behind policy.

The "Obama administration's primary focus was the \$4 billion dollar Race to the Top program that benefited school systems nationwide." Since 2011 the Republicans have taken over the House and the prospect for a sweeping overhaul is less than likely.

During President Reagan's administration, he tried to shut down the Department of Education and return more power over K-12 education to the states, but he was unsuccessful. The Republican Party platform was to return the rights to the states but George H.W. Bush did not follow through with this promise. Nor did his son, George W. Bush, who instead expanded the Department of Education and gave the U.S. Department a much larger role in testing children and holding schools accountable for test score performance.



Because each state can produce its own standardized tests, the incentive for improvement can cause states to make its statewide tests easier to increase scores and meet the Adequate Yearly Progress. "Secretary Duncan explains that dumbed-down standards are an unintended consequence of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), but that over the last two and a half years, 44 states have raised standards and are working to level the playing field for students"(ed.gov).



La Mujer en el Narcocorrido y "Narco" Cultura

By Yessica Garcia Hernandez



As a music genre, the corrido and narcocorrido has been male dominated. Conversely, now there are several female singers like *Vianey Moran*, *Vanessa Garcia*, *Yessenia Jimenez*, *Kory Velarde*, *Ely Quintero*, *Violeta*, and *Yazmin*, who are currently singing corridos, in particular narcocorridos. In the past, if a woman was mentioned in a narcocorrido, she was the mother of the protagonist who warned him from getting into the drug selling industry or she was the traitor who abandoned her partner in a drug trade for money. In *Camelia La Texana* by *Los Tigres del Norte*, the corrido narrates how Camelia killed and betrayed her man after a drug sell because she was emotionally hurt. In 2002 Los Tigres Del Norte created a video titled *La Reina Del Sur*; this corrido was about a women drug pin. There are spectacles that the drug pin was Sandra Avila, a druglord who was arrested in 2007. Ever since her arrest, it has been more common to have the women drug pin portrayal in corridos, novelas, or movies. In "narcocorridos" and "narco" culture women are known as **Buchonas**. Buchonas are known to be the girlfriends or lovers of "narcos." However in narcocorridos performed by women, "Buchona" is a term given to someone who will not be domesticated by a man. Buchonas are the "progressive women of the 21 century."

Within narcocorridos women today are taking the initiative to sing about their own "narco" culture identity. As they sing they represent themselves as "enfermas y alteradas" women who like to celebrate drug sales while drinking, and listening to corridos. Yessenia Jimenez sings a corrido titled "Enfermas y alteradas," this corrido describes the "buchona" lifestyle.



Cuando escucho los corridos
Y que empieza la paranda
Se me altera todo el cuerpo
Y me abiento mi bucanas
Tambien me echos mis jalanos
Para andar bien activada
Que alcabo el dia que me muera
No voy a yevarme nada



This corrido emphasizes that women are being more accepted as active participants of the "narco" culture. Before women were just portrayed as sex objects. If one looks at previous corrido-music videos, women are just portrayed as jewels for men. Men celebrated and demonstrated their power in the more women they had in their music videos. We also see this female depiction and objectification in hip-hop, where women are depicted as "bitches or hoers." The fact that women are now singing and representing themselves through a first person voice in narcocorridos is something that needs to be further analyzed.

Vanessa Garcia sings another corrido about the "narco-women" in a corrido titled, *Les dicen Las Buchonas* this corrido talks about some women who go to nightclubs with fearless, independent and aggressive attitudes. Their life style is very glamorous they dress in brand name clothing and drive new cars. There is a scene in the corrido where the ladies go inside a restroom to fix themselves up, and they exit the restroom very coked up, shouting the names of top drug dealers. Because these ladies have "buchona" attitude, many men are scared to ask them to dance.



Muchos les dicen buchonas pero a ellas les vale madre
piden que toquen corridos por que ellas van a los bailes
luego se meten al baño que según pa maquillarse
del baño salen alegres gritan puro culiacan y arriba el M1
el Mayo Chapo Guzmán, deberás asta da miedo pa
sacarlas a bailar



Other corridos performed by female singers emphasize that women are no longer inferior to men as they can be in the same places of dance, and also spend money, drink and drive good cars.



En los lugares de baile
No cualquiere guey me apantaya
Manejo mis Buenos carros
Me voy para los arracones
Me gusta la andredalina
Y andar en los malecones



The Mexican regional music is creating a big shift among the representation and acceptance of women in music genres like the corridos, banda, and norteño. Nevertheless as we look at these ballads one has to ask why and by whom are these songs being written. *Are women writing these corridos? Do the women singing these songs agree with the depiction they are given?* And how are these women being treated in the corrido industry. Many of the corridos I mentioned above, are corridos written by men. It is true that women are singing corridos portraying themselves in the "narco" culture, but do they agree with this image. Or is this "buchona", "la plebada parrandera", and "la mujer moderna" persona just a fake depiction to succeed in this industry?



Operation Fast and Furious: A Sting Operation that Failed

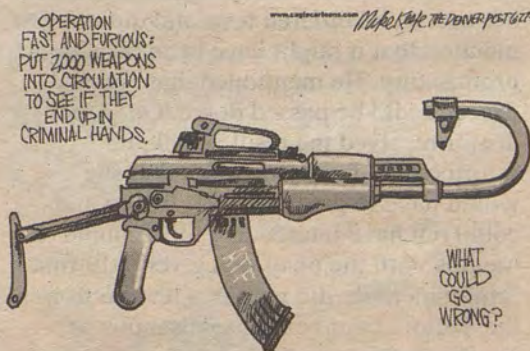
By: Juan Lopez

Unlike the title states, this has nothing to do with a blockbuster movie about fast cars and racing. No, this operation has much more serious connections and consequences. Operation Fast and Furious was part of a bigger operation, Project Gunrunner, which was a strategy first implemented in 2006 by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) that would stem the flow of illegal firearms trafficking from the Southwest U.S. into Mexico. The main purpose of this sting operation was to allow illegal "straw purchasers", or persons who knowingly buy an item for someone else, to buy firearms from legitimate retailers in the Southwest and track them as they are taken south into Mexico in order to build a bigger case against the drug cartels. Operation Fast and Furious was put into motion by the ATF field division in Phoenix, Arizona in the fall of 2009 and ended in late 2010 after Border Patrol officer Brian Terry was killed in Southern Texas. After this operation was brought to light, many policy analysts viewed the sting as highly controversial and morally wrong.



For the ATF the purpose of this program this program was to build up a stronger case against the violent Mexican cartels that illegally traffic firearms from the U.S. into Mexico along the Southwestern border. In the Article "ATF Fast and Furious Guns Turn Up In El Paso", Richard Serrano states that "cache of more than 290 firearms, most of which were assault rifles, were found in storage in El Paso,

Texas waiting to be transported across the border." These, like all of the other 2,000 or so firearms the ATF sold, basically disappeared after they were bought. The operation backfired on the Bureau when it was found out that the death of Border Patrol officer Brian Terry was killed by individuals using a couple of AK-47's bought through the Fast and Furious Operation. More than 2,000 firearms sold couldn't be tracked any further by the ATF after they were sold. In fact, many have been located in Mexico where they have been used to commit other crimes. One of these crimes took place in Northern Mexico where U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent Jaime Zapata was shot to death by members of a Mexican drug cartel. It was later found out that the firearms confiscated by Mexican law enforcement were traced back to the Fast and Furious Operation.



Many criminal incidents like these have been documented as being connected with the Fast and Furious firearms that are to be found around Mexico, now many have been questioning



the operation that the ATF launched. Reactions in response to the operation have led lawmakers to propose stricter gun control laws. In the article "Amid Fast and Furious Probe, Democrats Push New Gun Control Bill" Christine Mai-Duc writes "Two house Democrats introduced a bill that would make the trafficking of firearms to known felons or someone intending to commit a felony a federal offense[...] Currently, violators can often only be charged with 'paperwork violations' that carry light sentences, like lying on federal forms." Lawmakers believe that promoting much stiffer penalties will not allow any new operations that resemble Fast and Furious, to be carried out ever again.

Operation Fast and Furious arguably has led to one of the worst mistakes by the ATF in recent history. As a result of this poorly managed operation, more than 2,000 firearms have found their way on to the streets of Mexico and the Southwestern U.S. and have already started to claim the lives of innocent people.

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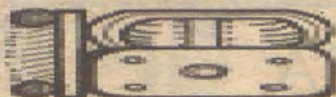
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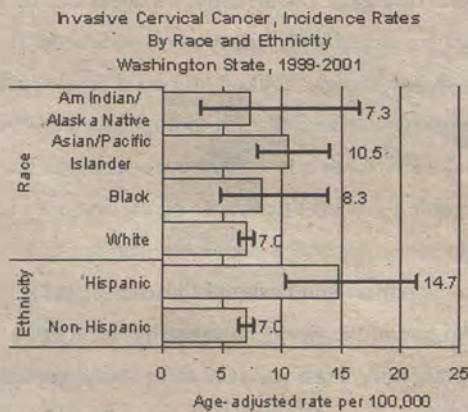


Cervical Cancer within the Latina Community

Jeannie Ramos

When talking about cervical cancer prevention, doctors suggest the Human Papillomavirus vaccination (HPV). When talking about what leads to this cancer doctors usually suggest that it is manifested in women who are sexually active and promiscuous. With this correlation about cervical cancer and promiscuity, how can one react to the fact that Latinas are more likely to get cervical cancer than any other group of women?

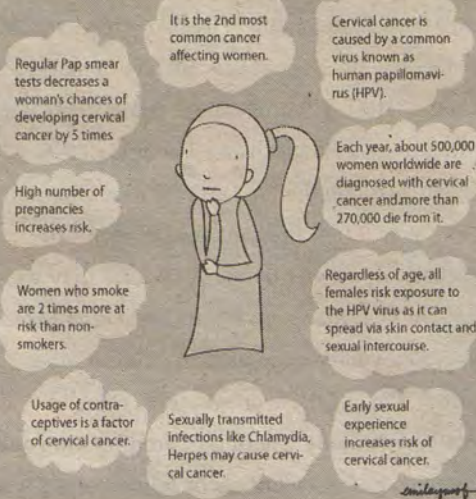
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (CDC), about 14 Latina women were diagnosed with cervical cancer per 100,000 women, compared to 8 non-Latina women. Between Mexican American and Puerto Rican women, cervical cancer incidence is two to three times higher than in non-Hispanic white women.



In the last 40 years the number of cervical cancer cases has decreased. Cervical cancer can be prevented or cured, but what happens when Latinas go in for a check up and the doctors accuse them of being promiscuous or having multiple partners as the leading causes for their cancer? Even though cervical cancer can be prevented by receiving the HPV vaccination or by getting a Pap test at the age of 21 or three years after your first sexual intercourse, many Latinas do not receive the proper checkup because they are uninsured or are afraid of what their doctor might say. Latinas are more likely to be living within the lower class or below the poverty line. This can lead to either few or no checkups, by qualified doctors or healthcare providers.

Besides the prevention of cervical cancer and the pinpointing, of relevant symptoms early, it is important to think about how women are treated when the doctor tells them that they have cervical cancer. For instance, I have two family members who have been diagnosed with cervical cancer and they have been treated

Cervical Cancer quick facts



differently.

The first family member that went in for a checkup is married and went in to get a Pap test after her second child. When the doctor noticed some imperfections in her cervix, he ordered tests and did not mention that it might have been because of promiscuity. He mentioned that cervical cancer could be passed down. Once the doctor received the results back, he informed my family member that she would have to get her cervix frozen and could not have intercourse for a couple of months until the okay was given. My first family member did not get a lecture from the doctor about being promiscuous or having multiple partners because she was married, but that was not the story for my second family member.

When my second family member went in for a Pap test and the doctor saw some imperfections, he quickly judged, her. He began to ask personal question and wanted to know her marital status, if she had multiple or only one sexual partner, and how many times she had had sex in her life. My cousin did not know how to respond or if she should be responding to these questions. The doctor then went on to tell her that being Latina, one is more likely to get cervical cancer and that by having multiple partners one can and will increase the chances of getting cervical cancer. This family member was not once asked if anyone in her immediate family has ever had or died from this type of cancer. Instead the doctor just pinpointed her as a promiscuous young Latina woman, based on communicating stereotypes in an insensitive and unprofessional manner.

In some cases the doctor will react differently to the idea of cervical cancer depending on how a Latina living her life, but why should they judge?

In some cases the doctor will react differently to the idea of cervical cancer depending on how the Latina woman is living her life, but why should they judge? If there was a cancer that was prevalent among the "promiscuous Latino" would they too get the same treatment that the women get? It is always important to think about why Latina women have to fight more for their lifestyle than anyone else and it is often because cervical cancer automatically implies to some doctors that Latinas are either sexually promiscuous, or that they cannot say "no" to the advances of male friends or lovers. Doctors may also treat Latinas as being intellectually unaware of female sexuality and good hygienic practices.

The solution to many health-related problems in the Latino/a community must begin in the family where parents and elders do their best to openly discuss health practices and to educate their children. But it is equally important that families seek consistent and regular visits to the doctor, (hopefully a person who is medically intelligent and culturally sensitive), so that complete family histories can be documented. The Latino family must also have access to affordable health insurance whether they are American citizens or undocumented. The poor and/or the undocumented must have access to better healthcare than that provided by rip-off clinics or over-crowded emergency rooms in impoverished inner cities. Finally, there must be efforts made to train more Latino doctors, nurses, and hopefully bilingual. Non-Latino doctors must be trained to resist simplistic forms of diagnosis and treatment of Latinas based on erroneous stereotypes or racist interpretations of community, family values, and lifestyles.

HOPE
Cervical Cancer Awareness



"¡Estamos Hasta La Madre!"

By Marilyn Florentino

"Su violencia ya no puede ser nombrada porque ni siquiera, como dolor y el sufrimiento que provocan, tiene nombre y un sentido. Han perdido incluso la dignidad para matar [...] Estamos hasta la madre porque en su afán de poder y de enriquecimiento humillan a nuestros hijos y los destrozan y producen miedo y espanto"-Javier Sicilia (Proceso)

The world stopped for the Mexican poet Javier Sicilia when he was told that his only son of 24 was murdered along with three of his friends on March 28th in Cuernavaca Morelos, Mexico. The four college boys, on the verge of beginning their careers, were found lifeless and tied up in their car. Javier Sicilia's son was an innocent bystander caught up in a power struggle between the Drug Cartels and the Mexican Government. Poetry ended for Javier Sicilia when he said his final verse at his son's funeral and decided to give his voice over to a long awaited cause for Peace.



Since Mexican President Felipe Calderon's fight against Drug Trafficking, violence in Mexico has surged to an unprecedented level because of the outright war between the Drug Cartels and the Government. Within the last five years the number of deaths due to this violence has reached perhaps more than 40,000, and many of the bodies have not been identified. Most of the victims of this war are innocent civilians who have been violently tortured and their bodies mutilated through decapitations and hangings at the hands of *Sicarios*, hit men hired by Drug cartels. These murders are publicly marked with the sole purpose of instilling fear in the Mexican people. Through vicious displays of murder, the Drug Cartels show the Government their determination to stay in power. And vice versa, the Mexican Government refuses to back down or give-in to any "deals" with them.



Javier Sicilia feels that it is time to set the cards on the table and call out those responsible for Mexico's current state of affairs. In Sicilia's last article for *Proceso* magazine, titled "*Carta Abierta a Politicos y Criminales*", (An Open Letter to Politicians and Criminals) he explicitly expresses his deep indignation and pain at not only the loss of his son, but for all the victims of Drug Cartels and a corrupt system of justice. He blames the Government's continuous pursuit of self interest as the reason why the people of Mexico have lost all trust in their authority and for the eventual destitution of the Mexican state. The Criminals, referring to Cartels and *Sicarios*, have torn the very heart of Mexico by mercilessly killing their own people and by involving the young and poor in their continuous cycle of crime and violence. According to Sicilia it is time that the Mexican people finally say "¡Estamos hasta la madre!"



Sicilia led a mass march in the city of Morelos on April 6th demanding peace and justice. The march continued into a six month convoy, his "*Caravana Por La Paz*", where it took him and sympathizers from the border town of Juarez to the border of Guatemala. Sicilia has been the first to ever organize a cross country protest for peace during this tumultuous time in Mexico. He has used his ability to speak, as well as his standing in the media world, as a way to be the voice of the victims. Nevertheless, his *Caravana* has not gone without obstacles, because as he received many threats against his life by the Drug Cartels themselves. Nonetheless he never showed any sense of fear. He carried on, determined to help end the murder of the people of Mexico.

On September 20th his *Caravana* finally came to an end in the promised meeting with President Calderon himself, in the Governmental Palace in Mexico City. When he met the president his mission was clear, it was neither political, nor did he seek recompense; he just wanted an, "Carefully look at our faces, Mr. President, we are innocent victims. Do we look like low collateral? Statistics? One percent of the dead? You should ask for forgiveness". Sicilia wanted to make clear that in no way did he want Calderon to make deals with the Cartels, but to keep the Mexican people safe, "We have not come to ask that you stop fighting criminals. But to revise your strategy. We are in between two fires. Between institutional corruption and very cruel criminals, bastards, sons of bitches[...]" Even after an entire room full of politicians was moved by the stories of the victims' families', politics are politics and without any promise of a safer Mexico from Calderon, other than an "I'm doing the best I can" Javier Sicilia continued on his way.

"Carefully look at our faces, Mr. President, we are innocent victims. Do we look like low collateral? Statistics? One percent of the dead? You should ask for forgiveness".



Javier Sicilia, will no longer see the beauty in the world. The loss of his son has consumed his heart and filled it with a feeling of impotence and emptiness that he wishes on no one. Yet, he had to suffer this great tragedy for him to speak up and say, "enough is enough!" Despite his anguish, he was able to gain the attention of all of Mexico. Sicilia's words have been able to give the victims the hope that he lost. As Chicanos we need to take notice of what occurs across the border, because in some way or another we are affected by this. The violence occurring in Mexico should not be overlooked, given that the only thing dividing our nation from this bloody drug war is an imaginary line.



Alabama's Unfair Law

By: Juan Lopez

In the present day it is evident that discrimination based on race is still an issue in the United States. Such issues mirror those of the civil rights movement of the sixties although admittedly, not as harsh, but unfair nonetheless. All around the country, certain states have been faced with the decision of passing laws that seem discriminatory in nature. One of the most famous cases is that of the anti-immigration laws that were brought up in Arizona. These laws brought fear to many hardworking immigrants who just wanted to make an honest living. In a more recent case, Republicans in Alabama have brought forth a measure that would make Arizona's law seem like child's play.



In his article "Alabama Wins in Ruling on its Immigration Law," Campbell Robertson writes "This new law, HB 56, will give Alabama by far the strictest such law of any state". The law is made up of several sections including: the right of state and local law enforcement officials to try and verify a person's immigration status during routine traffic stops or arrests if a "reasonable suspicion" that the person is in the country illegally.

Also, the state is not obligated to honor any contracts signed by undocumented immigrants and it goes so far as to require children to prove residency or citizenship in order to enroll in schools. Such a law has instilled fear into many people in the state. In fact, many have started to immigrate out of Alabama because of this unjust law. Officials have reported that both legal and undocumented residents have begun to move out of the state in what they call an exodus of mostly Latino persons.



As soon as U.S. District Judge Sharon Blackburn ruled that federal law does not prevent some sections of this law, many civil rights and activist groups sued the state saying that this law is unconstitutional. Many of these groups believe that such immigration laws should be enforced by the federal government and not by the state. "Civil rights advocates said the law is the harshest anti-immigration law passed to date, opening the door to racial profiling for not only illegal immigrants, but legal residents as well," stated Alan Gomez in his article "Parts of Alabama Immigration Law to Go Forward".



As for now this unfair and controversial law is still under further review by the justice system for its seemingly unfair status. The Obama administration has also stepped in and asked for this law to be dismissed, but Alabaman Republicans still support it, saying that work and the growth of the economy should only benefit "legal Alabamans". Such a law cannot be put into practice because it will only signal the beginning of even worse propositions from lawmakers that will surely downgrade our economy and society even more.



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Celebra Tu Educacion

By Reema Moosa



As the nation's leading Hispanic provider of higher education financial aid, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) assists the Latino community in obtaining funding for college degrees. Founded in 1975, HSF has awarded over \$330 million in scholarships over the past 36 years. HSF manages over 150 scholarship programs that support Latinos access to the opportunities a college education can provide. Outreach and educational programs are the Hispanic Scholarship Fund's way of helping Latino students and their families prepare, navigate, and graduate from college. From admissions, acceptance, and securing financial aid to internship and employment opportunities, HSF strives to support its mission to meet the educational and future aspirations of Latinos. HSF works to lower and eliminate the barriers that keep many Latinos from pursuing or obtaining a college degree (hsf.net).

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund supports its mission through outreach and academic programs across the nation. The HSF Scholar Chapter Network exists to promote academic success and student engagement among Latino college students, while encouraging them to serve as role models and leaders in their communities. The Scholar Chapter Network just completed its tenth year. HSF initiated the Scholar Chapter Network in 2001 with five Scholar Chapters. In the last decade, the Network has grown from 5 chapters to 37 across the nation. Scholar Chapters provide support and leadership opportunities for Latino students nationwide. The Scholar Chapter plays a significant role in promoting greater access and achievement for all Latino students.



The University of California, Riverside (UCR) serves as one of the 37 Scholar Chapters.

The Scholar Chapter was initiated in the winter of 2010 with only five members. Today its membership has grown from 5 to 50 members. The Scholar Chapter has been successful in fulfilling its mission to promote higher education among the Latino community, not only in the UCR college community, but also in reaching the younger Latino generation. The Scholar Chapter works together with other neighboring Scholar Chapters such as CSU Fullerton, CSU San Bernardino and UCLA to increase the sense of community and to create common ground among its members.



2011-2012 Scholar Chapter Coordinators

The UCR HSF Scholar Chapter has reached out to high school programs such as Advancement Via Individual

Determination (AVID) and English as a Second Language (ESL). It is their goal to encourage the younger generation and to educate them and their parents on the importance of getting a college education. The Scholar Chapter empowers these students by informing them about the financial resources that are available for them to become successful in their collegiate life and how to utilize all available resources and mentoring opportunities that will help them remain in school and graduate.

In the college community, the Scholar Chapter promotes academic success through workshops that educate the college student to excel academically. Such workshops include, but are not limited to: time management, internship opportunities, preparing for graduate school, leadership skills and countless other resources that prepare students to achieve whatever they set their minds to do.

Student engagement is also an important factor in fulfilling the Scholar Chapter's mission. Empowering the Latino community to serve as role models and leaders in their community and most importantly in their family, sets a sound precedent and lays the foundation for a bright future for generations to come.



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Our Young Brothers and Sisters

By Yvon Guzman Rangel

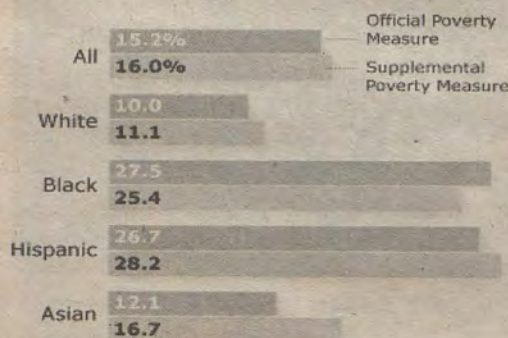
Since 2007, the spread of poverty across the United States has hit multiple ethnic and social groups. It is no surprise that the fastest-growing demographic has begun to experience a similar trend. According to the Pew Research Center, more Latino children are living in poverty now than any other racial or ethnic group. This alarming pattern suggests that there are 6.1 million Latino children living in poverty as of 2010. For the first time in United States history the largest group of poor children are not white. The research concluded that these high numbers are directly correlated to the high birth rates and the declining economic fortunes of many Latino families.



We must also take into account that many Latino parents are facing a high unemployment rates as a result of their citizenship status. Although the government states the national unemployment rate is about 9.1%, these statistic do not apply to this demographic group. In reality, Latinos face an unemployment rate of 11.1%. These numbers are even more alarming when we take into account single mother household families.

As a result, it is no surprise that more and more families are having to cope with this new reality, but we must ask ourselves what will be the long-term effects and how will these experiences affect their childhood and adulthood?

It is important to address these questions, since children are often left out when talking about the current economy. Studies support that children who grow-up in a low income family have high rates of academic failure and mental health problems. These psychological costs are incurred primarily because poverty limits children's access to developmental stimulation and heightens their exposure to stress in both their physical and psychosocial environments.

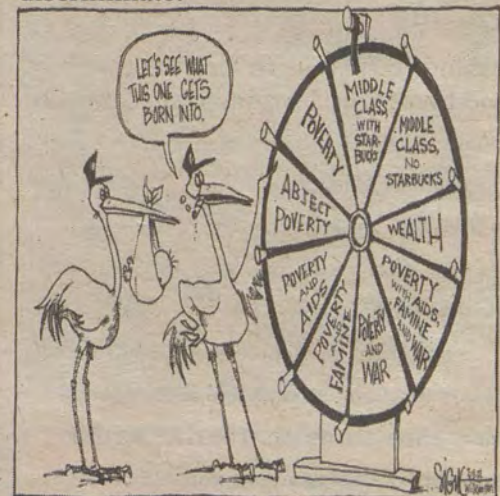


Source: U.S. Census Bureau
PEW HISPANIC CENTER

This continuous exposure to poverty poses pervasive risks for children's psychological development, with costs to the individual and society at large. For example, children and adolescents living in poverty often display dysfunction and delay in their

cognitive, language, and social-emotional growth. In turn, these developmental problems in early life contribute to reduced earnings, involvement in crime, and mental health problems across their life span.

Although it is important to recognize these issues, we must also strive to find answers and attempt to minimize the impact not just on Latino children, but on all children because we are all to aware that poverty does not discriminate.



"Poverty is like punishment for a crime you didn't commit."

Eli Khamarov quotes

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Under the Bridge

By Vanessa Ortiz

The homeless population in the United States is astounding. We see people sleeping on sidewalks and in parks, holding cardboard signs at freeway exits, walking the streets with shopping carts full of clothes and cans, and soliciting in front of grocery stores. Some people occasionally give the homeless spare change, but is that the kind of help they need? "There are close to two million Americans experiencing homelessness each year." In the County of Riverside alone, the population of homeless people amounted to 6,203 as stated by the 2011 Riverside Homeless Count and Survey. Over two days, from January 24- 25, thousands of people in Riverside were found homeless. Imagine if the team who counted homeless people in Riverside County continued their surveying for a longer period of time, or if they searched every single uninhabitable area for these people. The numbers would be incredibly high. We need to provide support for the destitute. By increasing public awareness on the issues homeless people struggle with, we can generate support for beneficial solutions to keep the mentally ill, youth, and families off of the streets.



On a late Thursday night in October I went through a drive-thru on the corner of Blaine Street and Iowa Avenue. My roommate was in the passenger seat and my focus was on the coffee menu. I suddenly noticed the dark figure of a man pop out in front of my car and I could easily make out his characteristics as he walked over to my window. He was a Caucasian male with multiple facial tattoos, a blonde, low ponytail, and weary blue eyes. Surprisingly, I did not find him intimidating and immediately began digging through my center console. After I dug up a few quarters I plopped them onto the man's hand, slightly grazing his rough and black palms.

I looked over to my roommate and noticed her leaning against her door with her hands gripping the handle of the car door. She seemed to imagine the worst when the homeless man approached my window asking for change. She simply stated "Oh my God, I was scared, I freaked out." I tend to see so many homeless people in the streets and it seems customary to dig through my pockets and car compartments for any cash or coins.

We have the wrong impression of the kind of people who survive on the streets. Increasing awareness about the situations homeless people struggle with is critical. When we think about homeless people, the typical images that pop into our imaginations consist of: dirty, drunk, old, shaggy people with layers upon layers of jackets holding cardboard signs that read "hungry please help," and "will work for food." This skewed image of the homeless person needs to be changed. The fact of the matter is that there are hundreds of families in the streets and many children under the age of 18 who are searching for shelter. We need to recognize the thousands of people suffering due to economic strife and lack of support. We can help the homeless by informing our community of who is out there, what their conditions are, and in the long run, provide support for those in need in order to help them lead healthy lives. As for the homeless man who advanced towards my car that Thursday night, it is certain there were factors affecting his present circumstances and offering my coins was the least I could do.

We need to change our perspectives on the homeless population and do more to help. The issue of homelessness is all around us. Once we step outside of our serene college campus the world is presented to us through a new perspective. The people who are suffering are highly visible to us and yet we prefer to stay within our own little worlds. It is time to step out and decrease the number of individuals living on the merciless streets. About 82% of the homeless people counted in Riverside County were unsheltered, meaning they were sleeping outdoors, on the streets, in parks, abandoned buildings, and vehicles. These are

5,090 individuals without shelter. The other 18% (933 individuals) have temporary living spaces, occupy emergency shelters, transitional housing, and use motel vouchers. The 2011 Riverside Homeless Count and Survey estimated a total of 169 family units who were homeless. Single individuals (2,603) make up 42% of the homeless population and the other 49% are of unknown family status. "The two largest racial/ethnic groups among 2011 survey respondents were White/ Caucasian (45%) and Hispanic Latino (27%)" (Riverside Homeless Count and Survey). Those who are chronically homeless, people who have disabling conditions that prevent them from finding shelter, suffer with conditions such as: severe depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, chronic health problems, HIV/ AIDS, Tuberculosis, mental illnesses, physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse. We need to provide as much support as possible in order to decrease the number of people living on the streets and there are many opportunities for students to get involved.

Students can explore so many options available to them on campus and in the community to better our neighborhoods and shelter our neighbors. Clubs and organizations such as Mujeres Unidas and Feeding America participate in charity work and feeding the homeless. Our local churches and community organizations like Operation Safehouse and Community Connect also seek to aid the homeless. These organizations aim at bettering the lives of others and helping people realize that as a community we can make positive changes.



Decriminalization of an Abortion in Mexico

Jeannie Ramos

The topic of abortion has become a big deal over the years. For instance, in Mexico, 17 out of the 31 states have made abortion legal, before the first 12 weeks of conception. The other 14 states let abortion happen on only two conditions only. The first is in case of the rape a woman. The second circumstance specifies that a woman is able to have an abortion if her life is in danger.

At the moment, Mexico City is the hotspot, due to the passage of this new legislation about abortion. Mexico city has now decriminalized abortion within the first 12 weeks of conception. States and religious groups are fighting back against it, in fear that many other states and/or cities will try to do the same thing



States like Guanajuato, Guerrero and Queretaro allow women to have an abortion if the pregnancy is threatening their life, or in the case of rape. In Yucatan a woman is able to have an abortion if she is not aren't economically stable and has more than three children. Even though many states allow abortion in specific cases, if a person is found guilty of having an abortion or producing an abortion that individual is then incarcerated, and depending on the state, the person can be incarcerated from as little as three months up to thirty years.

In the image below, the states in the darker gray color are the states, which consider the fetus to be a subject with rights, including legal protection. In the Black is the City of Mexico, in which an abortion at the request of the woman until twelve weeks of pregnancy is decriminalized.



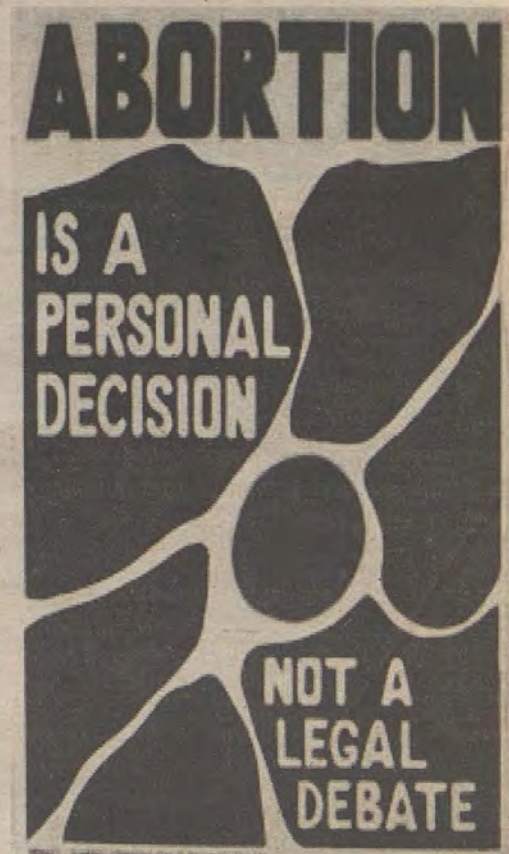
Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera stated that "el aborto no es la solución," (abortion is not the solution.) He let everyone in mass know that an abortion is always a crime no matter what. He went on to say "una injusticia no puede ser subsanada con otro injusticia," (one injustice can not be corrected by another injustice.) With this statement he attacks the women that have had abortions because they have been raped, but should the church attack the victims of rape for trying to get rid of something that will always remind them that they were a rape victim?



But when thinking about abortion and why anyone would want to have an abortion we need to think about the probability that a woman can be saved by having a legal abortion rather than a clandestine abortion. The Supreme Court of Mexico argues that, "la legalización del aborto significa salvar la vida de las mujeres que, en otro contexto, se someten a abortos clandestinos," ("The legalization of the abortion means to save the life of the women who, in another context, are put under clandestine abortions.")

Because abortion is now legal in 17 states of Mexico, it is important to think about the impact that it will have in the country as a whole, and how it will impact the lives of the women whom are willing to have a clandestine abortion. With the incorporation of legal abortions in Mexico, it is important to think also about how many more abortions will take place yearly and why woman are willing to go through an abortion.

Abortion is a topic that many people feel very strongly about. Whether you are against or for abortion, one should always think about the differences that an abortion can make for the woman going through with it, regardless of the circumstances, why women seek abortions is very complex from theological, legal, medical, and other combinations of personal and family circumstances. Given the strength of the catholic faith in Mexico, it is possible that women seeking abortions might not increase as dramatically as has been the case in the Roe V. Wade era in the U.S. but it is also importance to give women a better choice than that between stigmatization by the church or death and permanent injury due to the illegal route of the back-alley abortion done by untrained individuals or even medical profiteers and opportunists.



Mayan Spirituality

By Marilyn Florentino



"Everything in the Mayan world interacts, nothing is here by mistake". - Marco Pacheco (Casa de la Cultura Maya)

The Mayans were a highly advanced ancient Mesoamerican civilization that lived in the areas of present day Southern Mexico, as well as parts in Central America. The Mayans developed mathematical and astrological systems unique to the world, which gave way to one of their greatest known developments, the Mayan Calendar. Although the Calendar has been greatly publicized in recent years for its "prediction of impending doom", the message of the Calendar is not destructive but that of harmony and respect for nature. The Mayan Calendar continues to be a practiced ritual today and while many prepare for the end of the world, the Mayans of the present day prepare for a new era of consciousness for humanity. In order to understand the calendar, it is essential to understand the Mayan way living and spirituality.



"Spirituality keeps you in equilibrium [...] Spirituality is energy, the spirit is energy. What is a soul? Soul is the movement. Together [spirit and energy] make up one thing [entity] and the soul is what makes us as individuals".

The Mayans like many indigenous cultures shared an understanding of what it was to live with the land. According to Marco Pacheco, President of the non-profit organization *Casa de la Cultura Maya*, the Mayan today is no different. Marco Pacheco identifies as a Mayan not only because of his background but because of the way he views the world, "One of the ways of living is living in harmony with the forces with nature". A Mayan believes that every living thing has energy and has the ability to affect us; all energy works

A person, an animal and even a tree has energy and they are all a part of us. It is that respect and synchronization with nature that makes up Mayan spirituality, and according to Pacheco, is energy itself. Just as atoms in a molecule create energy, "Spirituality keeps you in equilibrium [...] Spirituality is energy, the spirit is energy. What is a soul? Soul is the movement. Together [spirit and energy] make up one thing [entity] and the soul is what makes us as individuals".



According to Mayan beliefs each day, month and year has a meaning. A year has an assigned name with an energy force that will carry out or complete that year, and all of this marks, "the way your behavior and the way things are going to be for you [...] much like a sign". The ancient Mayans recorded time according to the world around them as they saw it affect them. They knew the earth, the sun and moon all worked together and how they affected their world. Nature to them holds an incredible energy that works in connection with them. Such as the moon, scientifically it has been proven that it affects earth's tidal forces, yet to the Mayans a full moon is also a time when men are more likely to be agitated. It is in their belief that they are a part of the earth and it is working together with them as human beings. The ancient Mayans created a calendar that would help them keep track of when it was time to harvest, or to celebrate nature itself. Because to them nothing really dies, it transcends. In the Mayan world time is measured in a circular way, whereas we measure time in a linear manner. Time for them is cyclical and in the Mayan world everything returns to its place, and everything revolves.

Mayan spirituality is often misunderstood; or rather it is ostracized by the western world. Much of their rituals, such as the calendar, are thought of as superstitious, or some sort of witchcraft. According to Pacheco, it is important to remember that the conquest over indigenous cultures changed the way spirituality was viewed, everything out of the Catholic religion was criminalized, "Little did they know what was going on

"the smell is so pleasant that when it enters your senses it is already giving you some kind of peace inside".



and what it meant to the indigenous culture. If they had understood they would have had a lot more respect for the culture". The Mayans practice spiritual purifications, or what many people have come to call "limpias", cleanses, that involve the burning rosemary or sage and passing it around a person's body. According to Pacheco, "What he is doing [Mayan priest] and gives you this plant, Rosemary [or sage] and pass it around you, the smell is so pleasant that when it enters your senses it is already giving you some kind of peace inside". The spiritual leader works with an individual's energies and can sense instinctively if there is an imbalance, "He knows what is wrong with you and he can feel it. How can he feel it? Some people have more perceptive senses than other. How is that? Well that's for science to figure out? [...] In our world today everything has to be questioned, here has to be a theory, there are things that have no have explanation".

The ancient Mayans had a keen insight into everything around them. Yet what they share with Mayans today is a harmony with nature that allows them to understand what is needed for mankind to survive. The end of this Mayan era will not be destructive, it is a call for man to change the way he thinks, a change of consciousness. The Mayans have always been in search of the truth, as Pacheco explains, what our focus should be within ourselves as a human race, "What's going to happen from this point forward, where are we heading [...] We have forgotten that we have been in this loss of consciousness for five-hundred years, where all of a sudden the government and technology, and our way of living have far more importance than our connection with natural beings, natural forces, nature, so much so, that we are now suffering the consequences". The separation from nature has ultimately severed us from our own life according to Mayan belief. Human beings have reached the end of the line of ignorance. It is time that people start noticing what is happening with not only earth but within us.



The Nation's Largest Minority Group Striving for Higher Education

By: Wendy Chamorro



It is certainly true that since the years of the Chicano movement, to the present, Latinos in higher education have grown. When it comes to enrolling in college, it is a serious matter. The foundation that influences who applies for college begins with childhood education and family socialization. In order for a student to be considered a candidate for high school, they must have completed all junior high school requirements. Similarly, a student must go on to complete their "a-g" requirements in high school and obtain a high school diploma in order to be considered eligible for college enrollment. Every school in a given state has its own social and cultural context, but the requirements for going to college are basically the same. Much attention has focused on which students pursue higher education and which groups are hindered due to high dropout rates, inadequate schools, poor teachers, and socioeconomic considerations. What is the status of minority students in colleges and in universities today?

In a research conducted by the *Pew Hispanic Center*, Hispanic enrollment in college has increased 24% within the last two years, indicating that Hispanic students have shown a tremendous interest in seeking higher education. In 2010, there was a growth of 349,000 Hispanics in the United States, between the ages of 18 to 24, enrolling in college, compared to African Americans with 88,000 and Asian Americans with 43,000. The *Hispanically Speaking News* recently published an article proclaiming that California now has the largest number of Hispanic college enrollments in the country. Even more amazing is the fact that within the 2009-2010 school year, "nearly 433,812 Hispanic undergraduates were enrolled in the state's "Hispanic Serving Institutions." Among the state's colleges and universities with 25% or more Hispanic undergraduate enrollments are California State University, Dominguez Hills, Mt. San Antonio College and the University of California, Riverside.



President Obama has emphasized that "America's economic future depends on becoming more competitive in the global economy." Deborah Santiago, co-founder and vice president of Excelencia in Education, implies that enrollment, retention, quality education and graduation rates are vital to the policy's success, especially for Latinos. She is a former Department of Education policy analyst who served as an official with the White House Initiative for Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans during the Clinton administration. Obama and his administration have made it a goal to put initiatives in place that would allow for 60 percent of Americans to obtain a high-quality, two- or four-year college degree or vocational credentials by 2025. Evidently, there is a difference between enrolling in college and graduating. However, with higher Hispanic college enrollments and more institutions catering to those needs, there is a greater chance that the graduation rate will also rise. Improvement in college enrollments and graduation rates for minority students is the target of significant public-policy propositions for both California and the nation.

Rising educational attainment stems from many factors affecting Hispanic population. According to the Pew Hispanic Center, there has been a great increase in Latino immigration in recent decades and Latino fertility rates are higher than other groups. Hispanics are now America's largest minority. These enrollment trends have been on the rise since 1972, where there was a mere 13% increase of Hispanic enrolled in college. From 2009 to now, the gap has narrowed greatly. The U.S. Census Bureau's School Enrollment Supplement noted that the Hispanic race, within the last year, has had 12,077 undergraduate and graduate students in college. As more Latinos enter the higher education arena and succeed in diverse occupations and professions, they will also encourage their family members and friends to pursue post high school education opportunities, and that multiplier effect will only increase the impact of President Obama's visionary policies for a highly educated and competitive workforce for the twenty-first century. In helping with these numbers, students that are already enrolled and attending college can encourage those family members or friends to strive for higher education and keep fighting for our right to be knowledgeable.





Let's Cook!

Home-made Mexican dishes as a healthy option for students on a budget

By Vanessa Ortiz

We are starving students. By that I mean starving for knowledge, money, a social life at times... but especially food! We are all hungry. While school is expensive and we are all trying to keep track of our money, it becomes difficult to make a fresh, delicious, home-cooked meal on a budget. But do not fret. There is a solution: Mexican food. Who doesn't love Mexican food? It's impossible not to! While we are all culturally diverse here at UC Riverside, Mexican food is something everyone has tried at one time or another. This food is absolutely everywhere. It is served on campus, in dining halls, found in vending machines, and I am sure some Mexican foods are sitting in your kitchen cabinets.

My friends, the answer to all of our problems lies not just in eating Mexican food, but cooking it. So why not let us cook together? Cooking is essential and smart. Cooking contributes to happiness, comfort, and that homey feeling. Eating the foods you love and experiencing the embrace between your food and your rapturous taste buds just makes life a whole lot better. All of our troubles seem to fade when we cook and eat with our friends and families. The thing is we need not yearn for and desire our family's home cooked meals. Most of the tiny spaces we occupy come equipped with kitchens that we must put to use. So let us cook. Let us enjoy the profound meanings of cooking and eating. Let us also add more significance to the term "food": any nourishing substance that is eaten, drunk, or otherwise taken into the body to sustain life, provide energy, and promote growth. Let us try new things in the kitchen and experience the foods that come from cultures other than our own.

On this occasion we will learn how to cook a dish that has been passed down for ages in my family and I'm sure many of yours as well. From my mother's kitchen, to my kitchen, to yours, I bring you Chiles Rellenos con Queso Fresco y Arroz Rojo.

Chiles Rellenos con Queso Fresco

Poblano chili peppers (4)

Queso fresco (Fresh Mexican Cheese)

Substitute: Mild Feta Cheese

1½ tablespoons flour

4 eggs

1 cup corn oil

6 tomatoes

½ white onion

3 cloves garlic

2 tablespoons chicken bouillon

½ bunch of cilantro



Preparation:

Wash all vegetables

Make a slit on the chilies, deseed and devein them

Roast chili peppers in griddle pan on stove-top until chili's skin rises and has charred spots

Set the chilies on a plate so they can cool down

Once cool, peel the thin skin from the chilies

Cut the cheese into slightly thick slices
Carefully stuff the peppers, make sure none of the cheese is sticking out and the slit does not open wide
Lightly flour the peppers and set them aside

In a large mixing bowl add egg whites from 10 eggs (you can crack them in half and slowly glide the yolk from shell to shell letting the white fall in the bowl)

Beat the egg whites until there is a light, fluffy foam

Add 1 cup of corn oil to a large non-stick pan and heat at high temperature
Set up a large plate covered with napkins

Slowly dip the floured peppers in the foam and transfer to the pan
Deep fry the peppers until they are golden brown
After they brown, lift the peppers from the pan to remove excess oil and transfer to plate
Let the peppers set

In a large saucepan, place 6 tomatoes, ½ onion and 3 cloves of garlic
Add enough water so that it completely covers the vegetables

Boil vegetables until skin on tomatoes begins to peel and onions become soft

Place all the contents from the saucepan into a blender

Add 2 tablespoons of chicken bouillon
Blend

Empty sauce into large casserole or Dutch oven

Boil sauce

Neatly place the deep-fried peppers in the sauce

Arroz Rojo

4 tablespoons oil

2 cups rice

1 small tomato

½ small onion

4 cups water

2 tablespoons chicken bouillon



Preparation:

In a saucepan add 4 tablespoons of oil

Heat pan to medium temperature

Add 2 cups of rice

Mix until rice browns

Chop 1 tomato and ½ an onion

Place in saucepan with rice

Mix the contents

Then add 4 cups of water

Let the contents boil

Stir in 2 tablespoons of chicken bouillon

Boil, then simmer over low heat.

Finally, place your stuffed chili peppers on a plate and top with sauce. Add your arroz rojo on the side and garnish your plate with cilantro. Enjoy!



WE ALL HAVE A DREAM

By: Stephany Tellez

You just have no idea what it is like, without being given the opportunity to stand in someone else's shoes. Who's shoe's am I talking about, the shoes of an AB 540 student. For the majority of us who are US citizens, who pay our taxes, and have achieved our dreams in this country it is easy to forget or to judge those who are trying to follow in our foot steps. I personally have many friends in the position of the AB 540 student, whose parents brought them to this country illegally due to circumstances beyond their children's control. It is a very frustrating position to believe you are American, but not to have the documentation or papers to back you up. Perhaps one day undocumented students will be able to come out from the shadows and to prove to society that they are equals who don't want to take away from the government, but to contribute and give back. They want to be active members of society making the United States a better place for everyone. These students didn't just arrive yesterday, demanding rights and access to a higher education, but only the availability of financial aid and resources will make it possible; for the AB540 students to gain higher education and professional levels of employment and opportunity. Finally, change may be coming to the *raza* of California.

Unlike other states such as Arizona, Georgia, and Alabama, California is extending a helping hand to undocumented students and offering them an opportunity to prove themselves and their value against all those who believe they don't deserve the right to higher education. Governor Jerry Brown recently signed two bills for the State of California AB 131 and AB 844. These bills were signed as a part of the California Dream Act which although it is related is distinct from the Federal Dream Act. These jurisdictional issues have undoubtedly caused many Americans to be confused about the legislation to the children of undocumented immigrants to fully develop their talents in order to contribute to their society, to pay for college, and to be able to live without fears of deportation. The California Dream Act is a beginning to a change in an immigration reform that will benefit all undocumented immigrants from all over the world, not just those from south of the United States border with Mexico.

The California Dream Act allows undocumented students who qualify, to obtain financial aid to help pay in-state tuition. Beginning in 2013 those undocumented students who are attending a California public school for more than three years and who obtain either a high school diploma or a GED have access to Cal-Grants, and institutional grants. This aid will only be offered through public universities such as the University of California or the California State University system. Students attending community college will be eligible for fee waivers lower their costs. Finally, students must begin the process of applying for legal residency. Overall and foremost these students must show financial need and, of course, keep up their grades and fulfill all academic requirements.

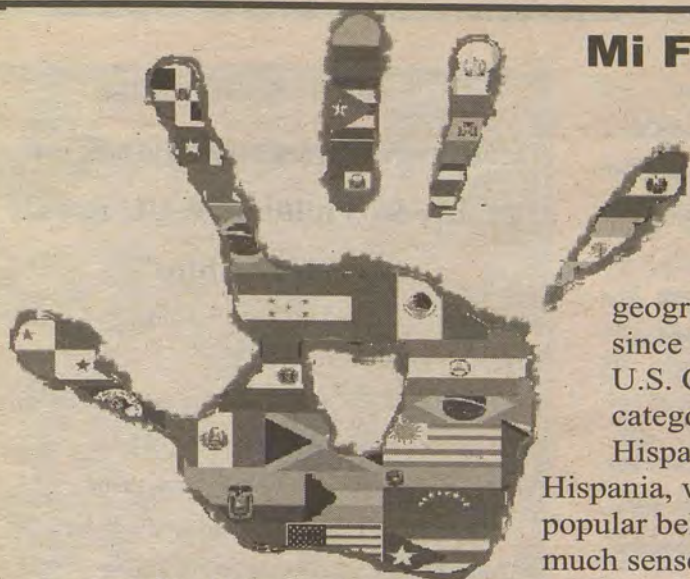


On the other hand the Federal Dream Act is more of an immigration reform bill to benefit the children of immigrant's, who have been raised in this country as Americans, gone to school and who see themselves as equal to other Americans, until one day they are hit with reality that their parent's choices have jeopardized their futures, because they don't have the documents to back up what they already believe. Under this act, undocumented students won't only be eligible for federal funds for college, but they will be able to work legally and earn legal residency after completing 2 years of higher education, or serving in the United States military. This legislation will affect all those children who were brought here before the age of sixteen and who have proven that they received have education, in the United States.

Perhaps states like Arizona, Georgia, and Alabama know that the country is going to go through major change soon. They believe that if they exclude undocumented children from entering elementary school because they are not legal residents or American citizens, that they can prevent these children from gaining and opportunity for a path toward citizenship, rights to financial aid to assist them while in colleges, or universities, or the right to work and vote. The draconian views of various anti-immigrant lobbies must be challenged and refuted if the so-called immigration and border crisis is to be solved. The only reality worth discussing is that there is nothing to fear from these undocumented students who are not a threat to the U.S. or its national security. They are just as smart and have the same if not more motivation to succeed than all other citizens because they have more to lose, if they fail. *Raza* want to meet every challenge and alleviate the fears of even the strongest anti-immigrant voices. The numbers alone show that a bill like this is not going to solve all immigration problems but it will solve the many problems for those who have had no voice or a meaningful future in this country, with the signing of the California Dream Act, twenty five hundred students throughout the state will be eligible to receive money set aside for Cal grants. This means that only one percent of the fourteen million dollars available for Cal grants will go to AB540 students. The California Dream Act will make a far more difference in the lives of AB 540 students, than any amount of tax dollars that people claim they are costing American citizens to pay for their presence in California.

Mi Familia: Women, Men, and Children of Color

By: Wendy Chamorro



Families of Hispanic origin have a different story than that of families from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, or even those native to the United States. As a rapidly growing population, Latinos are almost everywhere! Essentially, in saying, "I'm Latino," does not necessarily mean that I am from one specific country, but rather from a Spanish-speaking country, in what we geographically call Latin America, even if they are Portuguese speaking Brazilians, since Portuguese is a Latin-based or romance language. Let us go back to the 1970 U.S. Census, though. In an effort to combine all Spanish speaking peoples into one category, regardless of race or national origin, the government coined the term Hispanic. In actual fact, the term Hispanic derives from the Latin word meaning Hispania, which was the primal name for Spain. Thus the word "Hispanic," contrary to popular belief, is based more on language and ethnicity, rather than on race. It makes as much sense as referring to a person as "Anglo" just because they speak English or come

from an English-speaking background. Therefore, the terms "Latino" and "Hispanic" are used interchangeably amongst members of these groups. So, how are Latinos supposed to look or speak? Are they light skinned or dark skinned? Do they have lighter or dark colored eyes? Are they tall or short? Is their hair curly, wavy, or straight? The truth is that we fit all of the above descriptions. Latinos are not just from one single place, but rather from many countries. Our origins are in Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, Chile, El Salvador, Brazil, Belize, Uruguay, Panama, Colombia, Honduras, and Paraguay. Due to generalization of biological intermixing and cultural domination of indigenous African and immigrant Europeans, due to colonization and assimilation, Latinos that come from diverse nations and locations are still different from each other in phenotype terms. "It's our Latin thing." The Anglo population in the United States conceals the diverse ethnic immigrant origins of those peoples who migrated from mostly European countries to the United States. Whites are an assimilated Pan-ethnic population that has been collapsed under a folk racial term, Latinos are now the largest "racial minority group" but we are in reality both multiracial and multiethnic in origin. But mainstream politicians want us to culturally assimilate as individuals into the core American culture and society.

Can we believe that Latinos have the same opportunities as everyone else here in the United States? Well, we do have the same opportunities. Our parents, and in some cases even ourselves, have come to this country inspired by that same idea. It was their duty, as well as ours, to fulfill them. But, there will also always be stereotypes that can make us seem incapable of fulfilling our dreams. People believe that just because some Latino's English is not as good as theirs, that they are incapable of understanding American society and values. Or just because Latinos are represented in the high percentage of criminal activity, that we are all criminals. These are all stereotypes that hopefully in time, will be broken down so that we can be treated as equals. Many ethnic Europeans had their own history of criminal, gang, and underground activity when they were marginalized in ghettos and ethnic enclaves and stereotyped by WASP society. Just as ethnic immigrants had their own hopes and dreams, those migrating from multiple origins are working daily to fulfill their aspirations here as well. There are misperceptions that non-Latinos have of Spanish-speaking people due to confusion over the meaning of words, such as race and ethnicity. Clearly, Hispanic does not capture the colonizing, enslaving, and imperial projects of Central and South America, and Africa. Latino is a pan-ethnic term that collapses multiple cultures while not specifying racial and national diversity. It is true that most that migrate to the United States come for opportunities, but there is something that sets us apart from every other cultural group in America. One thing is that we are just one enormous mix of peoples. You honestly can't tell if a person is truly Latino or not. As mentioned, we all come in unique shapes, colors and sizes. And that is one of the beauties of our ethnicity, as opposed to the stereotypical racial homogeneity. Also, our sense of family, whether we have fifteen first cousins or just five, we are traditionally a close-knit people. For us Latinos, family, or "familia" as we know it, does not just mean our immediate family. We include our extended family as well and we all have a responsibility to help each other in good times and in bad.

Latinos are currently a rapidly growing community. It is believed that by 2020, one in four children will come from a Latino family. The comparison of diverse Latino immigrant experience in the United States with European immigrants reminds people that cultural assimilation and upward class mobility are at best multi-generational projects. All migrants and immigrants have dreams and continually must fight for acceptance and legitimacy. Most immigrant ethnics have strong families, closely-knit communities, and value conflicts between their society of origin and American society. Hopefully, the resiliency of the Latino struggle and children, of Latino descent, trying to obtain resources to enroll into higher education institutions, should weaken racist anti-immigrant arguments.



"OUR LATIN THING"



AB 531: What's Next?

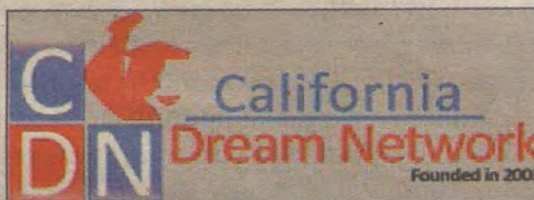
By Patricia Lopez

AB 540 students, undocumented students, have a harder time paying for college compared to California residents. They sometimes fear being deported or causing their families to be deported and therefore they are reluctant to ask for aid. There are those students who apply for scholarships and/or enroll in installment plans, but sometimes, even that is not enough to cover tuition. Up to now these students have been denied financial aid because of their immigration status, however, now that AB131 has been signed AB 540 students are now eligible to apply for



To apply for scholarships and qualify for installment plans AB540 students have to show proof that they are doing well academically and that they are in good standing with the school. The same goes in order to qualify for aid under AB131. According to McGreevy and York, writers for the Los Angeles Times, students must show proof that they have graduated "... from a California high school after attending school in the state for at least three years and must affirm that they are in the process of applying to legalize their immigration status. They must show financial need and meet academic standards." AB540 students do meet these criteria. In 2013 those undocumented students who are accepted to state universities can apply for Cal-grants, "a CaGrants public program that last year provided aid to more than 370,000 low income students" (Los Angeles Times). There is a catch though, not all undocumented students will be able to receive Competitive Cal Grants A and B because there is limited funding and those who do receive Competitive Cal Grants A and B because there is limited funding and those who do receive Cal Grants A or B will receive their grant "... after eligible California residents have received the awards," says, Leslie Berestein Rojas, writer

for Multi-America. However, students are eligible to receive grants from the UC and Cal State system (Institutional Student Aid), and fee waivers from the community college system (Board of Governors Fee Waiver) according to the California Dream Network. Aside from the benefits that AB 131 provides, AB 540 students also have "access to \$88 million in privately funded university scholarships and grants that were previously not available to them" due to AB 130, the first part of the California Dream Act, which is supposed to take affect in January of 2012. (Multi-America).



The question remains. How will these students who qualify under AB 131 have access to the funds? According to the Dream Resource Center's California Dream Act Fact Sheet, "For institutional-based awards, students must apply and compete for available awards as outlined by their respective college or university. For Cal grants or other state funded assistance, the California Student Aid Commission will develop a system for applying to aid, given that undocumented students cannot apply for FAFSA... in order to determine their income level and need." These forms are not yet available due to the recent approval of the Dream Act however, when they are available about

"... 440 undocumented undergraduates will qualify for roughly \$4.3 million in UC grants and scholarships"

and about "... 2,500 students will qualify for Cal Grants..." (Frequently Asked Act Fact Sheet) Even though there are restrictions on the grants available, there will still be a number of students who benefit from them.

Grants, institutional aid, and scholarships will now be more accessible to qualifying students. AB 540 students now need to make sure to keep up with the act so that they fill out the appropriate forms in time to receive grants/aid.



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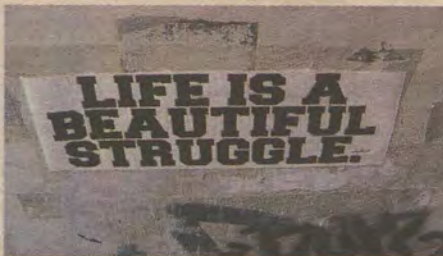
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For Your Eyes Only



"Sunday's over and when I wake up, Monday has already arrived. It's another day of a new week; to get educated and meet deadlines, to work and earn those pesos. It's no surprise that my smile is straight because the stress begins to build up. Let's just say time management has never been my finest area of expertise. But I assure you that you'll never hear me stressing because to me, this is nothing. As a Hispanic college student, living in America is a journey of survival and it has made me nothing but stronger. To be honest, I'm still convinced school isn't for me. Yet I'm still here juggling these books around as soon as I clock out of my nine to five shift, only to clock back in after class. It wasn't always like this...I was once a child, worry-free and living what I like to call a luxurious life. Of

course, luxuries to me back then were merely from Toys 'R Us and my mother's kitchen. Every now and then, I still get to indulge in her famous enchiladas; mmm risisimo. Oh...the art of growing up. Now we have my younger brother to care for and make sure he stays on the correct path towards success. The only difference is that now times are tougher and everything isn't as accessible. Even living under my own roof, my paychecks go towards my tuition and bills. They say money can't buy you happiness, but it sure can buy you more time...I can't help but think that I am not the only one living the struggle. I hear other's stories about working two jobs and going to school and others who ditch education in order to earn money for their familia. So many dreams are getting delayed, so much potential is going unnoticed. We all have our own story, whether it depends on socio-cultural barriers or economic issues, we all have a page to contribute to this book of life. This is for those who feel they are alone, for those who go unnoticed, I see you and I feel your struggle. Keep on pushing; remember this struggle is only making us stronger."

~ Anonymous



Education in America is easy and accessible, or so many of us are destined to believe that. However, in college it really depends if you can afford it. Many students are working and attending college, it is even becoming more common to work more than one job. Our economy is beginning to take a big toll on American students. In fact, this toll has contributed to symptoms of stress to those particular students that have to work harder just to afford their education and accomplish their dreams. The majority of

students that have shown an incline of stress are mainly Latino adolescents. According to the National Hispanic Science Network, "Latino adolescents disproportionately suffer from some mental health disorders and many also engage in risky behaviors (e.g. substance abuse, unprotected sex, etc.) more often than do non-minority adolescents" (1).



This can be explained from the issues that they may encounter, such as marginalization, immigration, and the economy along with teenage alienation. Many of these factors have proven to be true, as the issue of immigration continues to strengthen among several states throughout America. This can be seen as highly negative to many; however Hispanic students have allowed themselves to look at this picture with a brighter view. With support from their familia, whether they may be blood related or simply close by heart, they have shown to be quite resilient and strong to the negative factors that continuously attack them. They gain strength from support, and the generational wisdom and love passed down to them as they grow up. It is amazing to realize that this wisdom is a reminder for each generation as it is passed down from the nurturing of each Hispanic child, as well as from neighborhood friendships. The joy that Latinos can forever gain throughout their struggle comes from the caring people around them that add to their individuality, allowing them to gain a healthy and holistic manner despite all the isolating challenges that strive to create their stress. ~J.R.



The Salvadorian Dream

Sinead Chavez

Many are familiar with the Mexican American War, The Holocaust, or even the Armenian Genocide; but not many have heard of the Salvadorian Civil War. El Salvador, a country smaller than the state of Texas, is located next to Guatemala and Honduras. But the biggest mark of their history is the civil war that lasted for twelve years and claimed at least seventy-five thousand lives. It is difficult to imagine this war, even when the people affected because of it were everyday people like us. When we think of wars, we think about the 19th century, but the Salvadorian Civil War officially began in 1980 and did not end until the Model U.N. peace treaty in 1992. Yet, in these twelve years, innocent Salvadorians were being threatened and killed. Among those deaths are those countless individuals who were never found.



As a result of the war, El Salvador suffered external damages as well as internal disruption. The few who were able to cross the United States border were unsuccessful in gaining asylum; thus labeled by the Reagan administration as "economic migrants" rather than "asylum seekers".

\$48.92 million
in military aid

Furthermore, the U.S. government provided the Salvadorian army with \$48.92 million in military aid. Activists helping the poor and trying to organize labor unions were targeted for death; one of these figures was Archbishop Romero. Considered to be a liberation theologian, Romero was gunned down at the altar shortly after ordering the

Salvadorian military to stop killing innocents. Despite the atrocities that were committed during the civil war, El Salvador is beginning to prosper. In 2001 El Salvador officially adopted the U.S. dollar. Despite their growing popularity in the realm of tourism; one of the problems in El

Salvador is the high rate of illiteracy. Many students of school age during the civil war could not go to school because they had to help their families financially. Many even immigrated to the United States not because of the American Dream, but because their fear of being killed.



In order to come up with a solution for the high illiteracy rate, the board of education has implemented a plan called "Alfabetizacion." The plan is to lower the illiteracy rate from 17.9% to 4% by 2015. This program is being made possible by international donations; the program thus far has raised \$40 million. I believe this is a big step towards investing into the future of the youth in El Salvador, as well as for anyone who did not have the chance to attend school. It is important for the board of education to invest in "Alfabetizacion"

because of the number of college graduates it can produce in the long run. An emphasis on education can increase the value of a college degree as well as make the dream of going to college an achievable one for the members of any social class.

The program offers a chance for anyone to learn how to read and write. Through this experience, the individual can learn the value of having an education; thus, lowering the rate of youth who do not graduate. The founders of this program believe that by lowering the illiteracy rate in El Salvador, parents will be more inclined to teach their own children the importance of having an education. As of right now, there are 800,000 youth above the age of 15 who cannot read or write. Through this program, the board of education hopes to lower this percentage.

800,000 youth
cannot
read or write

The board of education asks for the cooperation of not only its teachers but also cooperation from the community. The program has already begun to provide its students with basics such as free shoes, and uniforms, as well as free lunch. After all the destruction and loss, "Alfabetizacion" paves the way for the future intellectuals of El Salvador.

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FALL / 2011

GOP is Missing the Mark with the Latino community

By: Christian Velazquez

As the U.S. Latino population continues to grow, so does the importance of drawing Latinos to the voting booth. Yet, Latino political leaders believe that Latino voters are being taken for granted, especially by Republicans.

In the CNN Tea Party/Republican debate, the Republican candidates expressed their discontent with illegal immigration and the DREAM Act, when asked about their plans for Latino outreach. Ronald Martin, a CNN contributor, states in his article, "... What every candidate on that stage should have said is that Latinos should be attracted to the GOP for the same reason as white voters." Additionally, Texas Governor Rick Perry's view on educating the children of illegal immigrants and providing them with state tuition received a negative backlash from Republican candidates. Nevertheless, some candidates such as Newt Gingrich and Tim Pawlenty have made efforts to gain Hispanic support. Gingrich has promoted a campaign for "Hispanic Inclusion" and Pawlenty scheduled program time on the Spanish network, Univision.

Republican candidate Ron Paul is also advocating the importance of the Hispanic vote. "...Dr. Paul's message of personal liberty, strong families and vision for economic prosperity have a natural appeal to Hispanics and will make communicating to Latinos a priority for our team," says Jesse Benton a representative for Ron Paul. Unfortunately, most Republicans have only focused on immigration when they address Latino concerns. Gustavo Valdes, a CNN correspondent, writes that Latino political leaders worry that Latinos will be pigeonholed as people who only care about Immigration issues. Education, healthcare, and the economy are also important to the Latino community. The National Council of La Raza shows that Latinos are worried about the economy, specifically jobs. Valdes claims that the unemployment rate among the Latino community is above the national average and that many Latinos feel that helping small business owners will help create more jobs. "But even if immigration is not their top priority, some voters say it's an issue that

could sway their vote in the next election," says Valdes. According to analysts, Republican candidates need to focus less on the issue of immigration enforcement and more on a solution to fix immigration.



Gary Segura, Political director of Latino Decisions and Professor of Political Science at Stanford University, is convinced that the Republicans lack of action towards the issue of Immigration contributes to low Latino support for the GOP. Moreover, Gary Segura and UC Riverside Professor Shaun Bowler say

in their article, "It's True: Latino's are Liberals, and other Important Matters", that Republicans will have a hard time appealing to Latinos regardless because most Latinos have Liberal ideals. Segura and Bowler highlight the fact that minority groups like Latinos prefer a stronger government over the free market, which they say contrasts with the stereotype of GOP ideology: "Market good, government bad." How will this affect the 2012 Presidential elections?

The 2010 census reports that the Hispanic population in the United States increased by 15.2 million from 2000 to 2010. According to the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) "... Latinos will account for a significant share of the electorate in several states." Furthermore, NALEO Executive director Arturo Vargas claims that at least 8.7% of those who will vote in the 2012 elections will be Latinos. "Latinos played a key role in the 2008 election; They will determine who is sworn in on January 2, 2013," says NALEO director Arturo Vargas.

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Durante los últimos años, muchos se han referido a la comunidad hispana como una gran potencia en los Estados Unidos. Un gran ejemplo económico y visual son los comerciales de televisión donde se caracteriza al latino como gran parte de la sociedad; incluso las grandes compañías producen el mismo comercial pero en español. Los candidatos políticos también han reconocido que nuestra comunidad tiene gran poder político y han intentado encontrar apoyo dentro de nuestra comunidad hispana. Al parecer, todos se han dado cuenta de la potencia que tenemos como unidad mas sin embargo somos nosotros quienes aun no lo notamos. Sin duda, nuestra comunidad es como un gigante al cual lo quieren despertar pero nosotros, como comunidad, no lo permitimos.

Según el Buro de Censo, cuya misión es contar y analizar el crecimiento de la población Estado Unidense, encontró que más de la mitad de crecimiento del país se debió al incremento de la población Hispana. El reporte nos demuestra que a pesar de todas las barreras que han puesto la presencia latina sigue aumentando y ha alcanzado un nivel donde simplemente no se puede ignorar. Lamentablemente, cuando llegamos a este país, muchos nos enfocamos con nuestros propios intereses que se nos olvida que mucha de nuestra gente está aquí por la misma razón.

Un problema común en nuestra comunidad es la falta de representación gubernamental para los hispanos. La mayoría de los políticos de hoy simplemente no tienen el interés de los latinos en mente y a consecuencia su agenda no incluye los temas relevantes a los hispanos. Como resultado se nos hace fácil criticar o culpar al gobierno porque notamos que es lo que todos parecen hacer, mas sin embargo no nos damos el tiempo para educarnos un poco más sobre los procedimientos legales y electorales. Si dedicáramos un poco de tiempo para leer las pólizas públicas, conocer los candidatos políticos, y conocer los derechos que tenemos nos daríamos cuenta de que para obtener el cambio que queremos debemos de tomar acción.



Tomen por ejemplo, las elecciones presidenciales. Últimamente, los políticos han puesto mucho más énfasis en nuestra comunidad porque saben que nuestro voto hispano puede ser la diferencia entre ganar o perder las elecciones. Los debates consisten de muchas promesas que parecen momentáneamente convencer a los constituyentes pero después salimos decepcionados cuando esas promesas no se cumplen. La primera reacción que muchos tenemos es culpar al presidente pero lo que nuestra ignorancia política no nos permite ver, es que las promesas que se hicieron dependen mucho de nuestro congreso. Nuestra obligación después de elegir a un líder de gobierno es de presionar no solo al elegido, si no a nuestro congreso para hacer posibles las leyes prometidas; eh ahí donde fallamos como comunidad.

Muchas pólizas que benefician a nuestra comunidad no se han implementado por la simple razón que no hay suficiente presión de parte de los hispanos. Claro, existen muchas organizaciones que se dedican totalmente a promover los intereses de los latinos pero sus esfuerzos no son los suficientes. Tenemos que empezar a tomar acción y ayudar a los que buscan y luchan por nuestros intereses políticos. La manera más eficaz es a través de la educación y obligación política. Tenemos que salir a votar cada vez que surgen elecciones locales, estatales, y nacionales. Al no votar, renunciamos a nuestros derechos como ciudadanos y el derecho de criticar la manera de gobierno que este país representa.



The Importance of Health in our Communities...

Tamales! Tacos! Popusas! These are some of the most famous and requested food when one eats at a local Latino restaurant. The exquisite seasoning of carne asada, the sizzling of oil dipped tortillas, the spicy smell of chili being combined with the fresh aroma of cilantro to create an ideal salsa wake an almost uncontrollable instinct within us that generates a desire to indulge in such foods. We all know that the Latino cuisine is among the most desirable ones in the world; but what we don't know is that it is also one of the unhealthiest. For the past year and a half, First Lady Michelle Obama has been on a mission to fight any health related problems that originate from ones diet., i.e. childhood diabetes, obesity, and cholesterol. Her mission has been to educate the nation that most of our illnesses can be prevented and possibly even reversed if we make educated decision in our everyday diet.



Unfortunately, the Latino community faces several disadvantages in this fight to educate and end illnesses such as the ones stated above. One of this disadvantages is what the Latino community take so much pride in; our

culture. Our culture is so rich so unique that we like to brag of our customs, our cuisine, our origins, and our progress, but what we don't notice is that in this ego-trip we forget about our true customs and don't realize that we get absorbed into this "American way of Life" that we have made it our own. Most, if not all, of the Latino community immigrated to the United States with the sole purpose to better their lives. We grew tired of not having enough money to feed the whole family, of watching our children work instead of study, and of having to live so isolated from everyone else. Consequently, we bought into the promise of the American dream were everything, including food and money, was abundant.

This was no lie. Everything in the United States is sold abundantly. Jumbo this, Mega that, 2 for 1, Super Size, Family Pack, the list goes on and on. Since the Latino community is not used to such quantities, we tend to buy more than what we really need. The psychological trauma that unconsciously guides us to buy more then what we truly need; We remember our childhood, how we lived in our native countries, and provide our families with what was not provided or available for us. As a result, we cook tamales, tacos, posole, and menudo; we go to fast food restaurants and buy the readily available food for our families. This then creates or modifies our culture into buying more is better and creates a dependency on the fast food restaurants. Our children only learn what they are taught and so a new version of the Hispanic Culture is created to incorporate mcdonalds, burger king, taco bell, and Carls Jr.



What we need to do as a community is to care more about our families. We need to understand that most illnesses are preventable, is we simply need to change the way we feed them. Lets join First Lady Michelle Obama in this fight to end child obesity and child diabetes by making simple changes in our diets.

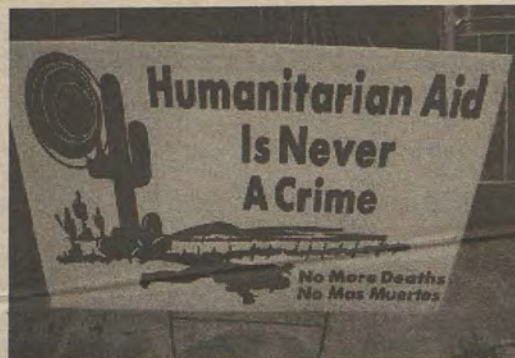


Hope

Sinead Chavez

What if having the power to save a life could potentially get you fired? Ricardo Dominguez, a professor at the University of California, San Diego created a cell phone app that directs people who are crossing the border to nearby water sites. Although, this may seem as if he is aiding people illegally attempting to cross into the United States, it is in no way encouraging them to illegally gain access to this country. The cell phone application not only directs people to nearby water sites, but also other points of safety, including border patrol stations. The cell phone application is even considered by some to be a form of art since it has words of encouragement for the people crossing the border to read.

Although the cell phone application is considered to be illegal by some, it is saving lives. The people crossing the border do not know where they are going without the guidance of the coyote. Yet, these coyotes are not reliable guides because they do not care about getting these people to safety. Sometimes, they take their money and lose them in the desert, or they flee when the border patrol is coming after the immigrants who trusted them. Then, there are the children that get lost when they are making the journey with their parents. Suddenly, the American Dream is not as important as parents being reunited with their child. This is why the cell phone application can come in handy. Having a cell phone available to use while crossing the border can prevent casualties. One woman told the story to the *New York Times* of using her cell phone to call the border patrol because she lost her daughter while attempting to cross the border. Although, some people are against the use of cell phones for aiding people to cross the border; they do not realize that not everyone wants to lose their life for the American Dream. Some people do not realize how dangerous it is to cross the border; they are willing to place their full trust in a coyote. These people deserve the chance to find a water source or to call the border patrol to aid them.



The only way to help improve the program is to expand cell phone coverage in rural areas. One of the obstacles the border patrol faces in receiving phone calls from lost people are is the loss of the signal before a rescue can be carried out. Due to the lack of cell phone coverage in these areas, it is harder for the border patrol to find people in a low coverage area. In one such instance, through helicopter the border patrol was able to locate an immigrant victim because they were able to see the light from his cell phone. The rescued victim was suffering from hypothermia, and as a result, was unable to walk.

**"When I was hungry,
who gave me to eat?
When I was thirsty,
who gave me to drink?"
Matthew 25:35**

However, some people believe that if there is better cell phone coverage than there will be more immigrants crossing the border. They believe the coyotes will take advantage of this and use their cell phones to guide bigger groups of people across the border. They also believe the coyote would take advantage of the broad cell phone coverage by informing the immigrants where the border patrol is. What these people do not realize is that the immigrants will attempt to cross the border with or without full cell phone coverage. Nonprofit groups such as the Border Angels, founded by Enrique Morones, support humanity. Their organization quotes a biblical verse in Matthew 25:35, "When I was hungry, who gave me to eat? When I was thirsty, who gave me to drink"? Border Angels have created several water sites as well as provided blankets for those who may be crossing the border. Although some disagree with Morones organization, in the end we are all human and the humane action is to give food to those who are "hungry" and water to those who are "thirsty".



Tú esfuerzo se vera en el futuro con un exito favorable. Te queremos mucho y te deseamos lo mejor este próximopaso de tu vida.

De la Familia Guzman-Rangel
Muchos abrazos y besos



Latinos Should Be United Not Divided by Christian Velazquez



Lately it seems that the issue of who constitutes a "real" Latino is becoming more prevalent. English-only Latinos in the U.S. are feeling discriminated against by Spanish-speaking Latinos for not knowing how to speak Spanish. This discrimination has caused some to consider themselves as "Fake" Latinos. Why are Latinos discriminating against other Latinos? Shouldn't they try to understand why non-Spanish speaking Latinos don't speak Spanish rather than to judge?

According to Tracy Lopez, a writer for newlatina.net and a blogger for Latinaish, most non-Spanish fluent or non-Spanish speaking Latinos do not speak Spanish because of historical reasons, feelings of insecurity, or fear of judgment by others. She writes that during the 1930's and 1940's most schools in the United States prohibited the use of Spanish. Those who did use Spanish were punished.

Furthermore, Pacific News Service contributor David Madrid, states in one of his articles that his mother who grew up in central California was punished as a little girl for speaking Spanish in school. He goes on to say that speaking Spanish in public back then was also discouraged. "Throughout California and the Southwest in the 1930s and '40s it was common to see signs in front of restaurants and stores that read 'No Dogs or Mexicans Allowed'," mentioned Madrid. David Madrid and Tracy Lopez emphasize the fact that racism contributed to the decision of some Latinos' parents and grandparents not to teach Spanish to their children and grandchildren.

"Many who experienced this kind of discrimination didn't teach Spanish to their children," writes Tracy Lopez. Madrid mentions that his grandparents did not want their children to speak Spanish out of fear that they would suffer the same type of racism they had. This hasn't entirely gone away. Parents still have this fear that teaching Spanish to their children will make them suffer in the United States.

James Felix, a Moreno Valley freelance artist of Mexican descent comments, "It's not my fault that my parents came here in their teenage years speaking nothing but Spanish and having a really hard time in school. They didn't want their kids to have to

go through school struggling to learn English like they did." Many parents like James' feel that English will open the doors of opportunity in the United States and will give them a better future.

Other Latinos speak Spanish but not fluently, so they feel insecure to even try. Lopez mentions a Puerto Rican Latina named Andria Morales who was discriminated against because she didn't speak fluent Spanish. Morales is quoted by Lopez saying, "... I never really fit in well with the Latina crowd because of my language issue. I was once invited to a holiday party t[at] a [Puerto] Rican family's house. . . [A woman there] made me feel like I wasn't really Latina by insisting on unwrapping a pasteles for me because she didn't think I would know how even though I told her I grew up eating them . . ." She goes on to say that the woman insisted that she didn't learn how to cook the pasteles because she didn't care to learn even though Morales told her that it was because her grandmother died when she was young and her mother was always working. Although Morales grew up with her culture, her lack of Spanish has caused her to be known as a Latina who is ashamed of it.



Also mentioned in Lopez' article is Laura Esquer, a Latina Graphic Artist from Los Angeles, who has been called "white washed" and "white Mexican" by other people for not speaking Spanish. Esquer also notes that just because she can't speak Spanish does not mean that she isn't proud to be Latina. "I am very proud of my heritage and I make that known," says Esquer.

Similarly, David Madrid recalls being discriminated against at work by other Latino employees for not speaking Spanish at all. "At this job, I feel unwelcome, and even face animosity, because I am Chicano and can't speak Spanish," says Madrid. He mentions that the last time he spoke to his Latino co-workers was when they discovered that he could not speak Spanish. After that his Latino co-workers will not even acknowledge him in the aisles.

Probably one of the saddest stories I have heard was the one I read about in Agustin Duran's article for the Latino Voices in the Huffington Post. Duran mentions that an old Mexican Immigrant at a car dealership in Los Angeles refused to accept that a young man of Mexican-descent did not speak English. According to Duran, the old man told him:

"This was Mexico before and look at the young guy, he looks more Oaxaquita than anything and he does not speak Spanish. It's a shame they are from Mexico or [of] Mexican descent and they don't even speak the language." Duran mentioned in the end of his article that the young man did not know Spanish because he had grown up in the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services.

Even though not all Latinos experience cases like the ones mentioned, and not all Spanish-speaking Latinos discriminate against English-speaking Latinos, it is important to mention these cases. I know a couple of Latinos who would be thrilled that I wrote this article because they want to make it known that they are proud of being Latino despite the fact that they don't know Spanish. "I wish the two co-workers who approached me on my first day of work, and all the other Spanish-speaking Latinos who look down upon me for being English-only, knew all the feelings and history that lie behind my simple response to their attempts at conversation -- 'No habla Español'," comments David Madrid.



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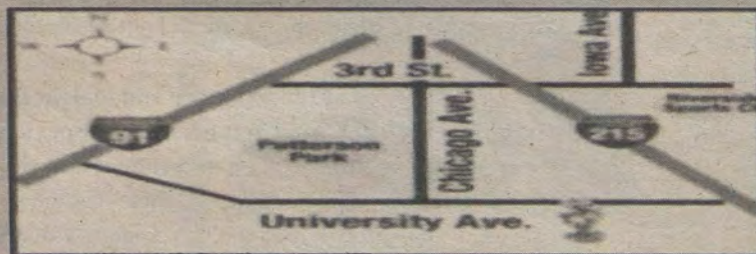
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NUESTRA COSA



FALL / 2011

METRO Pony League

By Ivania Guzman

Growing up in the Los Angeles Metropolitan area, most kids are surrounded by local gangs, drugs and crime. Most families are low-income families that work hard to try and provide a better future of their children, but the reality is that most families can't. Given these circumstances it becomes easy for children to steer away from a bright future and end up surrounding themselves with the wrong crowds and being exposed to bad influence. Few people take the time to create a difference in their community and to try to give back by providing positive guidance, and to show youth leadership and provide them with direction toward a better and brighter future. One organization that provides all these criteria is the Metro Pony League, which was established, in late 2007 by its President Alexis Lopez.

Alexis Lopez is one of few people that has taken the time to create a difference in young children's lives. Lopez grew up in the metropolitan area of Los Angeles and attended school in the San Fernando Valley. He graduated from Los Angeles High school in 1995. He began playing baseball at the age of 8 years old and played for various organizations such as Little Leagues, PONY and High School baseball. Lopez, a Los Angeles Police officer, felt that the best way to preserve a positive environment was to introduce the Metropolitan area to PONY baseball.



"We determined that PONY Baseball would be best suited for the children around the Metropolitan area of Los Angeles; PONY (Protecting Our Nation's Youth) Baseball and Softball, whose mission is to provide experiences in youth baseball and softball that will help young people grow into healthier and happier adults", Lopez,

The Metro PONY youth league is the first one in the inner city of Los Angeles. Lopez not only founded the league but he also coaches. "In our city, there are several Little Leagues, but none of them are teaching or developing players for High School or Division 1 Colleges" Lopez, said.



Metropolitan Pony Baseball staff and coaches have and continue to dedicate themselves to enhancing the baseball skills and everyday lives of the children of the community, by introducing them to the game of baseball and reducing their fear of failure". One coach that is hoping to create a difference in the lives of these young children is Steve Gomez. A UCR alumni Gomez became involve with the league earlier this year.

He also played in a PONY league when he was younger and feels very proud to now be a coach in the league. "I feel that I am contributing to the growth of the kids in the same way coaches were able to guide me through sports and discipline. As a coach and PONY alumni, I feel that participating in social and team activities allows kids to be exposed to a positive environment which could lead to other opportunities in life" Gomez.



The league has achieved many accomplishments. A major achievement of the league was taking one team, the Coyotes, to Cooperstown, New York. Coach Carlos Ochoa gathered all the information and requirements needed to take a group of 12 players and prepare them for a big challenge. It wasn't easy getting there. The team had to contend with various issues, one of the most challenging being finances. But by fundraising and looking for sponsors, the team was able to make its way to Cooperstown.

The Coyotes made history by being the first team in Los Angeles to go to Cooperstown. They ranked 4th out of 98 teams. Also, Lopez and Gomez managed to take the 12u All Star team to regional's, which was the first time any team from the Metro League had made it that far. Different leagues in the North noticed them, and the kids were given a sense that with hard work and dedication, anything can be accomplished. But Lopez comments that the biggest accomplishment they have is when kids return to play the following season and are ready to continue with the league. This is especially gratifying to the their parents.



Metro Coyotes
#20110736 California August 27, 2011

Although the league has made great strides and is making a difference in children's lives by keeping them out of trouble, it still faces many obstacles; the main one is not having their own home field. "We don't have a place to call home, every year we rent fields that are available to use and some high schools. We are lucky if we get two fields for the season. I want to get a field, which would be one of my biggest accomplishments for the league. We want a place to call home" Lopez.



Even though they lack a field, Metro has been very successful. Lopez works hard looking for sponsors and working with other coaches and leagues that are willing to help his league out. Parents feel good about the time and effort he puts in. Alma Morales, mother to Carlos Morales a player for Metro says she is very satisfied with the league and sees how it helps her son out. "It encourages Carlos to be responsible and to show determination to succeed and improve himself as a ballplayer". More importantly Carlos is succeeding academically since he needs to have good grades, in order for him to play.



"I have found that being involve in the community that I grew up in and cherish is very special" said Alexis Lopez. "I love being on the field and am proud of being the founder of Metro Baseball. We have accomplished a lot in the last four years and we have more years to come." Lopez



Fighting Towards the Gold Metal: Marlen Esparza

By: Stephany Tellez

As of summer of 2009 the International Olympic Committee Executive Board voted yes to including women's boxing in the 2012 Olympic Games in London, England. Before boxing was only a summer sport and a women's boxing division did not exist in the Olympics. This is a step forward in women's sports because, for the first time in history, these women will be fighting for the gold metal and will be able to stand on the same podium as so many other athletic heroes. These women will be showcasing their strength, ability, as well as talent by competing amongst the best women from the rest of the world.

**There will be 3-weight divisions:
flyweight (106 lbs-112 lbs),
lightweight (123 lbs-132 lbs), and
middleweight (153 lbs- 165 pounds),
with 12 boxers in each of the three divisions.**

What makes this so great is that these women will become positive role models as heroes to many young girls. Often times when we think about strength, the first thing to come to mind is a male figure. Women can be just as strong and just as talented as men. In some cases women can be shown to have a unique passion when it comes to their performance because they have so much more to prove to society. Now that the Olympics has given women the opportunity, women boxers can show the world what they are capable of competing in a difficult sport, by their sweat, their passion, their stamina, and their athletic ability.



Marlen Esparza in blue fighting Tyrieshia Douglas in red for her 6th title.

In researching who would participate on the USA team, I found out that the team has not yet determined the women, but there is one young lady, in particular, who has caught the eyes of many and she is working extremely hard to make the USA team. Many are supporting her as she continues her historical journey. Her name is Marlen Esparza, and at only 22 years old, she already holds six national championships and is a strong candidate in the running for the 2012 Women's USA Boxing team. This young woman is someone who is not only representing her Latino community, but she is fighting for much more than just a chance at the gold metal. She is representing her family and all the people that have supported her along her journey and she shows it through her dedication and determination to make the USA

#1 US Flyweight Boxer

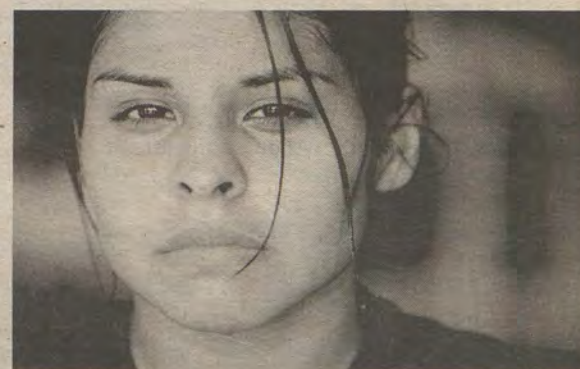


Olympic team. For Marlen Esparza, boxing means more than being an Olympian, or winning a gold metal, it is her life.

It is an honor to have this young woman representing all of us. She began her journey when she was eleven years old, and she's had to prove that she is just as good, if not better, than any male boxer. Her trainer, Rudy Silva, has admitted in interviews that when Esparza first came up to him, he sort of just shook his head and told her ...

"No, I only train men."

He turned her down a couple of times, but she persisted, refusing to take "no" for an answer. As Esparza got better, Silva began to realize that she was actually much stronger than he had imagined. When Silva noticed that Esparza had heart in the ring, he never turned his back on her again. Together the two have built more than just a champion fighter. Esparza is a strong and independent woman with values and goals, who sets new standards for younger women everywhere, Esparza is a great role model for young girls, showing how far dedication and commitment can take you.



**"Ranked #1 in the U.S. for Five Consecutive Years."
-Facebook Page
(follow her story)**

Esparza is currently one fight away from making her dream become reality. Women like Esparza are opening the doors for many young girls by encouraging them to go after their dreams. More and more Latinas are becoming famous faces in the sports world and many are now looked up to as local heroes. If Esparza makes the Olympics she will have the opportunity to become a Latina legend.



Catch the reruns on CNN.



"The Students of Alabama and their Future"

By Ivania Guzman

With the latest news surfacing around Alabama, their newest immigration law states, that; "the state of Alabama can enforce the law's requirement for schools to verify students' immigration status, and for police to determine citizenship and status of those stopped, detained or arrested by officers". Most Hispanic students are left feeling scared and overwhelmed. They don't know what's going to happen to their future and how they should react to the law. When the news broke out, the initial reaction by most parents was to not send their children to school. They feared that sending their children to school would draw attention from the authorities. They decided not to take any chances and just avoid to the situation completely. Some families even took more drastic measures such as leaving the state. They just don't know what else to do, and don't know where they can turn for help.



As days have gone by, and more students are not attending school, the numbers of such actions have shocked superintendents in different counties. According to the Associated Press, "more than 200 Hispanic students were absent from school". In the small town of Albertville, 35 students withdrew in a single day. The superintendent of Albertville city schools commented: "many students who withdrew said

good-bye to their teachers and friends before leaving". Many of the students have been part of the system for years. This is very upsetting news because this law is not only encouraging students who do not have papers to stay away from school, but also students who are born here but whose parents are still illegal immigrants. The parents feared that they would be questioned and eventually would have to suffer the repercussions of the law. Some parents are not just moving to other states, but some of them are packing their bags and taking their kids back to their home countries. They say they would rather not wait around until this law, or one like it is passed in other states, forcing them to have to move again.



To try and calm the parents down, the superintendent of Huntsville took to a Spanish language television station and tried to calm down the worries of the parents. He took this time to say, "In the case of this law, our students do not have anything to fear," he urged parents to send their kids to school and that the state was only trying to compile statistics. He insisted that police were not getting involved in the schools. Even though the authorities are not getting involved inside the school, parents still fear that they would be stopped or questioned when they drop off and pick their kids up.

Even though the superintendents are trying their best to ensure the parents that their kids are safe and that nothing will happen to them, it just does not seem to be working. As the days have passed, not many students have returned to school, and it seems like they won't be returning. You can't blame the parents for taking these measures, although they are keeping their children from getting an education. They would rather keep them safe until they know what is the best thing for them to do.



This issue has really hit close to home, because I come from parents who are immigrants. I myself am an immigrant even though I've become a U.S. citizen. I don't forget my roots and I sure don't forget that my parents along with many other immigrant parents brought their children to this country to receive a better education. Thankfully I have. With that said, it upsets me that states like Alabama are keeping young children from bettering themselves, keeping young people from fulfilling their dreams. Who is to say that your immigration status is what defines your education, or the life you can live in America if you are given a fair and fighting chance.



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NUESTRA COSA



FALL / 2011

Proposals To Decrease Undocumented Immigration by GOP Candidates.

By: Stefanie Calero

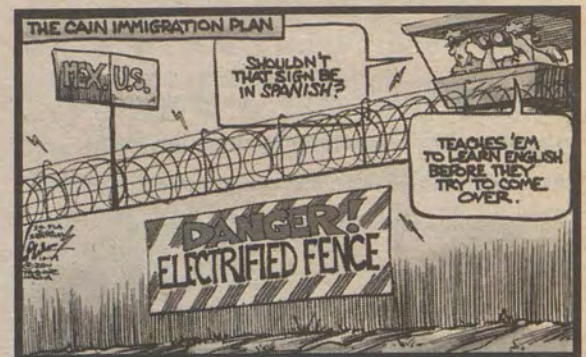
As the 2012 election year gets closer, presidential candidates are eager to disperse their ideals and proposals to the public with hopes of gaining supporters but more importantly, possible voters. Recent Republican presidential debates have been the main source for our knowledge of the GOP candidate's positions. As we get closer to primaries, candidates are taking every opportunity they can to get exposure. But, the exposure some of the GOP candidates are receiving, specifically on the issue of immigration could cost the Republican Party significant votes in the 2012 general election.

This past May, the Census Bureau released its findings on race through that were nothing short from astounding and reported an impressive increase in the Latino/Hispanic population. The report titled *The Hispanic Population: 2010*, gathered information through the population and housing data acquired in the 2010 Census. The Census reported that out of the 308.7 million people residing in the United States, 50.5 million are hispanic. This large minority group 16 percent of the country's total population. Thus, the hispanic population increased by 43 percent in the last decade, 2000-2010. These figures make the hispanic population the fastest growing population in the United States as well as the second-largest group in the United States.



Even though immigration remains one of the major contributors to the continual growth of the Hispanic/Latino population, it is simultaneously being significantly reduced. The dire state of the economy and increasing surveillance by the border patrol are the two major contributors to the decreased legal and illegal hispanic/Latino immigration. Fewer work opportunities have prevented many people from migrating to the US in search of jobs. Illegal immigration has been consistently reduced during the Obama administration with the help of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement. On October 18, 2011 the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, most notably known as ICE, reported a record number of 396,906 deportations for the current year, the highest in the nation's history. Regardless of the systematic decrease in the nation's undocumented population, the majority of which is hispanic or Latino, undocumented immigration remains the hot topic for debate among the Republican party's presidential

But, the proposals and statements about illegal immigration made by some of the the top Republican party candidates are leaving more questions than answers. Instead of proposing to maintain illegal immigration at a margin and concentrating on deporting illegal immigrants with high-risk criminal records, as the Obama administration has claimed to do so, GOP candidates seem to be in competition for who has the most inhumane tactics for border patrol. Herman Cain has demonstrated that he is not content with being the Republican Party's top candidates, and is currently seeking the title of most intolerant inhumane anti-immigrant xenophobic candidate by holding the number one and two spots, leaving Michelle Bachmann as third runner-up.



While in Tennessee for campaign rallies Herman Cain divided his proposals for illegal immigration as a two-part two-day special, making each proposal more ruthless and barbaric than the last. Cain's first proposal was the implementation of an electrified border which would not only decrease illegal immigration through border crossing but will also raises the penalty of illegal immigration to death. He also stated that the fence would be accompanied with barbed wire on top and warning signs in both english and spanish that will inform illegal immigrants: "It will kill you." The second proposal was to equip the border with military troops "with real guns and real bullets", assuming that the electrified death fence proposal did not allot him enough recognition for his savage inhumanity. When confronted by pro-immigrant advocates, Cain claimed that he was fiddling, even though it is doubtful that many people were laughing. Fellow GOP candidate Michelle Bachmann has also taken a hard-line stand in support of draconian policies for the Border Patrol to implement. Regardless of candidates' political party, it is clear that Latinos are considered unworthy of fair representation on the immigration issue. So, who will draw the line of what is acceptable? When will someone speak up against anti-immigrant comments?



How To Avoid Weight Gain And Minimize Future Health Problems Starting This Holiday Season
By: Stefanie Calero

Holiday season is approaching and that means gluttony is a few weeks away . The holiday season represents a lot of shopping, a lot of family , a lot of laughs , and most of all a lot of good food. But just because bikini season is over does not mean its acceptable to let go of the healthy balanced diets, especially for Latinos who are predisposed to weight gain and eventual health issues in comparison to their white counterparts. The Latino population follow African Americans in that they are at higher percentages to suffer from overweight problems and obesity than Whites. It is not surprising to know that overweight and obesity problems lead to more serious health problems such as diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure , and heart problems. According to 2011 reports by the National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse, diabetes occurs at a higher percentage rate in Latino Americans and African American that in whites of the same age . Studies conducted on Latino Americans, African Americans, and White Americans aged 45 to 74 found that diabetes occurs at a 16 to 26 percent of Latinos and African American , 4 to 14 percent difference in comparison to Whites who deal with a 12 percent occurrence . The easiest way to avoid further health problems such as diabetes, weight control is essential. In a recent study conducted by Dr. Paul T. Williams of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory , it was discovered that consistent exercise could help diminish weight gain effects of over-indulging in food this holiday season. ➡



The study interviewed about 140,000 walkers and runners and asked detailed information about their exercise history along with correlation to their diets. The study asked specific information such as when they began their running or walking routine as well as their previous weight before starting and current weight . Concluding the questionnaire, volunteers were asked about their daily food intake . The food part of the questionnaire was used to correlate the relation of exercise, weight , and meat versus fruit intake . The study found that those people who ate more meat than fruit had a higher BMI , body mass index, than those who ate more fruit than meat . Higher meat intake correlated to higher BMIs as well as higher weight in comparison to the opposite. But, the study also found that those who ate more meat were able to keep weight and body fat lower than what would be expected considering their high protein and fat diets because of constant exercise . So, exercise had a substantial effect on a person's weight , specifically running, regardless of their high fat or low fat diets. In order to avoid or minimize the eventual fat and weight gain associated with over-serving at dinner this Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Years, Dr. William's study suggest to run or walk daily.



Along with consistent exercise , substituting double meat servings for double fruit servings will help prevent a less shapely waist as well as decrease the chances for negative health effects. There are many ways fruit can be incorporated into our favorite holiday dishes . Very simple adjustments to your favorite holiday plates can have many positive effects such as a tastier dishes and a more stable BMI. By considering the suggestions provided by the study of Dr. Paul T. Williams , we can help decrease high percentages of health problems that are becoming increasingly common in the Latino community thus, increase a healthier knowledgeable community .



Late Notice

By: Noe Gonzalez

All recent headlines related to the United Nations General Assembly in New York seem to focus on one thing: the Israeli-Palestinian dispute. However, there is another conflict that is right at the President's doorstep, which he fails to acknowledge; the conflict that is going almost unnoticed despite the fact that it is causing many deaths: the drug-related wars in Mexico, Central America, and South America. As far as personal ties go, I am sure many American people of Latino decent have become aware of how these violent battles are affecting their home lands. I personally have a distant uncle who left Mexico City with his family for this very reason. But my curiosity is why President Obama did not bring this important issue up during his speech at the General Assembly's opening session. President Obama talked about Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Yemen, and almost every other major conflict, except the one right next door to the United States. I understand places like Israel are open to neighboring attacks and I do not mean to imply that the United States is going to be attacked by Mexico anytime soon however, my question is, why not spread awareness of the only major conflict that is so close to home?



I am not a political activist but I am an American citizen and when there are mass numbers of homicides happening in a country which is only a two hour drive away from home, then I begin to wonder if and when it could actually affect me and others.

According to United Nations Development Program, Latin America is one of the most violent regions in the world. As far as statistics go, Latin America sees an annual 25 murders for every 100,000 inhabitants. Last year, 18,000 people in Central America were murdered and numbers like these only mean more security costs for governments. Governments that are corrupt and broken look to crime organizations for financial input thus repeating the cycle of violence. What is crucial about this reality though is that some of this violence is close to us as can be and yet we fail to realize and inform ourselves. Being President does not mean you are responsible for broadcasting world events but why not broadcast those that are impediment to our nation's economy and security. Obama did not mention drugs, cartels, organized crime, or Mexico even once in his U.N. speech, completely ignoring a war that has caused nearly 40,000 deaths in Mexico alone over the past five years. But the President's lack of interest was not shared with the President of Mexico, ironically so, Felipe Calderon. President Calderon said that "we have to be aware that organized crime is killing more people than all dictatorial regimes together right now: tens of thousands of people in Latin America are dying because of these criminals."



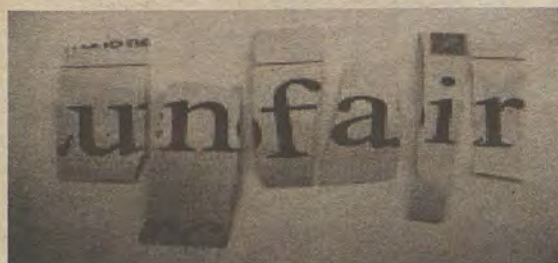
President Calderon mentions that drug cartels are becoming more powerful than governments because of great profits and their easy access to heavy weapons from across the U.S. border.

In that respect, I believe this now becomes a problem for the United States. The solutions seem to be simple: the United States and other big arms-producing countries should instill stronger weapons controls to keep powerful arms from ending up in the hands of the drug cartels and drug-consuming countries should reduce the demand for drugs. But is this really realistic? Despite the hard facts and the possible "solutions" provided, the main point is the lack of interest and awareness on the part of our leader. Omitting what is happening right next to us was not the way to inform the public of a real issue and it was not smart because a uninformed public is a naïve one. More realistic solutions are definitely possible but we cannot work for them if we do not know there is a problem. President Obama needs to talk about the issues that are close at home and affect the United States in order to get the support of the American society.

The Meaning of an Unfair Education

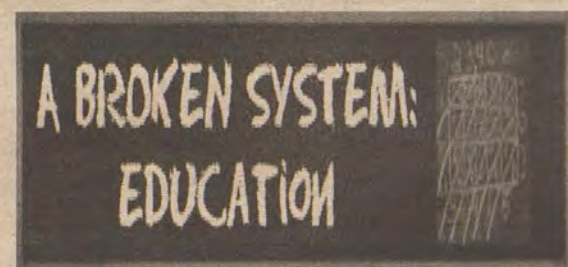
By: Noe Gonzalez

The other day I was hanging out with some friends and the topic of education came up. My friend mentioned that the Corona Norco Unified School District is a rich district in which the students benefit from luxuries that are not readily available to the general public. One of the new schools has Apple products in their classrooms, a luxury other districts do not have. For example, Los Angeles Unified School District does not have these privileges. Does this mean that the education that the Corona Norco Unified School District receives is top notch whereas the Los Angeles Unified School District has a so-so education? Does this not make it so that the level of education is not the same? Isn't this unfair for everyone around the nation? There is a divide between urban education and suburban. And Hispanics and African Americans are part of the urban education, lagging behind the middle-class white suburban population. And even though there are charter schools, these schools further segregate education, making it so that students who do not attend charter schools are not able to reach their potential as readily as those that attend charter schools.



And even though some districts provide the choice of charter schools, not all parents are involved in their children's education, therefore do not place their children in these schools that provide their children with educational opportunities that will further them in life, and even provide them with a better opportunity to attend a highly known college. For example, the San Fernando Valley has charter schools and regular public schools. Northridge has teachers with degrees whereas Arleta does not, there is overcrowding in Arleta and to say the least, the school is lacking of educational opportunities. Northridge, on the other hand, is a classy school with overqualified teachers who provide students with top of the notch education. Many of us come from urban schools which did not provide us with the many opportunities to network. It was difficult to grow in a school in which textbooks were scarce, the only computer was in the library, and supplies were always running low. The frustration that students and teachers go through on a daily basis is stressful and at times can affect the learning environment that the students are exposed to. That is why I believe that the government should spend more money on education. They should spend it in the areas or districts that need it the most. This could be a way to make education uniform across the nation. Giving money to those that need it the most will provide students with an equal opportunity to learn and gain an education that will help them reach their potential. However, the government says that there are opportunities for students to gain a proper education, that there are people out there that can help, but that people need to look. And that there are financial benefits for people to go to college, however, what about when you are in college? Yes, the first year you are provided with enough financial aid to cover the year, but your second and third year you are given less, and tuition increases. So what is the benefit of sending people to college or providing them with an education when they are not going to be given financial aid? I think the government has a big part in this and they need to do something about the future of America. Instead of spending money on other countries, they should focus on the problem at home.

But what are some possible ways to create these funds? Education could be a cycle of investment and profit. Employers know that those who are graduating in the fields that are more in demand are few. So if bigger corporations are willing to give more money to universities and educational institutions, more funds would be pumped into the system. Only certain in demand fields would benefit from these investments but it would be an opening in the door that would allow other disciplines to ask for the same benefits. In addition, it would help if the government gave the school districts an equal amount of funds so that everyone can have an equal education, or at least when it comes to materials. The demand for teachers with Master's degrees should increase, and they should be teachers who are truly passionate about making a difference in the lives of the children that are under their influence. In addition, the class ratios should be reasonable, overcrowding should not occur because that just makes it so that the attention of the teacher is not evenly distributed. Classes like AVID should be emphasized more, and if possible, have it as a part of the A-G requirements. I believe that the inequality of the education system is an issue that needs to be pressed more within our nation. We need to take action and provide every one with the equal opportunities that this country so proclaims to do. The meaning of an unfair education means that it is the government investing wrong; they need to start investing in education.



Rise of the Power of the Hispanics

With growing number statewide, most notably Inland, Hispanics are gaining influence in both the State and National legislatures.

by Jayson Anthony Najera

According to the 2010 census, California's population has grown by 10 percent (4.5 million), with the Inland Empire growing enormously over the past ten years. The region has grown as much as 30%, with Riverside County jumping by 40% and San Bernardino 20%, as the population of the region has reached 4.2 million. The benefits of this migration inland can, as the *Inland Empire Outlook* put it, "Threat [en] to pull political power away from the traditional strongholds of San Francisco and Los Angeles." Population change aside, the state's redistricting process, which is now being drawn up by a bipartisan committee as a result of last year's election, will make the face of the regions politics change almost as dramatically as the population has. While early analysis has bestowed the advantage to the Democrats, the real winner may honestly be Hispanics.

Hispanics now encompass not only 38% of the state's population, but also close to the majority inland, reaching 49% in San Bernardino and 46% in Riverside. Furthermore, they have made up over 90% of the state's overall growth, leaving the potential to become the majority by the next census. While this does not take into account undocumented individuals, the number nevertheless prove that Hispanics will be a major voting bloc by the next election, thanks largely to the newly redrawn districts. Californians will get to bypass traditional redistricting drawn up by congress and instead have districts that are more centralized locally. This allows Hispanics, especially those in areas where they are the majority, to become a broader and potentially more formidable political force within state and national legislatures.

However, there has been some discontent with how the districts have been redrawn amongst Hispanics, many of whom see this as a step

TABLE 1: POPULATION CHANGES IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Riverside County			
City	Population 2000	Population 2010	Change
Banning	23,562	29,603	25.6%
Beaumont	11,384	36,877	223.9%
Blythe	20,463	20,817	1.7%
Calimesa	7,139	7,879	10.4%
Canyon Lake	9,952	10,561	6.1%
Cathedral City	42,647	51,200	20.1%
Coachella	23,724	49,794	79.1%
Corona	124,066	152,374	21.9%
Desert Hot Springs	16,582	25,938	56.4%
Hemet	58,812	78,657	33.7%
Indian Wells	3,816	4,958	29.9%
Indio	49,116	76,036	54.8%
Lake Elsinore	28,928	51,821	79.1%
La Quinta	23,694	37,467	58.1%
Menifee	0	77,519	-
Moreno Valley	142,381	193,365	35.8%
Murrieta	44,282	103,466	133.7%
Norco	24,157	17,063	12.0%
Palm Desert	41,155	48,445	17.7%
Palm Springs	42,807	44,552	4.1%
Perris	36,189	68,386	89.0%
Rancho Mirage	13,249	17,218	30.0%
Riverside	255,166	303,871	19.1%
San Jacinto	23,779	44,199	85.9%
Temecula	57,716	100,097	73.4%
Wildomar	0	32,176	-
Remainder of County	420,721	504,392	19.9%
Riverside County Total	1,545,387	2,189,641	41.7%

Charts show the dramatic growth in population Inland city by city. Overpopulation has attracted large numbers to the region over the past the past decade.

This allows Hispanics to become a broader and potentially more formidable political force within state and national legislatures.

backwards for the community. Many Hispanics are considering suing over the supposed violations of the Voting Rights Act in order to have their communities better represented. Steven Ochoa, National Redistricting coordinator for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), argues that Hispanic communities aren't being properly represented, thereby failing to have "increased the voice of the second-largest group in the state." Ochoa and others have argued that the failure to clump Hispanic communities together limits the representatives that they particularly want, forcing them to instead choose between candidates who may not address all of their interests. Congress members such as Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-Garden Grove), who represent large Hispanic communities are thus more likely to cater to their interests, are now being drawn into districts with fewer Latinos, leaving them vulnerable to opponents with fewer ties to the Hispanic community.



Politics...

TABLE 2: POPULATION CHANGES IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

San Bernardino County			
City	Population 2000	Population 2010	Change
Adelanto	18,130	31,765	75.2%
Apple Valley	54,239	69,135	27.5%
Barstow	21,119	22,639	7.2%
Big Bear Lake	5,438	5,019	-7.7%
Chino	67,168	77,983	16.1%
Chino Hills	66,787	74,799	12.0%
Colton	47,662	52,154	9.4%
Fontana	128,929	196,069	52.1%
Grand Terrace	11,626	12,040	3.6%
Hesperia	62,582	90,173	44.1%
Highland	44,605	53,104	19.1%
Loma Linda	18,681	23,261	24.5%
Montclair	33,049	36,664	10.9%
Needles	4,839	4,844	0.3%
Ontario	158,007	163,924	3.7%
Rancho Cucamonga	127,743	165,269	29.4%
Redlands	63,591	68,747	8.1%
Rialto	91,873	99,171	7.9%
San Bernardino	185,401	209,924	13.2%
Twentynine Palms	14,764	25,048	69.7%
Upland	68,393	73,732	7.8%
Victorville	64,029	115,903	81.0%
Yucaipa	41,207	51,367	24.7%
Yuca Valley	16,865	20,700	22.7%
Remainder of County	292,716	291,776	-0.3%
San Bernardino County Total	1,709,434	2,035,210	19.1%

Others argue differently, however. David Dayen of Firedoglake.com assails the new political makeup of the state is, in fact, an advantage for Hispanics, stating that "Nothing does more for that community than a marginalization of the most xenophobic elements of the GOP," and that otherwise the Hispanic population would ultimately "be less represented in Congress and the legislature." Seeing that the Tea Party controlled Republican Party votes largely anti-Hispanic, perhaps more representation overall will yield more positive gains for the Hispanic agenda.

Looking more inland, the redistricting looks very favorable for Hispanics. Not only do they hold majorities in both counties, but the newly drawn districts put a number of Congressmen at risk of recall, thanks to the new boundaries. The National Journal even included local Rep. Ken Calvert as being one of the most vulnerable to Redistricting, thanks to the new majorities of Hispanic voters. Large jumps in population locally and statewide could potentially yield more power to the Inland Empire, and the area now dominated largely by Hispanics.

Courtesy Inland Empire Outlook



DREAM On

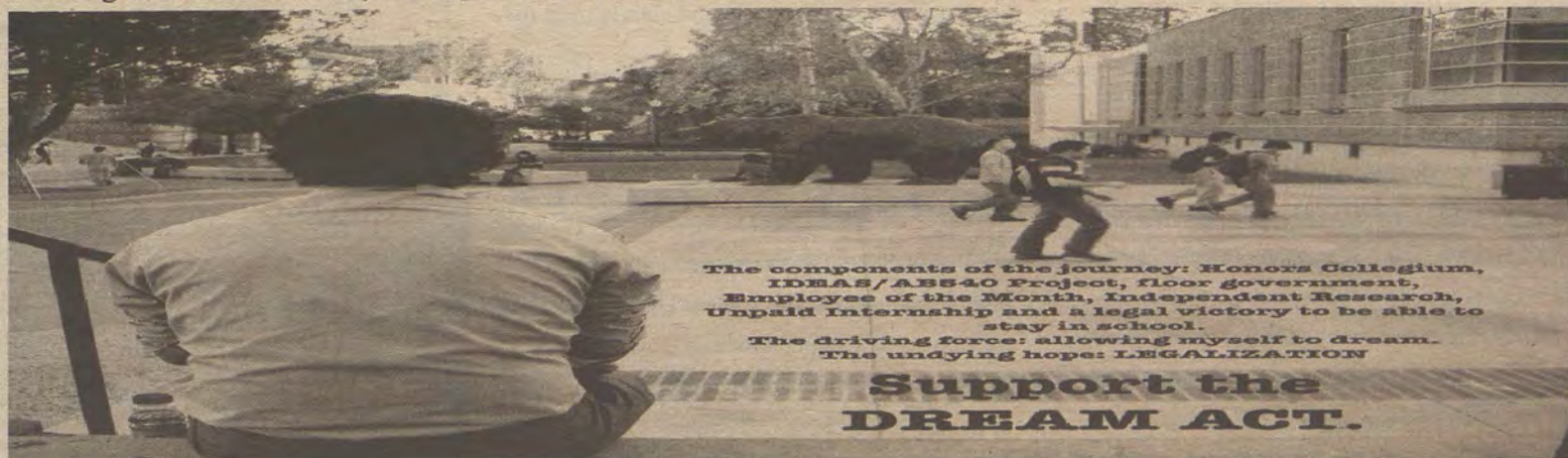
On Saturday, October 08th 2011, Governor Jerry Brown allowed many DREAMs to become reality. This dream wasn't about seeing a brand new convertible on the driveway or winning the lottery of one million dollars, this was the California DREAM Act. This legislation, which was split into two halves was finally signed that Saturday into the law, AB 131. For all undocumented students, this is an amazing victory. However, for documented students, this is both a triumph and a perpetual loss. Let's first examine what this law proposes...



According to the Legislature, AB 131 will permit qualified, immigrant students to apply for state-based financial aid through the Cal Grant program (1). Now, before thinking this will affect documented students financial aid negatively, we should also realize that our economy is not on its feet either. We should also be aware that there will be specific requirements, which undocumented students must meet before qualifying for financial aid from the state: They must have graduated from a California high school, after attending for three or more years, and they must also file an affidavit that proves they will attain their U.S. citizenship in the near future. Instead of looking at this from a negative point of view, we must also be aware of the positive effects this will contribute to our community. Hispanic or not, as Governor Jerry Brown has stated, "The Dream Act benefits us all by giving top students a chance to improve their lives and the lives of all of us" (1). As a documented student, I myself, have struggled to provide for my education and I couldn't imagine how different my life would be if I received no help whatsoever. Looking at this from a different perspective allows us all to make real changes in education. Yes, higher education is what we all must strive for and influence others to strive for. This goes out to ALL students, despite ethnicity, this goes out to all of us to support each other and help one another to obtain a better education. AB 131 is just one victory for our community, so why not make more? For all of us, we can work together to improve our education and to speak out for what we believe in. The DREAM Act's success was enormously supported by youth organizers, education leaders, and immigrant rights advocates in California. This is what the youth and those who believe in fighting for what they believe in have accomplished. All voices count, who's voice? R'voice!

Now looking away from activists and those who are aware, how many of you *were* aware of this law? It is quite remarkable when I spoke of this law to my colleagues, because many of them kept asking me, "what's the Dream Act?" Well here is the deal, approximately 2,500 students will benefit from AB 131. Not all of those students are aware, and many who avoid applying to college are not either. This task is simple and fast, tell a friend. Tell your co-worker or your classmate about how the California Dream Act has passed, or you could just give them an issue of Nuestra Cosa newspaper. To not be aware of our surroundings, of what goes on in our community, allows an opportunity for ignorance to spread. Let this be the last day of that.... Now this law will not allow an easy access to citizenship or legal permanent residency for immigrant students, but there is hope that they will be provided with a bit of help. As this law takes effect in 2013, there is still much left to be done because this fight is far from over. AB 130 will take effect next year, which opens private scholarships to undocumented youth. However, awareness is key. Let us all become aware of this new legislation that will better our community and keep us strong. Many are still fighting to appeal this law and prevent state aid to undocumented students, such as California State Assembly Member Tim Donnelly who filed a ballot referendum with the state on Monday October 11th, 2011. In fact, he is pursuing the repeal of the California DREAM Act because he states the law "fundamentally unfair," also adding that it may cause immigrants to attempt to enter the country illegally in search of education as a gateway to gain citizenship in the near future (3).

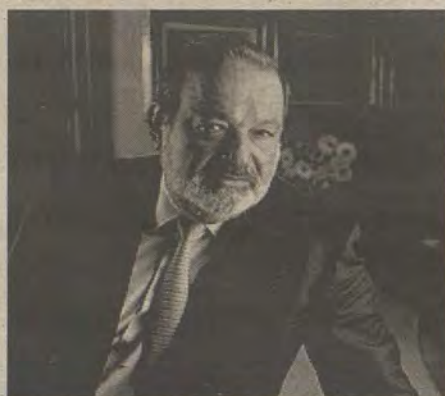
Our awareness and support will prevent this from happening. But for now, let us celebrate another victory for our community. This just goes to show us all that if we work together with such persistence and passion then we will be able to accomplish many positive changes in our community. Si se puede, familia! ~J.R.



"Mexico Houses Both the Richest Man in the World and the Poorest Workers"

By Patricia Lopez

Carlos Slim, the world's richest man stated by Forbes, "... the Mexican telecom mogul is also the year's biggest gainer, having added \$20.5 billion to his fortune and widened the gap between him and no. 2, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, to \$18 billion" (Forbes). Since February, when Slim was announced as the richest man in the world for a second year in a row, his fortune has dropped nearly \$11 billion, dropping his net worth to about \$63.3 billion. However, even with this drop Slim is still ahead of his competitor Bill Gates for the running of richest man for the year 2012.



Carlos Slim

Slim has built his fortune around Latin America's leading wireless service, America Movil, which provides him with more than half his fortune. He also has holdings in *Grupo Financiero Inbursa*, *Minera Frisco*, Saks (retailer), and in the New York Times (Forbes). To add to his fortune he is already finalizing his plans to purchase the remaining 40% of Telmex, Mexican telecom monopoly, which he doesn't already own. The acquisition of Telmex to his net worth will guarantee him the number one spot in Forbes' Top Billionaires once again. Now, how is it that the richest man in the world conducts most of his business in Latin America, resides in Mexico, yet, Mexico lives in poverty? Limits to Growth states, "Certainly there are many poor people in Mexico, since perhaps half the country lives in poverty.... However, the nation as a whole is quite rich." When they refer to Mexico as being rich as a whole they mean that Mexico has the resources that can be used to create great wealth, yet there are only a few that benefit from those resources. Cheap labor is prominent in

Mexico and that's how you end up with people living in poverty. Besides being poor, those who reside in Mexico do not get help from the government to improve their infrastructure or education. Limits to Growth also states,

"But the Mexican ultra-rich, like telecommunication magnate Carlos Slim shown here, don't like to tax themselves for investment the country badly needs..."

Slim stated, "What we need to do as businessmen is to help to solve the problems, the social problems, ... to fight poverty, but not by charity." Slim, the richest man on the planet not only does not pay high taxes, but at the same time, he is not willing to give money to support charity.

He says to be creating jobs, however; in his own community, there are many low waged workers. According to the New York Times, David Martinez runs a food stand in Lomas de Chapultepec. His round-trip travel times takes five hours a day, in order to set up and sell his food, for an insignificant number of pesos for the work that he does each and every day. The New York Times also states that Slim, "... telecommunications tycoon ranked by Forbes as the world's richest man, has a house here in Lomas." It is a contradiction to have the nation's richest man live in the same community as low-income families that live day-by-day, yet, it is not in his interest to be charitable. He is more preoccupied with creating jobs. However, Lomas does not seem to have jobs available with appropriate wages to those who clearly need the wages, and are willing to work.



Mexico is dealing with an inadequate distribution of jobs and wages. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development concurred that; "Mexicans work the longest days of people in any of the 30 countries studied...

Yet Mexicans remain among the developed world's poorest." Mexico needs help with job creation in order to raise Mexico's standard of living. Statistically, billionaires like Slim who "promote" job creation may be helping Mexico to lower its poverty level, but this appearance is more likely a mirage, since



Lomas de Chapultepec, Mexico City

most countries that are subject to the IMF, the world bank, neoliberalism, and structural adjustment tend to have concentration of wealth at the top of the elite class of investors, business leaders, and politicians rather than more equitably distributed among peasants, farmers, maquiladora workers, and working class wage laborers. It is any wonder that so many individuals for decades have been illegally crossing the border to the United States where they can earn better wages than in Mexico even while performing menial jobs that most Americans refuse to apply for? And the amount of money that Mexicans remit to their families and into the nation's economy is itself a sad commentary on Mr. Carlos Slim's mean-spirited lack of giving to charity, but a testimony of the generosity of the Mexican people in spite of how hard they must work for every penny, centavo, dollar, or peso.





Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Inc. (ΛΘΝ) at UCR

Our mission is to promote and foster Latina leaders through educational and professional development, relationship building, and

"Just When You thought There was Nothing 'Left'"

Occupy Wall Street has emerged as the Left's equivalent of the Tea Party, emerging from nowhere to a global movement and forcing the mainstream media to change its narrative.

by Jayson Anthony Najera



I first stumbled across Occupy Wall Street about a month before its initial September 17th occupation in Manhattan on Adbusters, a Canadian anarchist magazine. Far from the mainstream of American politics and media, the magazine pushed for an emulation of the Arab spring's movements in the Middle East within the US in order to combat the entrenched positions of corporations within the sphere of American politics. As the occupations rage on, they have succeeded in gaining the attention of the national media who, in the face of growing support and satellite movements nationwide, have provided mixed coverage at best.

Occupy Wall Street's agenda was from the get-go very vague. Activists did not provide a list of demands so much as voicing their frustration over a seemingly broken political system that has succumbed to the increasing influence of corporate money. Furthermore, they also have voiced their discontent with an economy

that has benefitted the top 1% of Americans, while the other 99% have seen a decrease in both their job prospects and standard of living as well. The only statement released by the group reads as follows; "We come to you at a time when corporations, which place profit over people, self-interest over justice, and opposition over equality, run our governments." As the protests continued on despite confrontations with police that resulted in a massive number of arrests, support for the movement has grown substantially. Over 115 parallel protests have cropped up over the world, from LA, Boston, DC and even Riverside (which, it must be said, had grown to almost 400 at its inauguration). Public opinion has been just as surprising. A poll conducted by TIME magazine revealed that over 57% of Americans supported it, proving that the vagueness of the protests has actually been beneficial.

Media coverage of Occupy Wall Street initially was almost non-existent, as the majority of the mainstream media largely failed to cover it. Nate Silver of The New York Times provided an analysis of the movement's media coverage, concluding that as confrontations with police increased in frequency and scale, more news accounts followed. In an early encounter between protestors and the police, in which an NYPD officer pepper-sprayed female protestors, resulted in a growth of coverage six-times than the preceding day. When more than 700 protestors were arrested for peaceful protests on the Brooklyn Bridge, media coverage jumped 400 percent. Since then, Silver reports that "The Occupy Wall Street protests have been covered in an average of 144 articles per day in the three weeks of their existence. In the aggregate, this is about two-thirds as much coverage as the Tea Party protests received." In other words, the Occupy Wall Street had both the fortune of attaining national notoriety, but also the misfortune of being the focus of an irrational and often impatient media. As Jon Stewart put it, the growth of the protests "Has caused the media to go from blackout to circus."

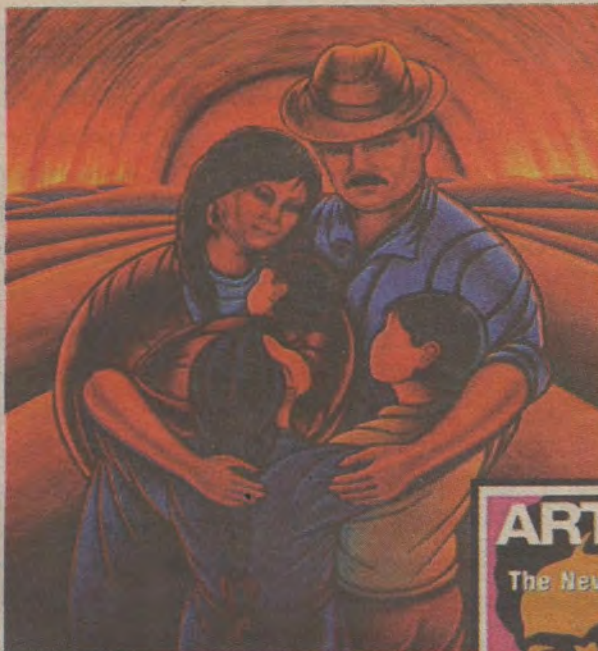


(Left)- Jon Stewart on *The Daily Show*. (Right) One of the original posters from Occupy Wall Street.

The national media routinely mocked the protestors, chiding them for an apparent lack of clarity and focus. Protestors have been characterized as hippies, young radicals, lazy and complacent, and even those sympathetic with their grievances, have criticized the lack of an agenda, disorganization, and lack of leadership. The right-wing has been predictably critical, playing the usual "class warfare" card and calling dangerous "mobs." Fox News, the 24 hour conservative propaganda machine, continued their demonization of anything left-wing, doing its best to smear the movement in the hope of limiting its appeal. Current host Ann Coulter likened it to Nazism, as did former host Glen Beck, who insinuated that the group wants to provoke violence. Furthermore, the right-wing has at every turn denied any similarities with the Tea party, refuting the grassroots nature of the movements and citing its denouncement of the "1%" as dangerous and divisive. Of course, this hypocritical behavior by Fox News, who promoted Tea Party rallies and devoted extensive coverage, wasn't free from Daily Show host Jon Stewart's wrath. Stewart questioned on his show, "'So, rage against duly elected government is patriotic -- quintessentially American -- whereas rage against multi-national shareholder-accountable corporations is anti-American. OK, gotcha."

Indeed, Stewart, as usual, has been the voice of reason within an increasingly inadequate National media's coverage of the Occupy Wall Street movement, and it remains to be seen how the narrative will change. The same can be said for the movement itself, which has been effective in changing the discussion in this country from the deficit-talk back towards jobs, an issue that really concerns the American middle class. Just as the traditional media has failed to cover the movie, social media has helped not only organize the protests, but also to grow it into a global movement. Not only has the movement grown from Facebook, Twitter, youtube, and independent news sites, but it will continue to expand thanks to those who ignore the mainstream media in the same way that the mainstream media refused to cover the Occupy protests.





"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about the progress and prosperity for our community. Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own." – Cesar Chavez



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