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¿Quien era Cesar Chavez?

By Richard Ybarra

(This article first appeared in Vida Nueva, a newspaper established by the **Archdiocese of Los Angeles**)

This is the story of **Cesar Chavez**. It will tell readers who he was and what he believed and did with and for others that has made him a household world in and outside the United States of America.

During his funeral Mass **Cardinal Rogelio Mahony** said, “Cesar Chavez was a special prophet for his people.” **Cesar Chavez** was born to be special but it was not easy to know in the beginning. He became someone who developed many complex characteristics that made him hard to label. This small yet powerful man with an 8th grade education became a giant in history. His roles were varied.

He was at the same time a strong labor and a tireless civil and human rights leader, a pacifist like his heroes **St. Francis of Assisi, Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** Cesar was an economist, accountant, photographer, vegetarian, animal rights activist, organic gardener, wine connoisseur, pool and billiard ace, German Shepherd lover and trainer, **Cursillista** and jazz aficionado.

His good friends included **Bobby and Ethel Kennedy, Arizona's Bill Soltero, Catholic Worker founder Dorothy Day, Bill Kircher** of the AFL-CIO, **Paul Schrade** – UAW, **Paul Hall** – Seafarers, **Pete Velasco**, **Father Victor Salandini, Anthony Quinn, Martin Sheen, Joan Baez, Delancey Street's John Maher** and many nuns, rabbis, ministers and priests.

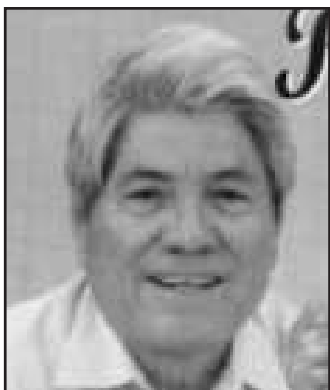
Some say he was not a great speaker but only great speakers like him make audiences cry and get thousands to volunteer their time and hundreds to become full time volunteers for \$5 a week, plus room and board.

Cesar Chavez was born in **Yuma Arizona** on March 31, 1927 to **Librado Chavez** and **Juana Estrada**. He grew up on the farm that his grandfather settled in the 1880's. His parents taught him the significant values that the world later came to know him by – loving thy neighbor, non violence, feeding the poor, visiting the sick and imprisoned (essentially Mathew 25).

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People in the News



Conjunto Great Ruben Vela Passes Away at Age 72

Known as “El Chaparrito de Oro,” conjunto great **Ruben Vela** passed away in the Rio Grande Valley. **Vela**, who was 72, showed the conjunto world that even in his later years he still had what it takes when scored a huge hit in the 1990s with “El Coco Rayado.”

Vela's distinctive accoridon style kept dance hall crowds moving during a performing career that began when he was only 12. Whether it was a polka, ranchera or cumbia, the dance floor was always full when Vela started playing.

His wife, **Molly Vela**, said, “*There will never be another Ruben. He was a wonderful, down-to-earth person. Everybody loved him because he was such a good person,*” she said. “*He never complained about anything. He was very happy with his music.*” This April, they would have been married 48 years. .

Vela was inducted into the **Conjunto Music Hall of Fame** in 1983 and was a regular performer at the annual **Tejano Conjunto Festival** in **San Antonio, Texas**.



Dr. Maria Eugenia Cotera Visits Austin, with New Book

Maria Eugenia Cotera, Associate Professor of American Culture at the **University of Michigan at Ann Arbor**, visited **Resistencia Book Store** recently to do a reading of her new book, Native Speakers: Ella Deloria, Zora Neale Hurston, Jovita Gonzalez and the Poetics of Culture.

Cotera, daughter of community activist and historian, **Martha Cotera** and architect **Juan Cotera**, explained to a group of about 25 individuals how in the early twentieth century, three women of color helped shape a new world of ethnographic discovery. Cotera stated that one of the most significant aspects of each of the women's careers was how they explored the realm of storytelling through vivid mixed-genre novels centered on the lives of women.

Cotera earned her bachelors degree from **The University of Texas at Austin** and her Ph.D from **Stanford University** in 2001.



Juan Manuel Perez Has New Poetry Book Out

Juan Manuel Perez of **La Pryor, Texas** (Zavala County) has a new book out entitled **AND NOW THE NIGHTMARE BEGINS: THE HORROR ZINE, VOLUME I**. Bear Manor Media is the publisher of **AND NOW THE NIGHTMARE BEGINS** (2010; ISBN 978-1-59393-356-2).

Juan was recently a featured poet for 350.Org during the **Luminaria Arts Night in San Antonio**, March 13, and for the opening of a new venue at the **Bihl Haus** in **San Antonio**, in Honor Of Chicano Poet **Trinidad Sanchez, Jr.**, on March 11, as well as, at the **Gallista Gallery** also in San Antonio this past February 13th.

The **La Pryor** ISD history teacher by day was also the only Chicano poet reading at the **14th Annual Writers Conference** at **Angelo State University** in San Angelo. **Juan** is the author of **Another Menudo Sunday** (2007) and **O' Dark Heaven: A Response To Suzette Haden Elgin's Definition Of Horror**.



Ramona Treviño Named AISD Chief Academic Officer

Austin School Trustees confirmed **Dr. Ramona Treviño** as Chief Academic Officer for the **Austin School District**. **Superintendent Dr. Meria Carstarphen** recommended the appointment.

The Chief Academic Officer serves as the instructional leader for the District, providing leadership, assistance, and supervision for curriculum, bilingual education, and special education.

Dr. Treviño was principal of **Zilker Elementary School** from 1996-2003, and was the founding principal of the **University of Texas Elementary Charter School** in 2003. She is also an assistant professor with the **University of Texas College of Education**, and coordinator of UT's Urban Education Project. She earned a doctorate and a master's degree from the **University of Texas at Austin**, and a bachelor's degree from **Wheelock College** in Boston, Massachusetts.



Orozco's Book Continues to Receive Attention

Dr. Cynthia Orozco's book, No Mexicans, Women or Dogs Allowed continues to fascinate readers all over the United States. With its focus on **South Texas**, **Orozco** examines the development of the Mexican American culture and civil rights movement, starting with the early 1900s and concentrating mostly on the cities of **San Antonio** and **Corpus Christi**. She delves into the history of the **League of United Latin American Citizens**, (LULAC) as well as other organizations that were influential in the Mexican-American civil rights movement. She also takes on the issue of gender inequality within Mexican-American society and how this affected the civil rights movement and modern scholars' perception of the women who participated in it.

Dr. Orozco is originally from **Cuero, Texas** and graduated from **The University of Texas at Austin**. She then went on to earn a Ph.D in history from the **University of California at Los Angeles**. She currently teaches at **Eastern New Mexico University**.

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Legendary Teacher Jaime Escalante has Passed Away

The family of famed teacher Jaime Escalante, 79, has announced that he passed away at 2:27 pm. The cause of death was coronary and respiratory failure, precipitated by cancer.

A native of La Paz, Bolivia, and the son of two elementary-school teachers, Escalante came to America in 1963 at age 33. Although he was already an accomplished and popular science and mathematics teacher in Bolivia, he spoke almost no English and had to return to school to become a certified teacher in California.

He worked at a series of jobs as he studied, from a restaurant to a computer company, and in 1974 attained his goal. Arriving at Garfield High School in East Los Angeles, he encountered a culture of low expectations, gang activity and administrative apathy.

His success in overcoming these odds and in enabling "unteachable" students to master advanced mathematics made him a national and international hero. The 1988 movie about his Garfield AP Calculus program, *Stand and Deliver*, remains one of the most popular and beloved films ever made about the teaching profession.

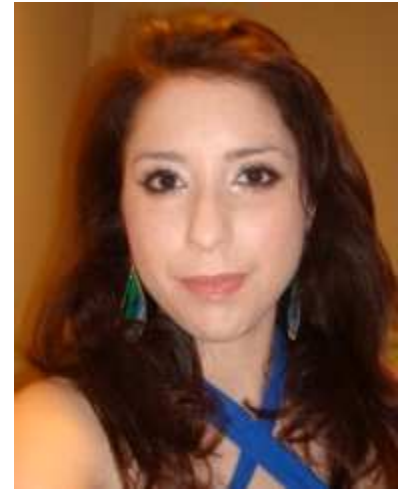
His career has been celebrated in a number of books, most notably *Escalante: The Best Teacher in America* (1989), by Washington Post writer Jay Mathews. He became a presence in classrooms throughout the U.S. - and the world - through the PBS series *FUTURES* with Jaime Escalante. One of the most popular classroom programs in the history of public broadcasting, *FUTURES* combined examples of Escalante's teaching style with his purpose to help his students discover rewarding careers in math and science.

"Jaime exposed one of the most dangerous myths of our time - that inner city students can't be expected to perform at the highest levels," said Edward James Olmos, who played Escalante in *Stand and Deliver*. "Because of him, that destructive idea has been shattered forever. This is a legacy that changed American education, and I will work to ensure that it continues long into the future."

"Jaime's greatest gift not only to me but to anyone taught by him or who saw *Stand and Deliver* is that no matter who you are or where you came from you can achieve anything," said actress Vanessa Marquez, who played a student in the film. "It is no surprise that after meeting him I aced all of my math classes in college and I have used what I learned from him for the past 23 years. He will always be a part of my life."

Escalante is survived by his wife, two sons, and six grandchildren. Services are pending. "The best way to honor the life and work of this great man is to keep it going and I, along with others whose lives he touched, intend to do that," said Olmos. In lieu of flowers I am asking those who share this goal to send donations to the Jaime Escalante Legacy Project at 236 West Mountain Street, Suite 105, Pasadena CA 91103.

Editorial



Yleana Santos
Associate Editor

In this issue of *La Voz de Austin* we wish to introduce **Richard Ybarra** to our readers. He is the author of the lead story on **Cesar Chavez** and served as a union organizer, personal assistant, speech writer, advance man, head of security and his friend. **Ybarra** traveled and worked day and night with **Cesar** for three and half years during the early 1970s. He left the union to attend **Harvard University** where he obtained an MPA from the **John F. Kennedy School of Government** in 1981. His wife, **Anna Chavez** is **Cesar's** daughter. **Richard** and **Anna** have four children who share their grandfather's curiosity and varied life interests.

Also in this edition of *La Voz*, you will find a short interview with **Dan Arellano**, a local author and historian. In our view here at *La Voz*, **Arellano** often times does not receive the respect and acknowledgments for his work that he deserves. What **Dan** has done, and often times at his own expense, is pioneering in terms of community activism.

Another individual who has also been written off from time to time is **Esteban Jordan**. As he battles liver cancer, he is racing to release music he has composed but has been saving over the years. Check out his new album on pages 8 and 9.

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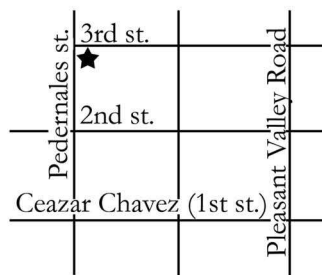
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MALDEF, ACLU WIN PERMANENT INJUNCTION OF THIRD FARMERS BRANCH ANTI-IMMIGRANT ORDINANCE

Federal judge rules Farmers Branch Ordinance 2952 is unconstitutional

MALDEF, the **American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Texas (ACLU)** and the **National ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project** succeeded in invalidating Ordinance 2952, the latest in a series of anti-immigrant ordinances enacted by **Farmers Branch, Texas**. The ordinance was adopted by the **Farmers Branch City Council** in January of 2008. The federal court decision forbids the City from ever enforcing the Ordinance.

In a careful opinion, **U.S. District Court Judge Jane J. Boyle** determined that Ordinance 2952 was preempted by federal law. The Court resoundingly rejected the City's claim that it had the authority to regulate the residence of noncitizens within its borders. Noting that the City Building Inspector would be charged with interpreting and applying immigration information to prospective tenants, the court concluded that Ordinance 2952 "is an invalid regulation of immigration" and that the "Ordinance stands as an obstacle to the uniform application of federal immigration law[.]"

"Once again, Farmers Branch has wasted hundreds of thousands of its taxpayer' money enacting and defending an unconstitutional ordinance," stated **Nina Perales**, MALDEF Southwest Regional Counsel. "This decision sends a strong message that Farmers Branch should stop wasting vital city resources on a string of failures in court," continued Perales.

"The Court's opinion confirms what we have known from the beginning of this fight, back in November, 2006 — that Farmers Branch's effort to legislate in the realm of immigration is a quixotic attempt to circumvent federal law and clearly established precedent," said Lisa Graybill, Legal Director for the ACLU of Texas. "With this third strike, hopefully the City of Farmers Branch will get out of the immigration enforcement business and move on to address its municipal obligations through more constructive and constitutional local policies. "

"This decision has national significance. It is another indication of the costs incurred on all sides by the failure of our national leaders to enact immigration reform legislation that would provide clearly and expressly that state and local laws seeking to regulate immigrants in this way are unlawful," commented Thomas A. Saenz, President and General Counsel of MALDEF.

-MORE-

"While our Constitution plainly preempts such laws, a clear expression by Congress would help to prevent local entities from embarking on the costly enactment of laws that will inevitably be struck down as unconstitutional," Saenz explained.

Omar Jadwat, staff attorney with the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project, added: "Local laws restricting access to housing based on immigration status have a zero-percent success rate in court, as Judge Boyle noted in her opinion. Advocates have challenged ordinances of this type in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, California, Missouri, and Texas, and the result in every case has been invalidation or repeal."

Read the court opinion here: [www.maldef.org/assets/pdf/Farmers Branch Opinion and Injunction March 2010.pdf](http://www.maldef.org/assets/pdf/Farmers_Branch_Opinion_and_Injunction_March_2010.pdf).

Founded in 1968, MALDEF is the nation's leading Latino legal civil rights organization. Often described as the "law firm of the Latino community," MALDEF promotes social change through advocacy, communications, community education, and litigation in the areas of education, employment, immigrant rights, and political access. For more information on MALDEF, please visit: www.maldef.org.

The ACLU of Texas is the state affiliate of the national ACLU, which was founded in 1920 to defend and preserve the civil liberties enshrined in the Bill of Rights to the US Constitution.

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¿Quien era Cesar Chavez?

During the depression they lost the farm and became migrant workers. **Cesar** often said that he and his family “picked everything under the sun except pockets.”

Like many other migrant workers, he attended 28 different schools, dropping out in the 8th grade to work in the agriculture fields to help his family. **Cesar** later learned to enjoy reading, and his curiosity about everything in life caused him to read hundreds of books. His family joined every farm labor strike they encountered and he recalled the difficulties and fun he had living in labor camps and tents. His favorite recreation as a boy was shooting pool in his family's pool halls. It was a skill he never lost.

He also enjoyed big band music from this country and he and **Helen**, whom **Cesar** married in 1948, loved to swing dance the jitterbug. He wore zoot suits and other styles of his times. At age 18 he joined the **US Navy** serving for two years during **WWII**.

After the service he returned to **Delano** and married **Helen Fabela Chavez**. He was once arrested there for not obeying a theater rule saying he had to sit in the Mexican section. Over the next several years he and **Helen** along with brother **Richard** and cousin **Manuel** and their spouses traveled **California** doing farm work to mill work.

In 1950 while living in **San Jose** near his parents **Cesar's** life would forever change. As a devout Catholic, he volunteered at **Our Lady of Guadalupe Church**. He helped **Father Donald McDonnell** who introduced him to the writings of **Pope Leo XII, Rerum Novarum** and the social teachings of the **Catholic Church**.

In 1952 he met **Fred Ross** who recruited **Cesar** as a community organizer. **Fred** was his lifelong



friend and mentor. **Cesar** became State Director of the Community Service Organization (CSO) and moved his family around the state, organizing urban and rural chapters, that helped Mexican Americans and registered them to vote in elections.

Then he founded the **United Farm Workers of America** with **Dolores Huerta, Gilbert Padilla**, his wife **Helen** and their eight children: **Fernando, Silvia, Linda, Elouise, Anna, Paul, Elizabeth** and **Anthony**. **Cesar** gave credit to the **Filipino** workers, who started in 1965 the Grape Strike one week before his Mexican union joined them. He would later build the **Paulo Agbayani Village** as a retirement home for the **Filipino** brothers he and his family loved. This became the first successful union of farmworkers in United States history. Though he went on to become a labor and civil rights leader, his most comfortable role was as a husband, father and grandfather to a family.

To know **Cesar Chavez**, you must know his primo hermano (first cousin) **Manuel Chavez**, his closest friend and confidante. Before his death in 1999, **Manuel** was asked when **Cesar** got the idea to do what they would do and accomplish later in life. **Manuel** said, “We were teenagers working in the fields and living in a labor camp. We were cold, hungry, angry and had not been paid. We said, ‘someday if we can, we will change how this works’.” Asked why **Cesar** believed he could succeed where everyone else had failed before in forming a union? “We had nothing to lose!” said **Manuel**, smiling.

“Si se puede” the saying he made popular, was born during his 1972 **Fast for Justice in Arizona**. The governor had signed a law not allowing farmworkers to form unions. Many said things could not be changed in **Arizona** – “no se puede” was what you heard in the community. **Cesar's** 24 day fast ended with 10,000 persons in the march and rally, highlighted by **Joe**

Kennedy, son of **Senator Robert Kennedy**, shouting “Si se puede! Viva Cesar Chavez!”

Cesar never stopped growing. When asked what he found most brilliant about **Cesar**, chief biographer **Jacques Levy** (author of the authentic book on Chavez – “Autobiography of La Causa”) said, “His curiosity! Any topic that caught his attention he would read and learn about it. Whether it was history, architecture, finance, management, agriculture, cooperatives, labor, natural resources, eastern and western religions, etc.” **Cesar Chavez** read from one to ten books at a time. He read slowly but captured and learned everything.

Cesar was a serious and disciplined man who faced pressure with calm, patience and courage. As a leader he never betrayed his humility, and by example showed supporters and followers the power of finding courage to overcome fear. He was passionate about everything

he did – organizing, campaigning, handball, yoga, vegetarianism and animal rights. He comforted families in mourning and had a habit of stopping along highways to help people whose cars had broken down.

Philosophy

I believe that God prepares all of us with basic capacity. In the case of **Cesar Chavez**, he gave him an extra portion. As **Cesar** grew as a leader and as a person, he formed an unusual, gentle and powerful mix of philosophy. He once answered a question from a European diplomat visiting him on how he would describe his political beliefs, he simply answered, “radical Catholic.” Courage and fearlessness under pressure were part of his make-up.

Cesar Chavez's philosophy could be categorized as a fine blend of **Catholicism, Judaism, United Auto Workers** (from the Reuther brothers) and yoga, with a touch of **Gandhian thought, St. Francis** and **Martin Luther King, Jr.** He learned from each to create his own whole. His greatest teachers were his parents, **Librado** who showed him work ethics and worldly skills and **Juana** who was his spiritual guide and role model.

He felt that to “Treat people as people” was one of the most difficult lessons for human beings to learn. He deemed it the basis of differences and difficulties in our world, people not taught how to treat and respect others. A favorite quote was “Hay más tiempo que vida”. He would explain that truth would always triumph and good things happen in time! His direction was always simple and straight ahead. He treated all people with dignity and respect. He was very close to

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DIANNE **VOTE** MENDOZA For AISD

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An Interview with Dan Arellano

Author, Historian and Community Activist

Dan Arellano is one of the busiest community activists in **Austin, Texas**. Here is a short interview to bring **La Voz** readers up to date with some of his latest activities.

La Voz: Dan, you have been involved for some time in making corrections to the history books when it comes to the contributions of Tejanos. Share with our readers what the Tejano Declaration of Independence is all about.

Dan: I have been telling this story for over 10 years. My book took 8 years of research and 2 years to write. I have been on the lecture circuit for over 4 years now and sometimes, I even get paid. When I first started I almost had to beg to be heard. I would have a booth at Cinco de Mayo and Sept 16 just to tell the story and hopefully to sell a few books.

On April 6th of 1813 after a year of bloody warfare with the Spaniards, **Jose Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara** with the first written Declaration of Independence, in front of the **Spanish Governors Palace** in **San Antonio**, proclaimed that Texas was free and independent of

Spanish tyranny. Four days later we had the first written Constitution.

La Voz: In your opinion why has it been left out of the history books?

Dan: As the recent battle with the **State Board of Education** has proven, we must continue to tell our own stories and we must keep the memory and the sacrifices of our ancestors alive. This is history before the Anglo-Americans arrived, so it has been, as **Robert Thonhoff**, historian and author has said, swept underneath the proverbial rug of history. Most books about **Texas** have been written from the Anglo perspective and written on history after 1836. There was a thriving community that lived here and they were resilient; having to fend for themselves for over a hundred years and they were fiercely independent. Unfortunately, their contributions have been ignored and excluded, as if they had never existed. With new research and the writing of several new books, the real history of **Texas** will finally be taught.

La Voz: What has been some of your biggest challenges in getting people to pay attention to what you

and your colleagues are pointing out?

Dan: I spoke at the **Bob Bullock Museum** last month and one of the students was skeptical about the events of history because he was a history major. I assured him that not only was he ignorant of history but so was everyone else because of the myths and legends about Texas history that to this day, are repeated as truth. **Texas** history does not begin with the arrival of **Stephen F. Austin** and our history continues to be excluded, concealed, and sometimes even distorted. To prove my point I told him about the head of the history department at **North Texas State University** in **Denton Texas**, where the professor told me that he needed two of my books, because he had never heard of this part of **Texas** history.

La Voz: Tell us about the role of **Jose Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara Uribe**. Was his trip to Washington a success?

Dan: His trip took over 6 months and it was a long and hazardous ordeal and yes, it was successful. He spoke to **Secretary of State James Monroe** and we also believe he spoke with **President James**

Madison. Historians also believe promises of military and financial aid were made but unfortunately, never delivered.

La Voz: I believe you some activities coming up around the events you have been describing.

Dan: On April 10th will be the 4th annual event of the First Texas Republic. This is the most important day in Tejano History. We have always been taught that **Texas** was the only state in the union that could proudly boast that we were a Republic before we were a state in this great nation.

However, the truth is that we have been a Republic on two different occasions, that there were 7 flags that have flown over Texas and that we have three Declarations of Independence; July 4th 1776, March 2nd 1836 and April 6th 1813.

I am also proud to say that because of my testimony at the State Board of Education, the story of the Battle of Medina and **Jose Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara** will be included in the school curriculum, and will be taught in either the 4th or 7th grades.



The other event I do is the **Battle of Medina Memorial Service** in **Losoya, Texas**. This will also be the 4th annual event.. The Battle of Medina was the biggest and bloodiest battle ever fought for freedom on Texas soil. Over 1500 people died in this battle and its aftermath. This event now attracts over 4 hundred people with reenactors coming from as far as Laredo. This event will be held at the historic Mt Carmen Catholic Church on August 21, 2010 at 2 PM. Both of these events are free and the public is invited.

I also do the *Johnston 20 Memorial Service* for the 20 young men from **Johnston High School** that sacrificed their lives while in service to their country during the war in Viet Nam. I am planning that event at **Eastside Memorial High School** on May 28th in the school auditorium at 6 PM. This is also free and the public is invited.

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Before you is the first installment of the most anticipated recordings ever made in conjunto music. **Esteban “Steve” Jordan**, generally regarded as the world’s greatest accordionist, began making these recordings in the early 1990s, after he gave up recording for other record labels. Since that time, on tour or in private conversation, **Jordan** has touted the “9 Albums” he recorded but never released. By 2009, most fans knew of these recordings, but few ever had a chance to hear them until now.

Esteban Jordan has gone more than 18 years without releasing an official recording. He has used those years to create, record, rework and remix these nine mythical albums. Having been privy to these recordings, I can attest that the songs are all **Jordan**—jazzed-up, fresh, innovative, and original. The music is also literally *all Jordan*, with **Esteban** playing all the instruments on the songs. Even **Jimi Hendrix** couldn’t do that.

This first of nine albums, **Carta Espiritual**, is representative of the innovative style of rancheras that **Jordan** invented. Each of the ten songs has that unique **Jordan** flavor and instrumentation. Only two songs have been available to the public before this release: the title track “Carta Espiritual” and “Ahora, Ahora.”

“**Carta Espiritual**” is a corrido like epic, a potent lament, a letter to Dios that chronicles **Jordan’s** view of current and past events. Here **Jordan** uses wars—the first and second Gulf War, the War on Drugs, and the War on Poverty to

philosophize about our current human condition. With its wide breadth of ideas, the song demonstrates what his fans have always known: that he is a deep thinker capable of writing succinct and elegant verses in the Chicano vernacular.

“**Ahora, Ahora**” carries **Esteban Jordan’s** unique arrangements that made songs like “El Gancho” exciting and ground-breaking. The song has

Half of the songs on this album are instrumentals, each highlighting **Jordan’s** unreproducible accordion playing. “Adolfo’s Polka” is a Chon Caballero polka, while “La Culebra” is a **Jordanized** version of the original mariachi standard. In this version, **Jordan** adds the jazz influences found in many of his other polkas.

completely new material. “La Mula” has also been previously released by **Jordan**. In this version, **Jordan** employs four different vocals to sing this innuendo-rich ranchera. Not surprisingly, that’s **Jordan** singing all four vocal parts.

The highlight of this album may very well be “Alta Sociedad.” Penned by **Jordan**, “Alta Sociedad” ranks among his greatest compositions. The song doesn’t break any new ground for **Jordan**; it’s simply a beautifully done ranchera. But **Jordan** isn’t content to leave well enough alone. Listen to the soul stirrings that haunt the end of the chorus in this song. Though they come when you least expect them, they come to work, and they add that **Jordan** flavor that makes this song an amazing work of art.

For long time fans of **Jordan’s** jazzed-up compositions, listening to this first album is an ecstatic revelation. This album is **Jordan’s** *palabra de honor*, letting his fans know that he wasn’t exaggerating about the nine albums of unreleased gold he was carting around for two decades. Amazingly, **Jordan** still has 80 more unreleased gems on the mixing board. If the songs on **Carta Espiritual** are any indication, those vaulted albums will be as good if not better than this one, and will definitely be worth the wait.



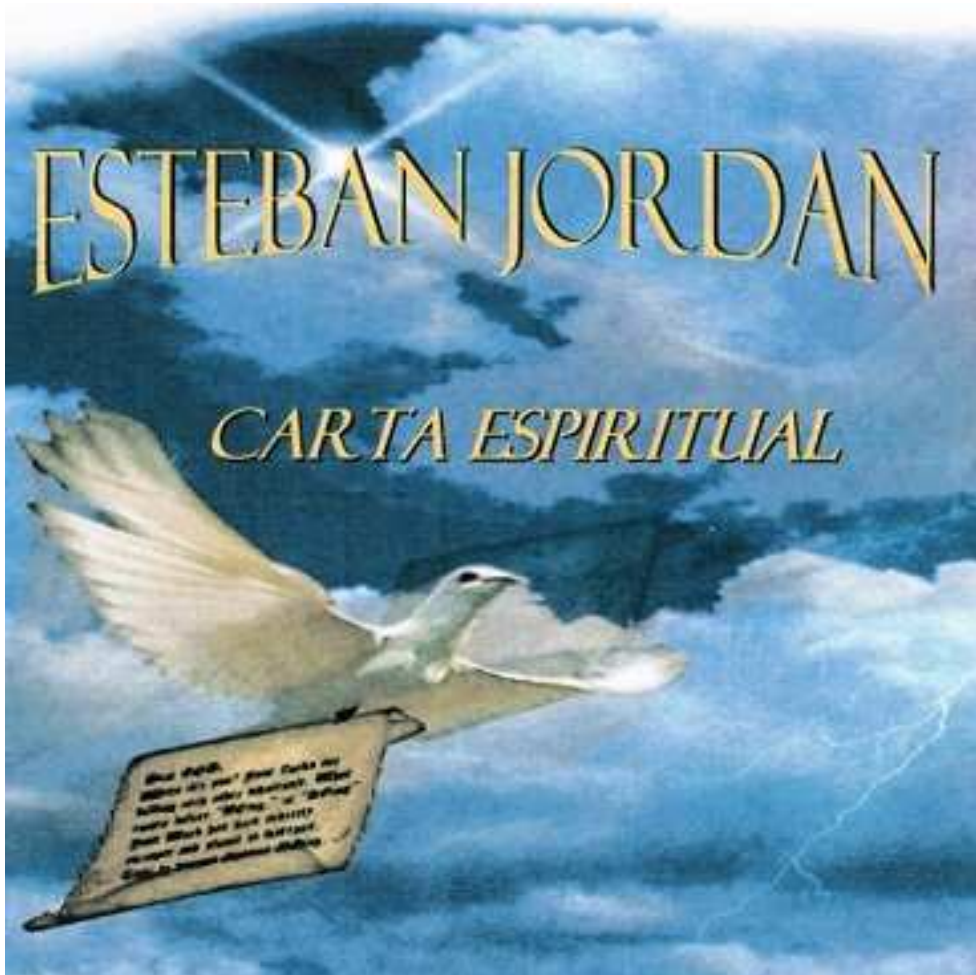
been a staple of his live shows for several years now. Like “El Gancho,” “Ahora, Ahora” finds **Jordan** in a reflective mood, employing the unique **Jordan** song writing technique — el triple sentido. Like “El Gancho,” the song’s groove will send everyone to the dance floor, but you have to speak **Jordan’s** language to catch the song’s biting word play.

The two instrumentals that merit particular attention are the schottisches, “La Pepita y El Chupon” and “Figaro, Figaro.” Long-time **Jordan** fans may remember these songs from earlier recordings when **Jordan** originally recorded them as polkas. As schottisches, they sound fresh and represent **Jordan’s** singular genius in reworking older material to create

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Rio Jordan, featuring **Esteban Jordan III** on guitar, **Ricardo Jordan** on bass, and **Alejandro Valdez** on drums. This new trio brings an unimpeachable genetic flavor to the Jordan sound. For a new generation of fans, this incarnation of Rio Jordan is an opportunity to experience what six decades of **Jordan** fans have always known — Esteban Jordan is a revolutionary genius with the Midas touch.



New Production by Teatro VIVO

Teatro Vivo, Austin's bilingual theatre company, presents the Austin premiere of "Keeping Track," a new comedy by **Erica Saenz**, April 8–25 at **Salvage Vanguard Theatre**. This insightful, light-hearted comedy is about technology's effect on a family's privacy that will appeal to most everyone, especially people with newborns or elderly parents.



Erica Saenz, Playwright

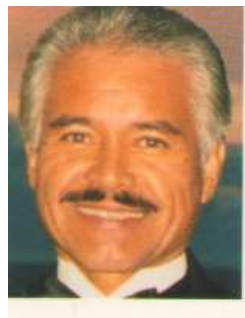
Keeping Track centers around a modern day Mexican-American family balancing the fine line between staying in touch and being nosy. **Janet** struggles with her husband, **Albert**, to get her mother-in-law out of her house, so she can enjoy more of her husband's attention. Meanwhile, her younger brother, **Jack**, and his wife **Melinda** deal with the complications of supporting their young family. All the while new-fangled baby monitors, hovering single friends, implanted microchips and geriatric romances take a comedic look at Latino *familias* and keeping track of each other's business. *¡Mucho ojo!* Who's watching you!

Erica Saenz has a B.A. in Theatre from **UT Austin** and has just completed a M.F.A. in playwriting at **UCLA**. Both the **Austin Critics Table Awards** and the **B. Iden Payne Awards** have recognized her numerous times for stage performance. **Erica** is also a new mom, and has recently returned to **Austin** from **Los Angeles**. **Estevan "Chuy" Zarate**, also a recently returned Austinite, enjoys finding the humor in every situation. **Zarate's** productions display the talents of everyone involved in the process including actors, technical crew and volunteers. He went **UT Austin** with **Erica** and is very excited to be working with her and **Teatro Vivo** once again.

Teatro Vivo (Spanish for "Living Theatre") has produced more than 20 bilingual plays since **JoAnn Carreon-Reyes** and **Rupert Reyes** founded the company in 2000. **Keeping Track** runs April 8–25 Thursday – Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. at **Salvage Vanguard Theater**. For information on tickets, call 512-474-6379 or visit TeatroVivo.org

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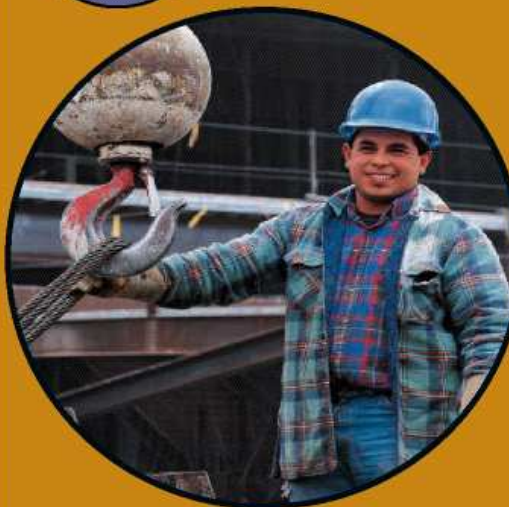


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Rising to the Challenge

Hispanic College Graduation Rates as a National Priority

President Barack Obama has called for the United States to reclaim its position as the nation with the highest concentration of adults with postsecondary degrees in the world. Given the changing demographics of the United States, this target cannot be achieved without increasing the rate at which Hispanic students obtain a college degree. The following are in a recent report by the **American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research**.

At the average college or university, 51 percent of Hispanic students complete a bachelor's degree in six years compared to 59 percent of white students at those same schools. Even after accounting for the type of students schools admit, Hispanic students graduate at lower rates than their white peers at all levels of admissions selectivity. (See figure.)

There is considerable variation in Hispanic graduation rates across schools with similar admissions criteria. Among schools in the "competitive" category, as defined by *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, the ten highest-performing schools graduate more than three times as many of their Hispanic students, on average, as the ten lowest-performing schools.

The gaps between white and Hispanic graduation rates are smaller at **Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs)**. This is not due, however, to higher Hispanic graduation rates at HSIs but to the tendency of these institutions to have below-average white graduation rates. HSIs do about as well as non-HSIs with similar admissions criteria in graduating their Hispanic students.

Hispanic women graduate at consistently higher rates than Hispanic men and often graduate at the same rate as white men in their schools. Some colleges are more successful than others in helping Hispanic students with similar academic backgrounds earn degrees. Finally, it is noted that specific conditions that seem to affect graduation rates and discuss actions that can be taken to improve them. Among the most important:

A High Level of Institutional Commitment. The most consistent finding of our report is that an institutional focus on and commitment to high levels of retention and completion for all students is a crucial prerequisite to maintaining and improving the percentage of Hispanic students who complete a bachelor's degree.

Better Consumer Information. Hispanic students and their families often suffer from a lack of information about the true cost of college, the type of college they are qualified to attend, and college practices and culture. Hispanic students are especially likely to be "undermatched," or to enroll at a college that is less selective than they

are qualified to attend. Given the relationship between selectivity and graduation rates, undermatched Hispanic students are more likely to leave college without completing their degrees than if they had attended more selective schools. Reforms that help to disseminate information about which schools are within students' reach, both financially and academically, and which schools have a successful track record with Hispanic students could lead to a better match between the qualifications of Hispanic students and colleges and universities. This would in turn increase graduation rates. Better counseling about available financial aid also would likely lower the rate at which Hispanic students drop out of college for financial reasons.

A Focus on Retention and Graduation Rates. Improving consumer information is unlikely to promote college completion in the absence of incentives for schools to focus on retention and graduation rates. The undermatch argument largely ignores the role institutions play in ensuring that their students remain enrolled, engaged, and moving toward a degree. Put simply, all students should be encouraged to go to more selective schools if they are qualified, and schools must do a better job with the students they enroll.

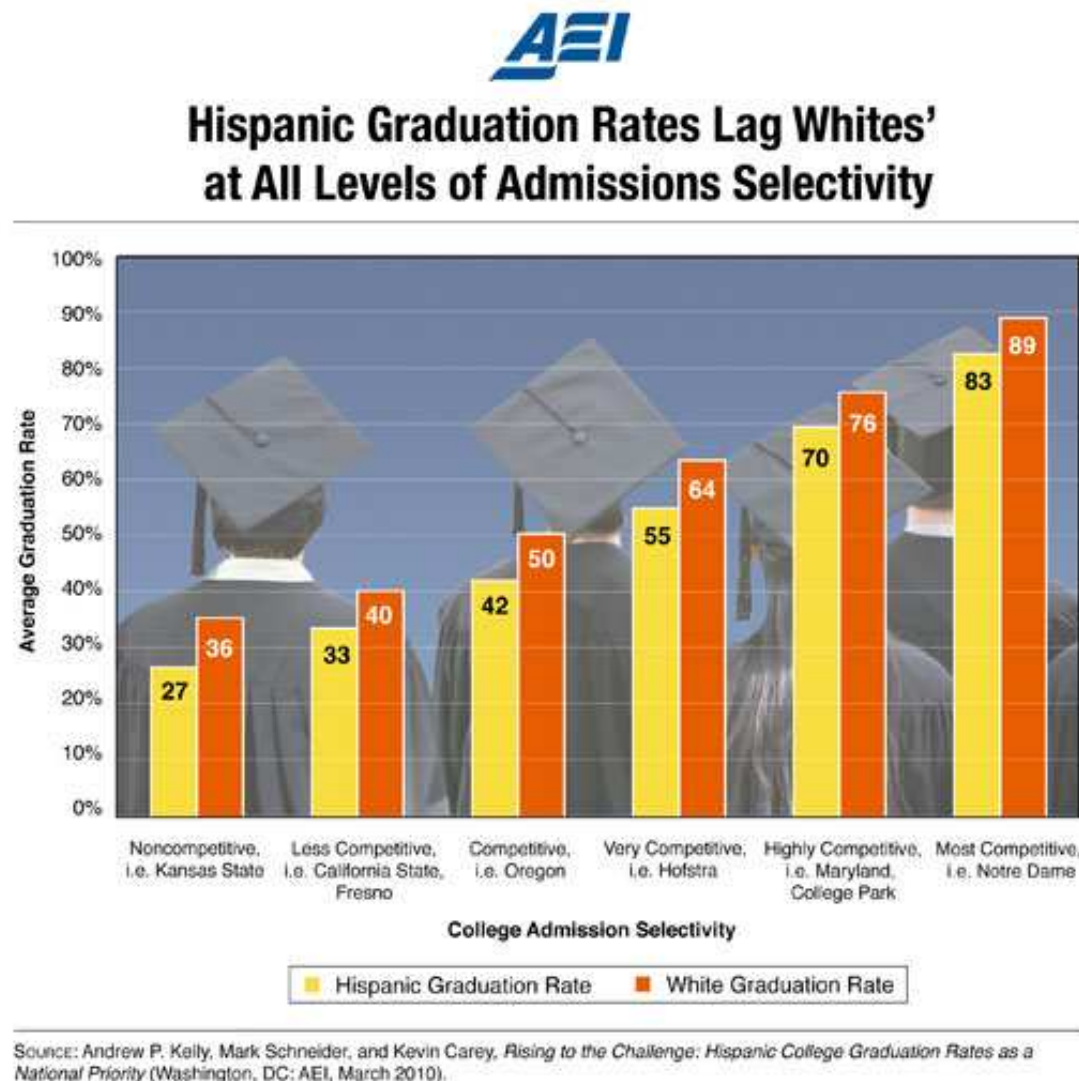
Incentives for Institutional Improvement. Government aid to colleges and universities should be tied to whether schools meet meaningful

performance metrics. At the federal level, the criteria that designate a college or university as an HSI should be augmented. Fulfilling the criteria to become an HSI makes schools eligible to compete for federal Title V funding and marks the institution as being at the forefront of Hispanic higher education.

At present, the HSI designation does not reflect an institution's performance on outcomes, such as student retention, graduation, and labor-market success. Rather, becoming an HSI is entirely a function of enrollment. Thus, there are incentives to enroll more Hispanic students but few incentives to ensure that those students successfully complete a bachelor's degree. We believe the HSI designation should be more tightly coupled to performance. At the state level, funding formulas should be revised to reward institutional performance rather than enrollment. Were state policymakers to structure funding formulas in a way that rewarded schools for successfully retaining and graduating their students, and provided extra benefits to those schools that serve underrepresented or at-risk individuals, institutions would have incentives to improve their completion rates.

Without higher retention and graduation rates on the part of Hispanic students—who will make up an increasing share of the college-age population in the years to come—the country will be hard-pressed to reach the goals set out by Obama. And without recognizing the conditions that foster high completion rates for Hispanic students and implementing the reforms outlined above, increasing Hispanic graduation rates will be difficult, if not impossible.

Andrew P. Kelly is a research fellow at AEI and a Ph.D. candidate in political science at the University of California, Berkeley. Mark Schneider is a vice president for new education initiatives at the American Institutes for Research and a visiting scholar at AEI. Kevin Carey is policy director at Education Sector.



¿Quien era Cesar Chavez?

the farmworkers he served and relished the times spent sharing and teaching them.

Person

Up close this man of small stature (about 5'6" tall) was as he seemed. He was a visionary, a courageous and relentless fighter, true to his beliefs with the discipline of a world-class athlete. He was brilliant and had an unquenchable curiosity for life and how things work.

For him a fun afternoon was slowly peering at book after book on shelves of a used bookstore in any city. The subjects he enjoyed ranged from the classics to history, biographies to architecture and organic farming to religious studies. If he read it he could master any subject and tie it to something he wanted to teach or do. Cesar had a serene seriousness bolstered by a quick sense of humor. He was always ready to laugh – and if it was really funny, a gut-wrenching contagious laughter. He could be silly and joke about himself and regularly included corny jokes in his speeches.

Leader

His influence and leadership are alive and will be with us forever. He is like Benito Juarez, Miguel Hidalgo, Pancho Villa, Emiliano Zapata, Simon Bolivar and other Latino legends. Cesar led by example and gave people the coaching to succeed. He was extremely frugal and like many from his generation was concerned about budgets and spending. His background and the lessons he learned from other groups taught him that organizations — and especially “movements”— could be wiped out due to mishandling of funds or overspending.

Though at times he was criticized as being too tightfisted and a

micromanager of money issues, his legacy includes never being accused of mishandling a dime of organizational funds to enrich himself or anyone else. Having raised millions upon millions of dollars from donations, coop funds and nonprofit businesses to keep his organizations alive, this is a powerful cornerstone of his legacy. Hundreds of former colleagues and volunteers went on to become leaders impacting our society as much as any “group” from any US movement. Cesar was a trainer of leaders — someone whose style and commitment influenced those



CESAR CHAVEZ & RICHARD YBARRA SHARE HOLY COMMUNION / PHOTO BY JOHNNY HAMILTON 1973

he coached and gave opportunities to advance their own lifelong contributions. Mostly he enjoyed the interactions with the poor and working families he served. Their love and respect for him as well as their sacrifices and courage kept Cesar humble, honest and inspired. He was a loyal leader who represented many undocumented workers. During strikes he and they opposed all strikebreakers, with or without documents.

Student of life – his teachings

Cesar Chavez learned the value and importance of “treating people like people.” That led to his movement getting support from a broad collection of backgrounds and

people, enabling his movement to become a bastion of diversity. His example was a key influence to thousands of volunteers who supported his movement in the fields and in the cities. He encouraged and supported women as leaders long before it was fashionable.

Cesar’s inspiration caused many Americans to join his cause and become leaders in it. Their contribution should long be noted. When it came to key leaders and keen strategists who helped make “Cesar Chavez” into a national

figure and legend, there was no shortage of superstars from all backgrounds especially Anglos and people from the Jewish community.

Their efforts were solid and

performances were stellar. Without them there would have been no grape boycott, farmworkers movement or Cesar Chavez. His movement included farmworkers of many backgrounds. While the majority were Mexican immigrants, Filipinos, African Americans, Native Americans, Salvadorians, Portuguese, Arabs, Haitians, Punjabs, Cubans, Oakies and Arkies played important roles. He valued each group. Cesar assembled a mini United Nations.

Cesar inspired a generation of Latinos to stay in school, graduate from college and become professionals. The one semester he taught labor studies at the University of California Santa Barbara, the biggest classroom

overflowed with over 800 attending every lecture. Cesar prepared long and hard each week and while there, had a room at Mission Santa Barbara with the Franciscans who viewed him as one of their own.

Spiritual Man

Besides his family role, his spirituality was the most central aspect of his life. Though a devout Catholic who represented his church with pride, Cesar’s earliest church support came from Protestants, Jewish temples and synagogues. For the most part, the Catholic Church, priests and nuns came around later and made great contributions. They had more difficulty due to so many opponent farmers being Catholics as well.

Cesar was popular with churches and religious group in the USA, Canada and Europe. His work took him to every church or religious conclave and service imaginable. He enjoyed welcomes from every major religious denomination at international, national and regional convenings. Presbyterians, Lutherans, Methodists, Church of Christ, Orthodox and Reform Jews, World Council of Churches, Anglican, Baptists – even Krishnas– and other denominations invited him to address them. He gathered encouragement and strength from them. Boycotters and strikers formed the volunteer army that fought for “immigrant farmworkers rights” while churches, labor and students fueled the fight for the soul and conscience of the American people.

Discipline

Cesar was always focused and direct in setting goals and personal habits. He took care of his health in most every way imaginable (with

the exceptions being his many fasts and not getting medical attention before his sudden and unexpected death). His vegetarian diet was very clean. He exercised and was an accomplished student of yoga.

He set his routine to fit his demanding seven-day-a-week schedule. Early to rise, early to exercise, healthy eating, meeting after meeting, something to soothe the mind and spirit — like a long walk, glass of carrot juice, working in his organic garden, listening to jazz and mariachi music and those books he read late into the night — were the things that kept his mind and body keen.

He was a healer of sorts, and everyone who knew him well was familiar with his remedies and hand curing methods, that he employed to ease pains of others. He would rub his hands together quickly, to warm them up and then place each on opposite sides of the ailing body part, without his hands touching the person’s body. Within a few minutes, one could feel heat on the injury and hear his calm voice ask if there was a difference, most often noting a successful treatment. This was not widely publicized or known about him.

Economist

Cesar Chavez went from desert farm boy to labor and human rights leader. He studied economics, economic development, leveraging resources, funds, services and benefits for farmworkers and other poor people. He experimented and dabbled in economic development. From his earliest days fundraising for CSO — where he would stage a carnival that involved his family, even his father running the small ferris wheel, to the multimillion dollar funds and nonprofit organizations he developed in his life.

Cesar led burial services, a credit union, a state chain of clinics,





CESAR CHAVEZ & RICHARD YBARRA / PHOTO BY JOHNNY HAMILTON 1973

prepaid legal programs, health clinics, day care, a retirement village, a multi-million dollar health care program for farmworker families on both sides of the border, day care centers, retirement villages, job training in printing, auto/diesel mechanics and data processing, a private bus company, English and negotiations schools, a statewide microwave radio network, radio stations, the publishing of two newspapers, affordable housing and a pension plan for his members. There were experiments he had in mind that he never got to explore.

In 1979 he said his long term goal was to leave the **UFW** to others and go into cities across the **USA** to form the "Poor People's Union". He would bring poor working people together to leverage funds to get more goods and services. He studied cooperatives all over the world and found the **Mondragon** system in **Spain** to be the best model. He thought that poor people, especially immigrants, needed to form economic cooperatives and businesses to provide for themselves at lower rates and to become self sufficient. These included farming coops, garden coops in cities, insurance, health clinics along with social service centers to serve poor and working immigrant families.

He believed services for immigrants would be in great need for many years. It is now up to people living today and the generations that follow to take make his dream their own and organize

to do the things he taught. Se puede? Si Se Puede!!

Family

The father of eight children, grandfather to 31, **Cesar** was looked up to, loved and respected. He was a husband who respected and loved his wife **Helen**. He was a father whose cause took him away from his children. He tried to make up for this with the love and time he shared with grandchildren. The role of grandfather was **Cesar's** greatest.

His ways of convincing others to follow his lead and ideas, no matter how impossible they seemed, was practiced on his family. He cared deeply about them but never showed them favoritism when it came to the movement's scarce financial resources, meaning they were last and least. When his children asked for bicycles or dolls, he would say "when the eagle flies" (when the union won). Over the years they came to believe "*that old eagle will never fly.*"

In a poetic way, that old eagle finally flew on April 23, 1993 – the day of his passing and when 50,000 people came to pay respect at his funeral services in **Delano, California**. He even managed to organize his burial to be 29 days after his birthday.

Upon his passing **Helen** honored **Cesar's** wish of being buried in the **La Paz Rose Garden** with his two German Shepherds – **Boycott** and **Huelga**.

Cesar Chavez March in Austin, Texas



ABOVE: The marchers as they come down Cesar Chavez Street in Austin, Texas



ABOVE: Andy Brown, (in a brown shirt) Chairman of the Travis County Democratic Party marches alongside the Southwest Key Tiger Cheerleaders in Austin, Texas.



The 9th Annual Cesar Chavez March was held in Austin, Texas on March 27, 2010. The march was organized by PODER. The Annual Awards Dinner will be March 31st, 2010 For more information call: (512) 472-9921



En la Comunidad



ABOVE: Hermelinda Zamarripa and Alfredo Santos c/s at the Casa Marinella Fundraiser on March 25th, 2010. Hermelinda is a board member of Casa Marinella.

BELOW: Veronica Vargas Stidvent, Director of the Center for Politics and Governance and Chair of the Hispanic Alumni Steering Committee poses with students who attended the summit. UT President Powers is on the opposite side.



ABOVE: UT President, William Powers, Jr. and Julian Castro, Mayor of San Antonio, Texas

BELOW: Antonio Flores, from the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Robert Hutchings, Dean of the LBJ School of Public Affairs, Texas State Representative Diana Maldonado, and Dr. Victor Saenz, Assistant Professor in the School of Education at UT



BELOW: UT President William Powers and Dr. Teresa Lozano Long



In the Community

¡ahora sí! gana seis premios José Martí 2010 de NAHP

El semanario del Centro de Texas, *¡ahora sí!*, recibió el viernes 12 de marzo seis premios José Martí de la Asociación Nacional de Publicaciones Hispanas (NAHP) para publicaciones en español con circulación menor de 30,000 ejemplares o menos. Los premios se otorgaron durante la edición número 25 de la convención anual de la NAHP que se realizó del 10 al 14 de marzo en Albuquerque, NM.

La reportera de *¡ahora sí!* **Tania Lara** recibió dos premiosoros de primer lugar por: Mejor Artículo de Educación por el reportaje, "De aquí y de allá: Pizcando y estudiando" sobre estudiantes inmigrantes que trabajan en el campo desde niños y logran una carrera universitaria, y Mejor Artículo de Servicio Comunitario y Salud por el reportaje, "Cuando se acerca el final" sobre los servicios de hospicio y latinos.

La reporter de *¡ahora sí!* **Gissela SantaCruz** recibió un premio plata de segundo lugar por Mejor Artículo de Entretenimiento por el reportaje "México en imágenes". Lara también recibió un premio plata por Artículo de Inmigración por el reportaje, "Secuestrada por mi padre".

¡ahora sí! recibió dps premios bronce por Mejor Serie de Artículos (la serie "preguntale a la maestra" y un premio bronce por Mejor Sección de Estilo de Vida. Además, desde 2007, *¡ahora sí!* ha recibido 16 premios Jose Martí incluyendo los seis en 2010.

Los Premis José Martí Publishing honran la excelencia en las publicaciones hispanas. La organización recibió más de 300 solicitudes este año para la competencia anual dijo Clara Padilla Andrews, presidente de NAHP.

¡ahora sí! provee a sus lectores información sobre noticias locales, nacionales e internacionales, entretenimiento, así como información y eventos comunitarios. El semanarios en español es distribuido gratuitamente los jueves a más de 650 localidades en el Centro de Texas y tiene un número de lectores semanales de 76,476. *¡ahora sí!* es producido por el Austin American-Statesman y es parte de Cox Media Group, Inc.



ABOVE: *¡ahora sí!*, Austin's weekly Spanish-language publication has been named the recipient of six National Association of Hispanic Publications (NAHP) José Martí awards. The awards were announced at the group's 25th annual convention held March 10 through March 14, 2010 in Albuquerque, NM. *¡ahora sí!* reporter **Tania Lara** received two first place, gold awards. The first was in the Outstanding Education Article category for her story titled, "De aqui y de alla: Pizcando y estuandiendo" ("From here and there: Working in the fields and Studying") and the second in the Outstanding Community Serice/Health Article category for her story, "Cuando se acerca el final" ("When the end is near") about hospices and latinos. *¡ahora sí!* reporter **Gissela SantaCruz** received a second place, silver award in the Outstanding Entertainment Article category while Lara claimed her third honor with a second place, silver award in the Outstanding Immigration Article category. *¡ahora sí!* received two third place, bronze awards in the Outstanding Multiple Article Series category and in the Outstanding Lifestyle Section category.

The weekly Spanish newspaper *¡ahora sí!*, since 2006 has received 16 Jose Martí awards including the six received this year, 2010.

The José Martí Publishing Awards honor excellence in Hispanic Print Media. More than 300 of entries were received in this year's competition said Clara Padilla Andrews, president of the NAHP.

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A Message from Texas State Representative Eddie Rodriguez



Census Data Is Important The Census Measures Our Community's Needs

That's why it's so important that you fill in your 2010 Census form and promptly mail it back. Census information affects the numbers of seats Texas gets in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as funding for roads and utilities, social services and education. People from many walks of life use census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and more. Your local representatives in government have more options to serve constituents when Census data is available and accurate.

Do Your Part Accurate Data Mean Dollars for Our Community

When you fill out your census form, you're standing up for our community by ensuring we will receive our fair share of resources. Accurate data reflecting the real changes and challenges in our community is crucial in deciding how more than \$400 billion per year is allocated for local projects such as:

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- Bridges, tunnels and other public-works projects
- Emergency services

That's potentially more than \$4 trillion over a 10-year period for our community. But we can't move forward until you mail it back. **Please do your part, and stand up for our community.**



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Haga su Parte La Precisión de los Datos Ayuda Conseguir Más Fondos para su Comunidad

Cuando usted llene el cuestionario del censo, usted esta poniendo se de pie para su comunidad. y asegurando que la gente va recibir los recursos que merecen. Datos precisos reflejando los cambios reales en nuestras comunidades es crucial para decidir cómo se asignarán los más de \$400 mil millones de dólares anuales para servicios como:

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- Escuelas
- Centros par ancianos
- Puentes, túneles y otros proyectos de oobras públicos
- Servicios de emergencias

Son más de \$400 mil millones de dólares en 10 años para su comunidad. Pero no nos podermos mover para adelante hasta usted llenea el cuestionario. **Por Favor, haga su parte, y ponga se di pie para su comunidad.**



This announcement was paid for by State Representative Eddie Rodriguez

