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People in the News



Raul Yzaguirre Appointed Ambassador to The Dominican Republic

The former President of the **National Council of La Raza**, **Raul Yzaguirre** was appointed Ambassador to the **Dominican Republic** by President Barack Obama.

Yzaguirre has been a long time activist in the Hispanic community having worked for the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity under the **Sargent Shriver** in the 1960s. In 1974 he found the NCLR and served as its President until 2005.

As the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions over the years, including the **Order of the Aztec Eagle**, the highest award given to a non-citizen by the Mexican Government. **Yzaguirre**, who turned 70 this year has been working as a Professor at **Arizona State University**. He has also taught at **Harvard University**. Born in the Rio Grande Valley of **South Texas**, **Yzaguirre** received his bachelor's degree from **George Washington University**.



Southwest Key Program Receives Awards from NY

Southwest Key President, Dr. Juan Sanchez recently announced that his organization was recently recognized for one of its Juvenile Justice (JJ) Programs with a "Best Practices Award" by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), a component of the Office of Justice Programs, **U.S. Department of Justice**.

Sanchez stated, "Our Family Keys model has been accepted into the OJJDP DSO Best Practices database. Their review found our program meets the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) best practices criteria. This has been a goal we have been working towards for at least a year now and thanks to the great work at the program level, our friends at Vera Institute for Justice who nominated us."



Veronica Villafañe Producing Media Moves Blog

Veronica Villafañe is an Emmy award-winning journalist, who's worked as an on-air reporter in Spanish and English-language television news. She has worked for **Univision, Telemundo, CNN en español** and **Los Angeles Fox** and **UPN** stations before diving into a convergence model at the **San Jose Mercury News**.

From 2004 to 2005 she was president of the **National Association of Hispanic Journalists** and co-chair of **NAHJ's** 25th year anniversary convention in 2007, where multimedia training took center stage in an effort to better prepare journalists for changes in the industry. She is currently a freelance reporter and producer and a columnist for **Poder magazine**.

Las 10 cosas que Dios no te preguntara'

- 1-Dios no te preguntará que modelo de auto usabas;
te preguntará a cuanta gente llevaste.
- 2-Dios no te preguntará los metros cuadrados de tu casa;
te preguntará a cuanta gente recibiste en ella.
- 3-Dios no te preguntará la marca de ropa en tu ropero;
te preguntará a cuantos ayudaste a vestirse.
- 4-Dios no te preguntará que tan alto era tu sueldo;
te preguntará si lo ganabas honestamente.
- 5-Dios no te preguntará cual era tu titulo;
te preguntará si hiciste tu trabajo con lo mejor de tu capacidad.
- 6-Dios no te preguntará cuantos amigos tenias;
te preguntará cuanta gente te consideraba su amigo.
- 7-Dios no te preguntará en que vecindario vivias;
te preguntará como tratabas a tus vecinos.
- 8-Dios no te preguntará por el color de tu piel;
te preguntará por la pureza de tu interior.
- 9-Dios no te preguntará por que tardaste tanto en buscar la
salvacion; te llevara con amor a su casa en el cielo y no a las
puertas del infierno.
- 10-Dios no te preguntará a cuantas personas compartiste este
mensaje; simplemente te preguntará si te dio vergüenza
hacerlo.....



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Pensamientos

This is our last edition of *La Voz de Austin* for the 2009 year. We want to thank all of our readers and advertisers for their continued support. We look forward to an equally interesting 2010.

Regarding last month's issue of *La Voz de Austin*, and specifically the story by **Hart Murphy** on the **Travis High School** situation; When we delivered copies to our good friends at Treasure Island Bingo on Oltor, we were summarily thrown out by **Jose Uriegas**. He read the story and asked how can you write this sh_t? I pointed out to him that the story was written by a **Travis High School** teacher. I then asked him to tell what part of the story was not true?

I guess none of that was important to him because his next words were, "Get this piece of sh_t out of here!" Here is the problem, when people like **Mr. Uriegas** have to reconcile the facts with fiction, it becomes an all day challenge to their construction of social reality. B 44!

Cambiando de Tema

So **President Barack Obama** is going to send another 30,000 troops to Afganistan? When are we going to realize that the English and Russians spent millions trying to "tame" the Afghans and both met with failure. Now here we go into the same mountains and valleys and we think we are going to do a better job? What would happen if something were to be done about the tremendous amounts of opium that is cultivated in Afghanistan? It is interesting to note that the **Taliban** banned the production of opium when it was in control. Now that the **Taliban** is no longer in power, opium production has returned.

Cambiando de Tema

There is a project in **New York City** called the **Harlem Children's Zone**. Since the 1970s, this community action project has brought about very impressive results in the area it serves. The dropout rate has been reduced, literacy in the community has increased, more students are going to college and a whole host of things are turning this area of the city around.

The **Obama** administration is seeking to replicate the success of the **Harlem Children's Zone** by awarding 20 planning grants of half a millions dollars each to communities interested in bringing about change in their city.

At a conference about the **Harlem Children's Zone** in November of this year, about a dozen or so **Austin** citizens went to find out how they could bring this project to Central Texas. Two weeks ago there was a meeting held at the **Carver Center** to report on what the attendees to the **New York Conference** had learned. It was packed room at the **Carver Auditorium**. As the presenters took turns giving their impressions and insight it came time for the questions and answers from the audience. Various folks stood up and asked their questions. But it was the last question that "shut the house down." An African American man in the back asked, "Where were all you people when we have been trying to do all these things over the years? Why are you here today?" As they say, you could hear a mouse fart.

Editorial



Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor & Publisher

Cambiando de Tema

The PTA issue in the **Del Valle School District**. I had the pleasure recently of attending a **Del Valle School Board** meeting and listened as a parade of parents went to the podium to share with the school board why there should be a Parent Teacher's Association in the Del Valle School District.

It appears that the parents who spoke were in fact sincere with their questions. They backed up their questions with facts and relevant stories. What is not clear is why the parents have to keep asking permission to act. Many of the things that would be of benefit for their children can be done without the permission or approval of the school board.

This situation which is ongoing is something that people should keep their eye on. A mi se me hace que algo serio va pasar en **Del Valle**.



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Census Fact Sheet

What is the U.S. census?

Every 10 years, the government reports the number of people who live in the United States by conducting a count called the census. This count is required by the U.S. Constitution.

Why is the U.S. census count necessary?

Census data are used to determine the number of representatives your state receives in the U.S. Congress, as well as your county's representation in the state legislature. Government agencies use the data to make funding decisions for more than \$300 billion each year, including:

- Title 1 allocations
- College grant and loan programs
- Public transportation
- Road and community improvements
- Public health services and hospitals
- Neighborhood improvements
- Senior services

How is the 2010 Census taken?

- Census questionnaires are given to everyone living in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- The information is collected in two ways: by a questionnaire that is sent to every home, and through confidentiality-bound census workers who travel door-to-door.

Who should be counted?

Everyone! All children, babies, and adults who live in a household should be counted, regardless of nationality, citizenship status, race, age, or gender.

Why are some people reluctant to be counted?

The U.S. Census Bureau believes these are the most common deterrents to census participation:

- Privacy: Some people are reluctant to give the government personal information.
- Confidentiality: Some people worry that the information they provide could be used against them. However, census information is completely confidential. It is never shared with other government agencies, including the IRS, any office of immigration, or the FBI. Sharing census data is a federal offense.
- Immigration and citizenship concerns: People may not want to draw attention to themselves. However, every person in every home should be counted as part of the census.

 SCHOLASTIC

United States
Census
2010

CMAS Accepting Applications to Master of Arts Degree Program

The Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS) at The University of Texas at Austin is accepting applications to the Master of Arts degree program in Mexican American Studies.

The application deadline is **January 1, 2010** for admission for the fall semester 2010

Hermana Ana Marie

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The Alicia Perez Story

by Alfredo Rodriguez Santos c/s

As many of you may have read in the October 2009 last issue of **La Voz de Austin**, **Alicia Perez** was the **Travis County** employee who was fired from her job. **Alicia** and a subordinate, **Linda Moore Brown**, who was director of the Human Resources department for **Travis County**, had been feuding for years about Ms. Brown's attitude and treatment of fellow employees.

The situation had deteriorated to the point that the Travis County Commissioners hired and outside arbitrator to come in and try to . . .

The situation had deteriorated to the point that the **Travis County Commissioners** hired and outside arbitrator to come in and try to resolve the issues. It apparently did not work.

The **Travis County Commissioners** decided that the solution to this problem between **Alicia Perez** and **Linda Moore Brown** was to fire both of them. Of course both of them were not happy about losing their jobs. **Alicia's** job paid somewhere in the area of \$140,000 a year and **Linda's** job was probably over \$50,000.

Before **Alicia Perez** was fired, numerous members of the Hispanic community went to the **Travis County Commissioners Court** to speak on behalf of **Ms. Perez**. They spoke about her integrity and long career in public service. The Commissioners decided that it was in the best interest of the county and went ahead and voted to fire both of them in September.

Since then, **Linda Moore Smith** has reportedly settled with the county for \$40,000 dollars. **Alicia Perez** reportedly is asking for over half a million dollars. The **Travis County Commissioners** have thus far said no to **Alicia Perez** for that amount of money.

Here is the problem I have, I don't want to pay **Alicia Perez** \$500,000 dollars. As a taxpayer I don't like the idea of giving money away. Yes, I know the county probably has some sort of indemnity bond or insurance program to take care of legal settlements, but I still do not like the idea of giving anyone money for work they have not performed.

So here is my idea and it is an idea that I communicated to **Alicia Perez**. Rather than pay her half a million dollars because she was fired by the **Travis County Commissioners** who she feels acted wrongly, why not run for one of the offices on the **Travis County Commissioners**? Let's see, whose up for re-election? Why the county judge is up for re-election. Why doesn't **Alicia Perez** run for **Travis County Judge**?

I would rather pay Alicia Perez to be the Travis County Judge than her half a millions dollars

I would rather pay **Alicia Perez** to be the **Travis County Judge** on the **Travis County Commissioners Court** than give her half a millions dollars if the county lost any lawsuit she might bring into a court of law.

Now some have said that for **Alicia Perez** to run for **Travis County Judge** would give the appearance of it being vindictive. Really? What better reason to run for public office than to prove a point, change a public policy or seek justice in a creative way! There is nothing wrong with running against someone for a public office if you feel you can do a better job. Can **Alicia Perez** do a better job? That is a question for the voters to decide. For **Alicia Perez** to problem is whether she would rather be judged by thousands of **Travis County** voters or by 12 jurors in a court of law.

Sul Ross State University Names New President

Dr. Ricardo Maestas, the man who said he wouldn't want to take the helm of **Sul Ross State University** "if everything was perfect," is likely to become the eleventh president of the four-campus institution.

At their quarterly meeting last Friday, the **Texas State University Board of Regents** announced **Maestas'** selection as the sole presidential finalist. By state law, 21 days must elapse as the Board and **Maestas** negotiate details of the appointment.

Maestas is Vice President of Student and University Relations and Dean of Students at **New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology** (NM Tech) at Socorro, NM. He and four other presidential candidates were selected from more than 60 applicants for the position. **Dr. R. Vic Morgan**, SRSU President, who retires at the end of August, has headed the university for 19 years.



Drs. Jaime Chahin of Texas State University, **William R. Fannin** of UT-Permian Basin, and **Cheri Jimeno** were the other candidates in the presidential running. **Dr. Chahin** withdrew his candidacy early this week.

At a round of meetings last week with faculty, staff and the public at the three **Rio Grande College** campuses, **Dr. Maestas** compared the challenge of advancing **Sul Ross** and **Rio Grande College** to "shaping a diamond in the rough." **Maestas** promised to visit RGC campuses and communities as often as once a month as "face time" to develop partnerships and new programs. He supported calls to end RGC's "step-child" relationship with its **Alpine** parent campus, and he impressed audiences with enthusiastic ideas for cross-over learning programs and shared decision-making between the two entities.

As he spoke of working to strengthen ties between **Sul Ross** and RGC, **Maestas** was emphatic about analyzing how well RGC was partnering with and meeting the employment demands of its communities, areas where he has proven effective in **New Mexico**, and at previous positions. **Maestas** has held administrative posts with the **University of New Mexico**, **Ohio State University** and the **University of Illinois**.

"I'm excited by the choice of **Dr. Maestas** because he has such a wide-ranging and successful background in recruitment, community outreach and innovative learning programs," said **Dr. Joel Vela**, Vice President of **Rio Grande College**. "I'm looking forward to his guidance in making **Sul Ross - Rio Grande College** an even stronger player in the economic future of Southwest Texas, and its role in the ranks of higher education in the State of Texas."

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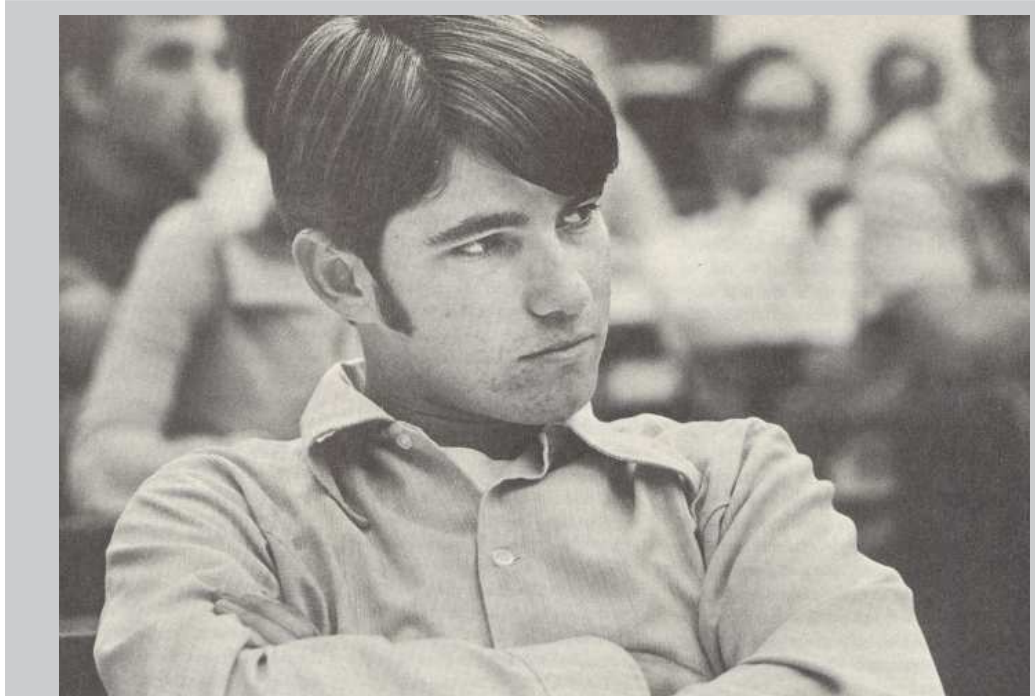
How a little time in the life of a child can make all the difference in the world

In Texas there are thousands of students attending classes trying to absorb new material and new concepts. Some of these students are nervous about the prospects of not passing one or more of their TAKS tests and advancing to the next grade. Other students are not so much worried about academic advancement as they are about what will they will have for dinner tonight.

The story you are about to read concerns a student with a different set of worries. It was written by his fifth grade teacher. If you are a teacher, you may have had a student like **Juan Garza** in your class. Maybe you knew a student like him when you were going to school.

Juan's letter came today and now that I have read it, I will place it in my cedar chest with the other things that are important in my life. The letter started out with: *"I wanted you to be the first to know."*

I smiled as I read the words he had written and my heart swelled with a pride that I have no right to feel. I have not seen **Juan Garza** since he was a student in my class some 17 years ago. It was early in my teaching career. I had only been teaching two years but from the first day that he stepped into my classroom, I disliked **Juan**.



Teachers are not supposed to have favorites in a class, but most especially they are not to show a dislike for a particular child. I thought I was quite capable of handling my personal feelings along that line until **Juan** walked into my class.

I'm sorry to say it, but **Juan Garza** was one student I disliked. First of all he was dirty. Not just occasionally, but all of the time. Second, he smelled. He smelled like the crops he and his family were picking. And of course the smell varied with whatever was being harvested. His hair hung low over his ears and he actually had to hold it out of his eyes as he worked on assignments in class.

By the end of the first week of school, I knew he was hopelessly behind all the others. And not only was he behind, but he was also just plain slow. As each day passed, I began to withdraw from him. While I didn't actually ridicule the boy, my

attitude was obviously apparent to the rest of the class for he quickly became the class goat, the outcast, the unlovable, the unloved.

He knew I didn't like him but he didn't know why. He also knew that other teachers in the school didn't like him either. As the days rolled on we made it through the fall festival, Halloween and Thanksgiving. By the time the Christmas season arrived I knew **Juan** was going to have to repeat the entire school year.

**To justify holding him back,
I went to his cumulative folder
from time to time.**

To justify holding him back, I went to his cumulative folder from time to time. He had very low grades for the first four years but no grade failures. How he made it . . . I do not know. I closed my mind to the per-

sonal remarks that had been written by other teachers over the years. Remarks like:

1st grade - Juan shows promise but has a poor situation at home.

2nd grade - Juan could do better, but his mother is terminally ill. He receives little help at home.

3rd grade - Juan is a pleasant boy, but misses too many days of school. Mother passed away at the end of the school year.

4th grade - Very slow but well behaved. Show some talent for art. Father absent often. Believed to be working in California.

Well they passed him four times, but he will certainly repeat the fifth grade. "Do him good," I said to myself.

The day before the holidays arrived we had a school Christmas party. Teachers always get gifts, but for some reason this party seemed bigger and more elaborate than ever. There wasn't a student who hadn't brought me a gift. And each unwrapping brought squeals of delight as the students tried to guess who it was from.

Juan's gift wasn't the last one I picked up . . .

Juan's gift wasn't the last one I picked up. In fact, it was somewhere in the middle of the pile. It's wrapping was accomplished with a brown paper bag. For decorations he had colored Christmas trees and bells all around it and used masking tape to hold it together. The tag said: For **Miss Johnson** from **Juan**.

The class was completely silent as I began to unwrap **Juan's** gift. As I removed the last bit of masking tape, two items fell out and onto my lap. One was a gaudy rhinestone bracelet with several stones missing. The second item was a bottle of dime store cologne that was half empty. I could hear the snickering and whispers of the other children. At first I was embarrassed. Then I thought no . . . there is no reason for me to be embarrassed.

I looked at Juan and said "Isn't this lovely?"

I looked at **Juan** and said "Isn't this lovely?" I placed the bracelet on my wrist and asked him to help me fasten the clasp. There were a few oohs and aahs as I dabbed the cologne behind my ears. I continued to open gifts until I reached the bottom of the pile. We drank our refreshments and played games until the bell rang signaling the end of school for the holidays. Everyone gathered their belongings and filed out of the room with shouts of Merry Christmas. Everyone except **Juan**. He stayed behind.

With just us in the room, **Juan** walked toward my desk clutching his books. "You smell just like my mom," he said softly. "Her bracelet looks real pretty on you too. I'm glad you like it." Then he quickly left the room.

I locked the door to my classroom, sat down at my desk and wept quietly. When the tears stopped I resolved to make up for the way in which I had been treating **Juan**. For months I had deliberately deprived him of a teacher who truly cared.

Beginning in January, I stayed after school every afternoon with **Juan**. We did extra problems in math. We did extra work in reading and spelling. Slowly but surely, he started to improve. By April, he was really moving along. Even the other students noticed that something was very different about **Juan**. Only once did I panic when

What a surprise. I sent him a card of congratulations and a small pen and pencil gift. **Juan Garza**, I wondered what he would do after graduation?

Four years later, **Juan's** second letter came. It had a postmark from **Ann Arbor, Michigan**:



he missed several days of school. It turned out that had to go work in the fields.

When the school year ended Juan had one of the highest averages in the class.

When the school year ended **Juan** had one of the highest averages in the class. And even though I knew he would be leaving for **California** to work in the strawberry fields, I believed that he had found a new confidence and outlook on who and what he could be.

I continued to teach and never again heard from **Juan** . . . until seven years later. He wrote me a letter from **Watsonville, California** that started out:

Dear Miss Johnson,

I wanted you to be the first to know, I will be graduating from high school next month, second in my class.

Very truly yours,

Juan Garza.

Dear Miss Johnson,

I wanted you to be the first to know that I was informed I'll be graduating first in my class. The University has not been easy. Although I received a small scholarship from the farmworkers union, I had to work part-time all four years to help cover the costs. But I loved every minute of it.

Very truly yours,

Juan P. Garza

Juan is graduating from college? I thought back for a moment at how quickly the years had passed and the fact that he still remembered me. I also recalled that Christmas party. I decided to send him a nice pair of sterling silver monogram cuff links and a card. I was so very proud of him. The **University of Michigan at Ann Arbor** is one of the best schools in the world. He was doing good, very good!

Today, I received **Juan's** third letter with a postmark from the **Boston** area. Like his other letters he started it with:

Dear Miss Johnson,

I wanted you to be the first to know, that as of this writing I am now Juan P. Garza, M.D.. How about that! Harvard was hard but I have no regrets. I will be returning to California to do a residency at UCLA and work on pesticide issues as they effect farmworkers.

And I am going to be married in July . . . the 27th, to be exact. I wanted to ask you if you could come and sit where Mom would sit if she were here. I'll have no family present as Dad died last year. It would mean a lot to me. I can send you the plane tickets.

Very truly yours,

Juan

I'm not sure what kind of gift one sends to a doctor upon completion of medical school. I'll have to think about it for a moment. But my note cannot wait.

Dear Juan,

Congratulations. You did it by yourself in spite of those like me, and not because of me. This day has come for you. God Bless you.

I'll be at that wedding with great joy.

Very truly yours,

Miss Johnson

We know there is a **Juan Garza** in every school in America. We know there are students who cry out for teachers who truly care. Look carefully and you might be able to find a **Juan Garza** in your school. But an equally important question is whether or not there is a **Miss Johnson** in every school. Where are the **Miss Johnson's**? Just a little time, a little more caring, that's all some children need.

This story was adapted from an anonymous letter that passed out many years ago at a teacher conference. The original author is to be commended for an excellent story structure.

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Wayne's World

by Wayne

I always seem to ask myself if there is a such thing as being at the right place at the right time. Somehow I never come down to a conclusion. I've actually experienced some things that can relate to that, but I've never been too sure.

One of them took place during the summer. I had just got out of working with my pops, and we went to the outlet mall in San Marcos. We didn't really buy anything, but some Reebok Classics. They happened to have only our sizes left. We both bought the same pair of shoes with matching shirts. It felt good spending time with my pops, and it felt like we were at the right place at the right time.

As we were getting on highway I-35 a Jack Brown's Cleaners van drove in front of us. It was in front of us for about a minute, when out of no where, it lost control. It started to swerve left to right, and finally crashed against a eighteen-wheeler that was on the side of the road. The drivers of the eighteen-wheeler were on a lunch break and so they had parked on the side of the highway. So when the Jack Brown Cleaner's driver lost control, his van hit the corner of the first eighteen-wheeler. It all happened so fast that no one knew how to react. A lot of the cars kept driving, some stopped, and the rest just slowed down to be nosy.

Being the good person that my pops was, he stopped and told me to go check on the person who crashed. I tried to help him but the door was smashed and was jammed together. All the adults that seen the man stuck inside the van were shocked. So I called my dad to go help me open the door with a crow bar. Most of them hesitated to lend the guy a hand. As soon as the door was open I reached in to pull the man out. I told the man to get a good grip on my arm and to try to get out. The man was old, weak and couldn't even move a muscle. He started to pass out, but one of the men helped keep him awake. I asked the van driver why he couldn't get out. He told me that his legs were stuck. What had happened there was that when he rammed into the eighteen-wheeler, the engine crushed his legs because of how powerful the impact was.

It was kind of sad, but at the same time I was proud of myself. I stood around until the ambulance arrived to the scene. We left because my pops had a warrant out for his arrest and there were cops everywhere. That day I asked myself if that had just happened or if

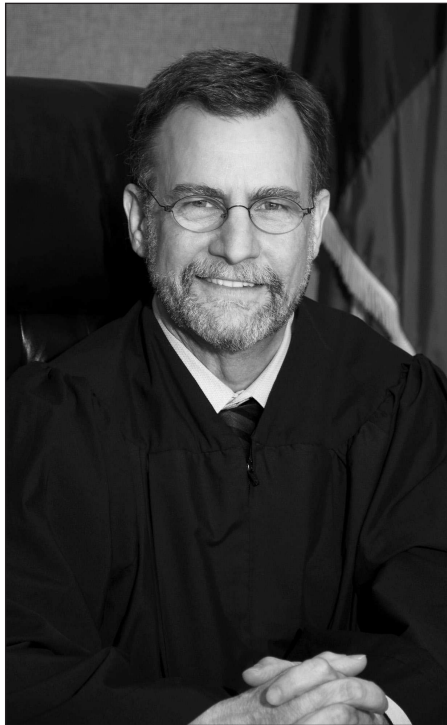
I was at the right place, at the right time to give the old van driver a hand. Who knows though, you can never be too sure.

Another time that I had some thoughts about this was when I went to Six Flags last summer. I had rode every ride almost twice, and the park was getting ready to close. So I started to get on all of my favorite roller coasters. All the lines were short and took very little time waiting in line. One of the rides that I went back on was the Super Man. I got o my seat and clicked my seat belt on and everything. Then out of no where I get a glimpse of a object laying across a metal rod on the roller coaster. I stared at it for a while until I seen that it was a cell phone.

So through the whole ride that's what I kept my eyes on, hoping it wouldn't fall off or something. We went up, down, left, right, and even through upside down loops. I just couldn't believe that after all that, the phone still remained on the ride. For a minute it felt like torture, because I was hoping that no one would see it and beat me to it. Finally when I got off the ride I rushed to grab it. I would have returned it to the owner but the phone was dead at the time. So I kept it and looked for a charger as soon as I got home. It was exciting and funny at the same time, because it was just a coincidence that I sat at that seat on that ride. What was also strange was that it didn't fall off while he ride was moving. The only explanation I had was that I was at the right place at the right time.

Not only that, the next time after that one, I went back to Six Flags with my neighbor and his family. Well when we had already rode almost all the rides, we all agreed to get on a water ride. They ended up not letting me on, because I had took off my shoes so they wouldn't get wet. Since I left them far from where we were, I went to get them and just got on a different ride. I met up with them a little later, and it turned out that my neighbor couldn't get on some rides because he was wearing shorts. The crazy part about it was that they gave us all ten dollar tickets because of it. That was no coincidence in my point of view. I feel like it was meant to be, because if I didn't go, then my neighbor would of not got on the rides.

These kind of experiences are the reason I question myself about things like this. Well it all depends on what state of mind you in. as for me, I do believe that there is a such thing as being at the right place at the right time.



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Calendar of Events

December 1st, 2009 - Hispanic Community Engagement Advisory Board meeting at the United Way Capital Area offices located at 2000 East MLK in Austin, Texas. Meeting time: 9:00am to 11:00am. For more information call Mando at: (512) 472-6267

December 2nd, 2009 - FuturoFund Festivus at LatinWorks. Location: 206 E. 9th Street Austin, Texas 13th Floor 78701 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

December 3rd, 2009 - **Holiday Cocktail Reception For Rep. Diana Maldonado**, 5:00 Until 7:00 p.m. Where: Lambert's Downtown Barbecue, 401 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Tx 78701 For information about the event or to RSVP, please contact Laura Welch at 512-465-2162 or laura@progressivecapitol.com

December 5th, 2009 - Hispanic Futures Conference at Travis High School 8:15am to 1:00pm Address: 1211 E. Oltorf. Free and open to the public.

December 5th, 2009 - Flamenco Dancer Pilar Andujar, from Spain will be performing at El Sol y La Luna 7:00pm

December 5th, 2009 - Combination fundraiser and birthday party for Carmen Llanes and Erika Gonzalez 1807 Cedar Ridge in Austin, Texas 78741 from 7:00pm to 12:00am Donation \$10. For more information please call 472-9921

December 7th, 2009 - Margaret Gomez Re-Election Campaign Kickoff and Fundraiser. Where: Nuevo Leon Mexican Restaurant from 5:30pm to 8:00pm Tickets are \$25 and sponsorships start at \$100. For more information please email: reelectmargaretgomez@gmail.com.

December 8th, 2009 - Tribute to Alicia Perez at Serranos downtown on 11th Street Austin, Texas Event starts at 5:30pm For more information please contact Lupe Morin at: 658-4085

December 8th, 2009 - Judicial Election Forum at Southwest Key 6002 Jain Lane in Austin, Texas from 6:00pm to 8:00pm For information call: (512) 462-2181

December 9th, 2009 - Monthly meeting of the Austin Tejano Democrats. Event starts at 5:30 pm at Casa Garcia, 1000 South Lamar. Contact Fred Cantu for more information at (512) 698-4805 or email: austintejanodemocrats@gmail.com

December 9th, 2009 - Draft Judge David Crain Fundraiser 5 to 7 pm at Aquarelle Restaurant 606 Rio Grande Street Austin, Texas

December 10th, 2009 - Fundraising Reception for Texas State Representative Valinda Bolton at the Austin Club 110 E. 9th Street Austin, Texas 78701 from 5:00 to 7:00pm

December 10th, 2009 - Holiday Posada featuring student performances of Mariachi, Teatro, and Ballet Folklorico. Location: Southwest Key at 6002 Jain Lane in Austin, Texas For more information call: (512) 462-2181

December 15th, 2009 - Judicial Election Forum and Meet & Greet County Judge candidates running for office in March of 2010. Location: Southwest Key 6002 Jain Lane in Austin, Texas For more information call: (512) 462-2181

December 16th, 2009 - Austin Young Republicans meeting and social at Habana Calle 6 Location: 709 E. 6th street Austin, Texas from 6:00pm to 8:00pm For more info: www.austinyr.com

December 25th, 2009 - Christmas Dance with Ruben Ramos and Sunny Ozuna at the Flamingo Ballroom in Austin, Texas from 9:00pm to 1:00am For more information call: (512) 280-8989

**2010 Tejano Democrats January 15-16, 2009
Screening and Endorsement Convention
in Austin, Texas at the DoubleTree Hotel
6505 I-35 For hotel info: (512) 454-3737
For convention info: (512) 698-4805**

Word Power

En Palabras Hay Poder

No one can ever argue in the name of education that it is better to know less than it is to know more. Being bilingual, trilingual or multilingual is about being educated in the 21st century. We look forward to bringing our readers various word lists in each issue of *La Voz de Austin*.

Nadie puede averiguar en el nombre de la educación que es mejor saber menos que saber más. Siendo bilingüe o trilingüe es parte de ser educado en el siglo 21. Esperamos traer a nuestros lectores de *La Voz de Austin* una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

war	guerra
in	en
Afganistan	Afganistan
showing	mostrando
we	nosotros
have not	no hemos
learned	aprendido
nothing	nada
from	de otro
countries	países
about	sobre
history	historia
region	region
the world	del mundo
doubt	duda
más problemas	more problems
más soldiers	more soldiers
más peligro	more danger

To Do in 2010: End Extremism on the Texas State Board of Education.

AUSTIN — Texas high school students would learn about such significant individuals and milestones of conservative politics as Newt Gingrich and the rise of the Moral Majority ... under the first draft of new standards for public school history textbooks. ...

As it stands, students would get “one-sided, right wing ideology,” said Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer, D-San Antonio, chairman of the House Mexican American Caucus. ... [B]oard conservative, Ken Mercer, R-San Antonio ... would add ... conservative talk show host Sean Hannity. ... Two reviewers have recommended that Cesar Chavez, the late farm workers union leader, be removed from history books because they deem him an unworthy role model.

—Houston Chronicle 8/20/09

AUSTIN, Texas — Minority activists urged Texas education officials on Thursday to not minimize the importance of civil rights leaders Cesar Chavez and Thurgood Marshall in public schools.

The State Board of Education heard testimony in a plan to update the social studies requirements for the state's 4.6 million K-12 students. Two members of a board-appointed advisory panel had suggested removing Chavez and Marshall from some grades' curriculum, triggering a strong backlash from civil rights groups, teachers and parents statewide. ...

Supporters argued that Chavez shouldn't be taken out of fifth grade classes as suggested because he greatly improved conditions for Hispanic farm workers. Critics said he lacked the stature and impact to be listed next to the likes of Benjamin Franklin.

—Houston Chronicle 9/18/09

César Chávez out? Sean Hannity in?

It's time to replace extremists on Texas's State Board of Education with educators.

Su voto es su voz. Your vote is your voice.



Rebecca Bell-Metereau
Democrat • District 5
VoteRebecca.com

Judy Jennings, Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, consults with the Texas Education Agency on how well our children are learning. She is a grandmother, and both her children are teachers.

You can vote for Judy if you live in **Travis County north of the Colorado River** or in Bastop County, Williamson County or one of 13 others.*

Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Ph.D. in English, is an award-winning professor of English and film at Texas State University. Rebecca's children are graduates of San Marcos public schools.

You can vote for Rebecca if you live in **Travis County South of the Colorado River** or in Hays County, Caldwell County or one of nine others.*

*See web sites for complete lists of the counties in each district.



Judy Jennings
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Pol. adv. Rebecca Bell-Metereau & Judy Jennings



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