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# La Voz

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## Loving La Virgen de Guadalupe

by Sara Inés Calderón

You have to love La Virgen de la Guadalupe — even if you're not Catholic. She's a singular, ubiquitous and unifying image for all Latinos that I know, and while everyone feels slightly differently about her, I've never met anyone who didn't like her or appreciate her image. And on today, her day, I thought I'd share some thoughts about her.

I grew up surrounded with images of La Virgencita: On candles, pictures, business cards, spoken expressions, nail clippers, small mirrors, crosses, pretty much anything available for reproduction comes with a Virgen design. And I've come to associate that image with safety, home and affection.

I once gave a Virgen card to a Jewish friend of mine, she asked me if she could take it, and I replied, "Girl, of course you can! The Virgen belongs to everybody!" I said it and I meant it. I often buy the Virgen de Guadalupe veladoras, those big giant candles in the glass jars, and burn them when I need comfort; this week it was because of the passing of my good friend Carlos Guerra. There have been times, however, when all I could find were two-sided candles with the Guadalupe and the Virgen de San Juan — two virgens are better than one, I'd say — but I'd always put the Guadalupe side facing outward.

You don't have to be remotely religious to appreciate the Guadalupe, and that's because her image is so iconic that everyone has come to inject their own meaning into her. Some people see the mother of God, others see a reminder of their ethnicity, and still others may see a miracle or their mother's or grandmother's memory. That, to me, is the true miracle of La Virgen (although that whole Juan Diego thing is pretty cool, too, if you can ever make it to the Basilica in Mexico City, seeing the original is totally worth the trip).

So, in that vein, happy Virgen day everybody!

Credit: NewsTacocom





# People in the News



## Dolores Huerta Awarded Honorary Degree in California

**Dolores Huerta**, a co-founder of the **United Farm Workers of America** received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the **University of the Pacific** in **Stockton, California**.

**Huerta** was raised in **Stockton** where her mother operated a 70 room boarding house that catered to farm workers, immigrants and other poor people. After attending college she became a school teacher.

In the 1950s she was working with a community organization called the **CSO** (Community Service Organization) It was through this organization that she met **Cesar Chavez**. In 1962, they along with a few other activists, decided to dedicate their lives to organizing farm workers and form the National Farm Workers Association.

While **Cesar Chavez** received much of the spotlight during the farm worker movement, behind the scenes, it was **Dolores Huerta** who led the national boycotts and served as the union's chief negotiator.

And she did all this while raising 11 children, one who went on to become a physician and another an attorney. In addition to her long involvement with the farm workers, **Dolores Huerta** was present and standing next to **Robert Kennedy** moments before he was shot in **Los Angeles**. This year **Dolores** turned 80 and is still going strong.

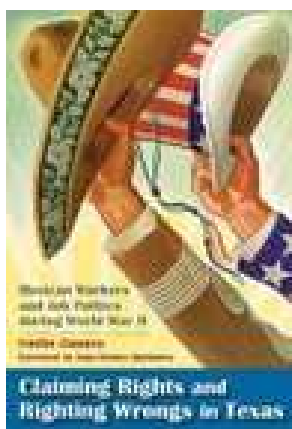


## Dr. Emilio Zamora Gets Book Award from TPS of Texas

**Dr. Emilio Zamora**, professor in the Department of History at **The University of Texas at Austin** won **Philosophical Society of Texas Award of Merit** for best book at their 173 annual meeting in **San Angelo, Texas**.

The book, **Claiming Rights and Righting Wrongs in Texas**, traces the war time experiences of Mexican workers as they moved from rural settings to the more urban areas of the country in search of better paying jobs. The book also examines the role of women workers during World War II and how they had to contend with discrimination at various levels.

**Dr. Zamora** is a professor of history at **UT** and earned his bachelors and masters degrees from **Texas A&I University** in **Kingsville, Texas**. He earned his Ph.D from **The University of Texas at Austin** in 1983. In addition to his work at the university, **Dr. Zamora** is active in a number community endeavors and organizations.



## Domino Perez Receives Teaching Award at UT Austin

Six professors from the **College of Liberal Arts** have been selected to receive the President's Associates Teaching Excellence Award for the 2010-2011 academic year at **The University of Texas at Austin**.

One of these professors is **Domino Perez** from the English Department. The award recognizes the consistent level of excellence that faculty members achieved in teaching undergraduate students. **Steven Leslie**, provost of the university, said recipients of the teaching award each will receive a \$5,000 honorarium and will be honored during a ceremony in spring 2011.

**Dr. Perez** received her bachelors masters degrees from **Southwest Texas University** and her Ph.D from the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** in 1994. Most recently she was the interim director of the **Center for Mexican American Studies**.



## UT Professor James Robert Nicolopoulos Passes Away

**James Robert Nicolopoulos** Born August 22nd, 1945 in Berkeley, CA to Thomas J. and Sarah Nicolopoulos. Passed away December 1st 2010 at Austin, TX from complications of biliary duct cancer, surrounded by loving family, colleagues, and friends.



A professor at the [University of Texas](http://www.utexas.edu) at Austin since 1992, after receiving his doctorate in Hispanic Languages & Literatures from the **University of California, Berkeley** earlier that year. **Prof. Nicolopoulos**, affectionately known as **Jaime**, was an eminent scholar in the fields of Renaissance Hispanic and Colonial Latin American poetics. **Prof. Nicolopoulos** was perhaps even more widely esteemed for his monumental and original contributions to the study of the Mexican and "Border" genre of topical folk ballads known as corridos, along with their social/historical roots, context, and evolving cultural significance.

Since the 1980s he collaborated closely on numerous corrido and border music related projects with the renowned researcher, collector, archivist, and publisher of American vernacular music, **Chris Strachwitz**, his **Arhoolie** record label, the Arhoolie Foundation, and the **Down Home Music** store in **El Cerrito, CA**. Among the most notable projects were the publication of the definitive biography of the 20th century pioneer Tejano, Mexican/American singer and recording artist, **Lydia Mendoza** and her family, assisting in the creation of an online audio archive of Mexican-American music recorded on commercial phonograph records during the 20th century, known as the **Frontera Collection**, and seminal research into the emergence and early history of the controversial "Border Culture" genre of the "narcocorrido".

He often brought in practitioners of the corrido to perform in academic venues. He was active not only in his home department, Spanish & Portuguese, but in the **Center for Mexican American Studies** as well. He was an organizer of numerous memorable conferences including "**Sor Juana Inés de La Cruz: Her Life, Works, and Times**"-1995, and "**The Corrido as Contemporary Narrative in Greater Mexico**:- 1996. He often returned to his alma mater of **U.C., Berkeley** as a visiting faculty member.

As an undergraduate at **U.C. Berkeley** in the early 60s at the time of the Free Speech Movement, **Jaime** was not immune to the influences of the chaotic atmosphere in what was the epicenter of the emerging counter-culture revolution. He dropped out before completing his baccalaureate despite having won such honors as a **National Defense Scholarship** to study Arabic at a **Harvard** summer program. For the next few decades he lived a bohemian and often adventurous life in **California** and in **Washington State**, as well as making several extended and rugged journeys deep into **Mexico** and **Central America**. At about the age of 40, he decided to reinvent himself and continue his education. While working nights as a taxi driver he re-enrolled at **U.C. Berkeley** and began to distinguish himself. With the priceless mentoring of the late **Prof. Jose "Pepe" Durand**, of **Prof. Ignacio Navarrete**, and of his dissertation director, the eminent **Prof. Emilie Bergmann**, he finally received his doctorate. A memorial was on held at **UT** on December 6th, 2010.



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# Pensamientos para diciembre

*Pues ya llego el fin del año.* The end of the year has arrived. Like many of you, I am taking the time to reflect on all that has transpired this year. I count my blessing and acknowledge those areas in which I fell short of my goals.

Over all though, I would say it has been a good year despite that fact that one of my best friends passed away in February. *Se me fue La Rata.* We had been good friends for 45 years. But we were prepared. As I mentioned in a previous issue of *La Voz*, **Richard "Rata" Garcia**, knew he only had a short time to live. When the doctors told him he had two to six months left, a bunch of his friends came together and threw him a "Good-bye Party" in **Uvalde, Texas** the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Not many people have ever been to a good-by party and certainly there were those in attendance who felt uncomfortable. But **La Rata** was a party boy and he wouldn't have it in other way. *Así es que cuando llego la noticia en febrero*, we were prepared.

What I was not prepared for was the untimely death of another friend, **Carlos Guerra**. While we were not *camaradas como la Rata*, we did talk on the phone *de vez en cuando*. **Carlos Guerra's** death at 63 was truly a shocker. No one expected this. He had a lot of friends and was very influential in the many



**Carlos Guerra**

activities he was involved in over the years. At the memorial in **San Antonio**, at *Palo Alto College*, many wanted speak and publicly reflect on their friendship with **Carlos**, but the event organizers had to place some limits, otherwise we would have been there until 4 in the morning. (See page 6 and 7 for some of the tributes that people have written about him.)

I don't know if the deaths of friends make one more conscience about life or whether just getting older makes one appreciate the joy in being able to breath and walk without pain.

## Cambiando de Tema

In the last month or two, I have finally gotten into **Facebook** and have taken great pleasure in seeking out and reconnecting with friends that I have not had contact with for years.

In November, I had the opportunity to meet once again a fellow who I interviewed in 1972 when I was just starting out in the newspaper business. **Arcadio**

**Viveros** and friends had just won a very contentious election to the **Parlier City Council**, in **Parlier, California**. It was not a **Raza Unida** take over, but it was for sure a Chicano response to the Anglos who insisted on running things their way. **Arcadio** was in **Austin** for a conference and so after 38 years *nos encontramos otra vez*. It was indeed great to see him again and I was able to present him with a copy of the issue in which his story ran. (The complete story is on page 8 and 9.)

And just last week, I got an email from **un amigo** I went to graduate school with at **Notre Dame**. **John Ribal** and I both went to **Notre Dame** in the fall of 1978 to work on our Ph.Ds in economics. I did not finish and lost contact with **John**, until last week. He told me he taught for 12 years at various colleges and now lives in **Pueblo, Colorado** and owns a liquor store. We had not spoken in 31 years. *Que tal Facebook!*

## Cambiando de Tema

Changing the subject, I want to announce that next month, **Austin Voices for Education and Youth**, will once again be hosting the **Social Justice Saturday School** at **The University of Texas at Austin**. This seven week program is open to high school and college students and will meet on Saturdays from 11:00am to

# Editorial



**Alfredo R. Santos c/s**  
**Editor & Publisher**

2:00pm in the **Texas Union**. The purpose of the program is to produce a group of community activists who can practice the art of creative community engagement. Lunch will be provided. For more information visit the following website: [www.mexicanamericancenter.com](http://www.mexicanamericancenter.com)

## Cambiando de Tema

It is appropriate that we should acknowledge and commend **Gloria Espitia** and **Danny Camacho** for all the work they have done in connection with the **Mexican American Trailblazer Project** at the **Austin History Center**. Their most recent event on December 11<sup>th</sup> six individuals who now call **Austin** home had a chance to share with about 30 people the behind the scenes stories of how they got to where they are at now. Visit their website for more information at: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/news/nr20100805.htm>

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Check [www.MileStation.com](http://www.MileStation.com) for November signup days

Questions? Call Patrick at (512) 695-5136

\* Paid for by non-profit Mile Station, a research project aiming to show how using cents-per-mile rates in the minimum insurance market makes it possible to keep all cars insured year-round.

\*\* The insurance company used by Mile Station charges about 4¢ per mile in advance for minimum liability on cars with adult drivers. This means that each time 1,000 miles of insurance is added to your car's odometer, Mile Station pays the company \$40 online by credit card.

## Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



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## Workers Defense Project

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#### Intake Coordinator in Austin, TX

The Intake Coordinator helps process and evaluate cases for the Workplace Justice Program that addresses issues of workplace abuse including wage theft and hazardous working conditions. The Workplace Justice Program informs low-wage about their worker rights, recovers unpaid wages, ensures access to workers compensation, and helps organize large groups of workers to participate in strategic organizing cases.

#### Job Requirements:

- Computer literate
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- Ability to work Tuesday nights and on Wednesdays (during the day)
- Ability to work well under pressure and delegate tasks to others
- Commitment to racial and economic justice and to bringing about change through leadership development and popular education

#### Responsibilities:

- Attend weekly Worker in Action meetings
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- Assist with legal or strategic cases as needed
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#### Compensation:

- Part time 10-15 hours per week at \$14/ per hour
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Dan Arellano



# Peña makes it official; switches to the GOP

by Steve Taylor  
Rio Grande Guardian

**State Rep. Aaron Peña** has told the *Guardian* that his decision to quit the Democrats and join the Republicans was only made over the past week and “sort of just evolved.”

**Peña** confirmed the switch at a news conference with **Gov. Rick Perry**, **Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst** and **House Speaker Joe Straus** held at the **Republican Party of Texas** headquarters in **Austin** on December 14th, 2010. Also present was state **Rep. Allan Ritter**, a Democrat from **Nederland** who confirmed he too was flipping over to the **GOP**.

What follows is an interview conducted with **Peña** on Monday, December 13th, 2010. “My decision to switch parties just sort of evolved,” **Peña** said. “I did that story about the future of the Democratic Party in the *Guardian* and then just started to think about things. Then, last Friday, I thought, I am going to put out a statement saying I am thinking about it.”

**Peña** said it helped that he was on a mini-vacation with his wife **Monica** in **Phoenix, Arizona**, last week. “I was kind of lucky I was on vacation because it gave me a lot of time to think,” he said. “I realized the limitations of my life and my career in my politics and how I could extend what I was thinking beyond me. I said, ‘you know what, let’s begin the debate.’ And just the thought of it caused an explosion.”

The decision became easier to make once the calls started coming in, he said. “Once people (Democrats) started getting nasty and name calling, I just realized, do I really want to be in a party like that? Or do I want to be in a party where I can actually have a whole new territory to work with.”

In the interview, **Peña** would not confirm whether he intends to run again in House District 40. However, he did say he thought he could win re-election. The district is one of the most heavily Democratic seats in **Texas**, with 49 percent of the voters voting straight ticket Democrat, or *la palanca*. “Let’s just say I am a positive thinker. If it is 49 percent straight party voting, that means I have a chance, right,” he joked.

**Peña** said whether he were to win or lose a re-election bid is beside the point. “None of that matters. Tell my opponents to run. They can’t beat me. They can’t change what is happening. This is an idea whose time has come. It is an idea that cannot be defeated,” he said.

**Peña’s** disillusionment with the **Democratic Party** has been well documented and was there for all to see in the *Guardian* [interview](#) of Dec. 5. However, he said his departure from the party could actually help propel the changes he would like to see Democrats make. He also believes his switch to the Republican column can help affect change in the **GOP** too.

Here is **Peña’s** take what has to happen now in the **Democratic Party**: “This is wild what I am going to say and I do not want to be compared to it but in the **Protestant Reformation** the crux of the debate was whether we had a direct connection to God or whether we had to have gatekeepers,” **Peña** said. “If we extrapolate that same idea to our present circumstances this is whether or not people have power themselves and whether they have to wait for gatekeepers in the party to make decisions for them.”

**Peña** said **Democratic Party** activists have to express themselves and not listen to the party establishment. “The merit of something is not because an institutional authority tells you so but by the power of your own mind and your own connection to either God or to an idea. I am making a connection to the **Protestant Reformation**,” he said.

**Peña** said he has received a lot of calls since speculation began to swirl that he could flip to the Republicans. He said the calls have been coming in from across the country with a lot coming from the Southwest. Asked if the Democrats who have called have been sympathetic, he said: “They are not in agreement with

my choice but they are in agreement that they are in control of their own destiny and they will increasingly begin to speak for themselves and that the days of waiting for institutional leaders to make the right decision is over.”

**Peña** expanded on this thought. “In the **Protestant Reformation** we had to wait for priests or a cleric to make a decision. Here, you do not need for (leading Democrats) **Boyd Richie** or **Matt Angle** to tell you. You make the decision. People are tired of being second class citizens. They want to grab their destiny for themselves. This is about an idea, not an individual outcome. In that sense, I have won

great majority of the **Democratic Party** lives below I-10, when have you ever seen a decision made here? It is always the clerics speaking for us. It is always somebody else speaking for us and they don’t. They don’t,” **Peña** said.

Asked how long it might take for the **Texas Democratic Party** to reform itself sufficiently enough to win statewide elections again, **Peña** said: “It is very hard to change a political culture. This change will occur beyond my lifetime but at least it has been unleashed, it has been let out of the box. The people that come after me can make the change. It may take this generation to pass but you will begin to see elements of it develop.”

However, before Democrats can begin to rebuild their party and its appeal to the electorate they have to acknowledge the changes that need to be made, **Peña** said. “Just like someone with an addiction, sometimes you have to hit rock bottom before you make a change. I think the Democratic Party needs to go through the 12-Step program. Right now they are in denial,” he said.

Just as **Peña** hopes his departure from the **Texas Democratic Party** will help generate

debate and positive change, he trusts his entrance into the ranks of the **Republican Party of Texas** can be beneficial to a large segment of the population, especially Hispanics. While talking about Democrats he referenced the **Protestant Reformation**. With the Republicans he cited the **Crusades**.

“I think I said this in one of my speeches, possibly in my nominating speech for **Speaker Tom Craddick**. During the **Crusades**, Europeans went to the Middle East thinking they were going to conquer the infidels and then change them, make them into their own image. When they finally returned to their European homes they found they had changed,” **Peña** said. “Forgive me. I do not want to compare Republicans

to infidels. My point is that through mutual experience and friendship people learn from each other.”

Asked what Hispanics are asking for in the Republican Party, **Peña** said: “They want a seat at the table and they want to be respected.” Asked if he and other like-minded Hispanics in the **Republican Party** can affect change in the **GOP’s** stance towards immigration policy and immigrants,” **Peña** said: “Hispanic Republicans reflect their constituencies, which are basically conservative. You will find Hispanics are divided on the issue of immigration policy, 50-50. Take a look at the **Pew** poll. The difference is there is a great measure of affiliation with and affection for the people that are being talked about.”

**Peña** said his challenge and that of others is to “make the Republicans see the wider Hispanic community as their community.” He said that with the “Precious Six” (with **Peña** there are six Hispanic Republicans in the Texas House) Republican leaders will “see something that is worth protecting because quite frankly, in 30 years, the majority of Texans will be Hispanic.”

Wrapping up his thoughts, **Peña** said he has put enough effort into affecting change in the **Democratic Party** and that from this day on his work has to be in the **Republican Party**. “Political parties rise and fall. Look at the **Whigs**, look at the **Progressives** of the 1920s and 30s. They have to reform themselves. These things come in cycles and, in a Darwinian sense, it is the party that adapts that survives. Unfortunately, the **Democratic Party** is not adapting. Hopefully this will be an impetus for change,” he said. “However, that is beyond my lifetime and that is for others. I am 51 years old and I probably have 30 years at best. My lifetime will be spent trying to work within the **Republican Party**. My professional career will probably go for another 19 years. I will spend the remainder of my life trying to advocate for my community through the **Republican Party**. Hopefully, I can unleash an idea that will live beyond me.”

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# Saying Good-bye

The news came as a bolt of lightning out of the sky, **Carlos Guerra**, former columnist for the **San Antonio Express News** was found dead on Monday, December 6, 2010. “¿Pero como?” was the question on everyone’s mind. He was only 63. ¿Que le pasó?

Details were sketchy, but according to the Sheriff’s Department, foul play did not appear to be involved. Toxicology reports would take a few weeks.

For **Carlos’** many friends, the Christmas spirit was dampened by this terrible news. Throughout the week people exchanged emails, notified others of his passing and paused to remember when was the last they spoke with him or saw him.

Then the news came that there would be a memorial for **Carlos** on Saturday, December 11, 2010 at **Palo Alto College** in **San Antonio** at the new performance center. Over 100 of **Carlos’** friends and family showed up to remember him and celebrate his life and contributions during his short time on this earth.

Below are three short essays from some of the many people who **Carlos Guerra** over the years.

## Sara Inés Calderon

Journalist, and staffer at NewsTaco

I was one of the last people to see **Carlos Guerra** alive. The day after Thanksgiving I went to visit him in **Port Aransas**, we did some **NewsTaco** videos and he made me Thanksgiving Dinner #2. I still have some turkey and broccoli he made in my fridge. Tonight, it dawned on me that I was probably one of the last people to hug him, peck him on the cheek and tell him that I cared for him. I wish I could say it was more than an unfortunate distinction.

I last spoke to **Carlos** on Saturday night and we had plans to meet this week to do more **NewsTaco** videos and make plans for our future coverage. I was going to invite him over to my house and he was probably going to offer to feed me. Perhaps he would have told me more of his amazing stories — of the old days as an organizer, or as a jeweler, or a would-be conga player, or whatever else he had dreamed of — and I would have listened and laughed at his jokes. We would have had a great time.

Though it’s not the first time I’ve lost someone very close to me, I can’t say it’s necessarily easier this time around. I had the unfortunate experience of missing a call from the **Nueces County Sheriff’s Office** Monday and finding out about **Carlos’** passing from friends on his Facebook Wall — despite how much this sucked for me, I think it’s a true testament to what an amazing person **Carlos** was. His power, imagination, dreams and influence reached far beyond the columns he wrote and into peoples’ hearts.

I first met **Carlos** when I was 19 at an event in **San Antonio**. He didn’t remember this, but when we were colleagues at the **San Antonio Express-News**, we really began to get to know each other as friends. Of all of the things I admired about **Carlos**, perhaps the most powerful for me was the fact that he was a dreamer. I always fell on the more practical side of life, but **Carlos**, he never put such realistic limitations on himself. He was one of the most alive people I have ever met and, I’m sure up until the time he died, he was dreaming.

There’s too much to say about **Carlos** that I feel like a few graphs here won’t do him justice, but as I



Carlos Guerra in the early 1970s

write this all *mocosa* and distraught, I take heart in the fact that the man changed my life. He was one of the first and only men in my professional life to see past my youthful figure and into my mind, my heart and to genuinely ask me for friendship. He was a friend, a mentor, a confidant and a crazy jokester.

**Carlos** was an extremely generous and caring person to his friends — not that you’d know from his crazy evil eye professional mug shot — but he also cared so much about the world and the things he wrote about that when he talked to you it was hard not to be enraptured by what he said.

Lots of people will miss **Carlos** for different reasons, but I’ll miss him for my own. *¡Daba tanta lata!* But now I’ll miss those inopportune phone calls. He was always ready with wit or funny jokes or an open heart. I honestly don’t know what I’m going to do without him, but I have a few ideas. I’m going to continue to promote his scholarship program, because it was something he was truly passionate about, that he really believed in.

Another thing I’m going to do is start believing in myself the way he

believed in me. But mostly, I think I’m going to honor him for the amazing person he was — not perfect, you understand — but a complete person who understood his humanity and tried like hell to make the world a better place.

Thanks for making me a better person, **Carlos**, I’m going to miss you. We at **NewsTaco** are anxious to hear others’ stories of **Carlos**, please share them here, on Facebook or email us at tips@newstaco.com.

## Russell Contreras

NAHJ Financial Officer and reporter for the Associated Press in Boston

I first came across **Carlos Rene’ Guerra**, not at an **NAHJ** (National Association of Hispanic Journalists) event, nor in the pages of the **San Antonio Express-News**. Rather, I was introduced to **Guerra** through **Caracol**— a Texas-based Chicano literary/news magazine from the 1970s.

As a history graduate student, I was working on a thesis about the generation of Latino writers from the **Chicano Movement**, and **Guerra**, bearded and shaggy haired, was on the cover of the October 1974 issue. “You should talk to him,” then **University of Houston** historian and my adviser **Emilio Zamora** told me. “He’s a columnist with the **San Antonio Express-News**. He’s a political observer now. Just watches things.”

Before graduate school, I had been a columnist for the **University of Houston** student newspaper, the “**Daily Cougar**,” and had come across few “real” Latino columnists. So speaking to one of the nation’s first major metro newspaper Latino columnists, who also had been a writer from the movement, was

exactly what I needed professionally and personally.

“Let’s talk more. But I had a lot less experience back then,” **Guerra** said after I told him about his **Caracol** cover piece at an **NAHJ Austin** conference in late-1990s. “And a lot more hair.”

We never had that second interview on his **Caracol** piece. After that **NAHJ** regional conference, where I also met then-**Austin-American Statesmen** and current **AP** reporter **Suzanne Gamboa**, I decided to not to study the history of Latino journalists. I become one.

**Guerra**, a pioneer **Tejano** journalist and a former columnist with the **Express-News**, was found dead Monday in **Port Aransas**, Texas. The 63-year-old retired from the **Express-News** in 2009 and had since helped launched the site **NewsTaco**. **Port Aransas Police** said the cause of death is unknown.

Before getting into journalism, the **Robstown, Texas**-native was a leader with the **Mexican American Youth Organization** and **La Raza Unida Party**. He worked with the **United Farm Workers** and was proud to boast about his role as a community organizer. In fact, the **Caracol** piece, which he wrote in mix of Spanish and English, was a passionate plea to **Texas** voters to support **Raza Unida Texas** gubernatorial candidate **Ramsey Muñiz**. (Guerra was his campaign manager).

For that first generation of Mexican-American journalists, this was how **Guerra** and others had to break in. No **NAHJ** existed for them. Newspapers rarely hired Latino reporters. An equivalent of an **NAHJ** student project to train journalists consisted of protests and walkouts. When no opportunities to write were available, this generation created

# to Carlos Guerra

their own through song, underground journals, and poetry readings. And despite their knowledge that they had the education and talent to become good journalists, few opportunities and their exclusion left them with what **Poet Lorna Dee Cervantes** called that “nagging preoccupation/ with the feeling of not being good enough.”

Somehow, though, **Guerra** broke through, first as a columnist for the **San Antonio Light**, then the **Express-News**. Throughout his career, he continued to write about Latinos, but he also wrote about politics and other subjects. On Twitter he called himself, “America’s friendliest angry looking retired columnist ... and feared by fish.” According to **NewsTaco**, he was working on a memoir.

I never stopped following **Guerra** and was looking forward to reintroducing myself as a colleague. In his last column for the **Express-News**, **Guerra** said he loved sharing family wisdom throughout his career, including a favorite saying from his grandfather: *El que tiene sólo una manera de mantenerse, tendrá un dueño.* (The person with only one way to make a living will have an owner.)

Then, he signed off. “I will miss writing for you. But I am also happy to open opportunities for younger voices to flourish and grow, as they were opened for me,” wrote **Guerra**. “Thank you for the many doors you opened for me.” No, **Guerra**, thank you for opening the doors for us.

**Carlos Calbillo**  
filmmaking instructor and filmmaker living and working in his hometown of Houston, TX.

The 60’s of course were a different time, and we as thinking young

people were being influenced and bombarded by the dominant American culture - the music, the militancy; and the spirit of revolution that was in the air.

This society we perceived as intolerably oppressive and it definitely seemed to us “enlightened” youth to be designed to keep brown and black people down. So we took up “arms” against it, much to the horror of our parents and other “gente decente”, such as **LULAC** and their ilk. I met **Carlos Guerra** at some of these early **MAYO** (Mexican American Youth Organization) confabs, and since the **Houston MAYO** cadres were urban and “hippy-ish”, many of us either didn’t speak Spanish or did so haltingly. When I began to attend **MAYO** actions in the small communities across **South Texas**, (small compared to Houston) and discovered that some of the **MAYO hermanos/hermanas** spoke mostly Spanish, perhaps out of nationalistic zeal, I and many of the **Houston MAYOs** would become uncomfortable around this.

One time we traveled to **Robstown**

to support a rally protesting the racist school system, The rally was being held in front of the **MAYO** headquarters in a down and out *barrio* and about 100 community people, parents, students were there, very pissed, carrying protest signs in English and in Spanish.

**Robstown MAYO** chieftain **Mateo Vega** was delivering a fiery bilingual speech and rant. The **Robstown** police were walking around taking our pictures. **Carlos Guerra** was there of course and afterwards we all met to debrief. I will never forget that, unlike the linguistic ideologues among us who considered those of us from **Houston** to be culturally *pendejos*, he was a *firme vato* who looked upon us, his urban *hermanitos*, not with scorn or disgust, but with a loving bemusement; and with an open attitude of inclusion.

**Carlos** of course was completely tri-lingual and spoke not only English perfectly but also a beautiful **Texas Spanish** and a stunning *pachuco cálo*. From the beginning, **Carlos** understood the need to unite and not to fight, something that we

in the current political arena and climate sometimes appear to forget.

Another incident I remember with my friend “Charlie War” as some of us jokingly called him, was when **La Raza Unida Party** had finally succeeded in taking over **Crystal City** and surrounding towns, and **Jose Angel Gutierrez** called for all chapters to meet and to discuss future strategy at **Garner State Park**. It was a beautiful setting with picnic tables under the great oak trees and we munched on *barbacoa* and *tripitas* as Jose Angel led us in discussion. We had all noticed several unmarked police vehicles on the periphery and we could see and even hear their telephoto lenses clicking away.

Eventually, **Carlos Guerra** and several others, including myself, made our way over to as parking lot where most of us had parked our junky cars. The lot filled suddenly with **Department of Public Safety** uniformed troopers who began to berate, intimidate and bait us in the way that only they knew how to do. They went around writing down the license plate numbers of all of our

cars, which they seemed to know well. Being new to this kind of political intimidation, I freaked out and began to back off. **Carlos Guerra** fearlessly went up to these *PENsadores* and began an attempt to educate them on the rights of American citizens to peacefully assemble, our right to meet without fear of governmental interference or of their intimidation.

Every time we visited **Robstown**, **Carlos** was there ready to assist us, his urban **MAYO** brothers and sisters, with a meal or with a place to crash. There will be in the coming days many more remembrances of **Carlos Guerra**, incredible tales, profound and funny adventures, many of them even true. For those of us who were touched by his life, it goes without saying that we, and I for one, will never forget his wit, his love and his example.

*Amen y con safos. Descanse en paz, hermanito en una raza que pronto llegará a ser verdaderamente unida, porque si se puede...*

**BELOW:** Photo of the meeting Calbillo references in his reflection.





# LA VOZ DE LA RAZA

Vol. 3, No. 7

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

June 7, 1972

## MEXICANOS TAKECHARGE IN CALIF TOWN

LA VOZ DE LA RAZA  
June 7, 1972

About 20 miles south of Fresno, off to the left hidden by grape vines is a little town called Parlier. Out of a population of 2,000, 85% are Mexican-American. Agriculture along with a few small factories is the work of most of the people. Tensions are high in the community now that the city council is controlled by Chicanos. The elections that took place April 11th made history and proved that Chicanos can get it together politically.

To understand what happened in Parlier and why this political assault took place we have to go back to January 1971. At one of the city council meetings it was going to be decided who would be named the new Chief of Police. Everyone thought that Juan Martinez, a veteran of 18 years on the force would be named. Many people from the community went to the council meeting to witness the promotion of Martinez. But to everyone's dismay (except the council members) a man from out of town was

So the Parlier Fact Finding Committee started the recall process. To have a recall election, petitions have to be signed, affidavits need to be made out and a court hearing must be held. When the committee went to court, the judge said that it was too close to election time to have a recall. So a boycott and picket of all the councilmen's stores began in order to try and bring pressure and reverse the appointment.

Then there was trouble. Sniper fire made it impossible for the people to continue picketing.

Fires were set, policemen were shot at, and three businesses were burned. Many people feel these things were done in an attempt to discredit those who were working for change. In September of '71 the mayor, Weldon Byram was arrested on charges of arson. He was alleged to have burned down his own business. His insurance company filed suit against him also. Recently he was acquitted.

It was all of these things and an intensive voter registration drive that led us to the election.



Andrew Benites, the new mayor of Parlier. A biology major at Fresno State College.

defeated in the election was D.J. Herring, who had held the position of city clerk for 36 years. He was replaced by Clifford Rodriguez. The remaining two councilmen face a recall election at the June 6



# Nos Encontramos Otra Vez

by Alfredo Rodriguez Santos c/s

**Thirty** eight years ago I was working for a community newspaper called **La Voz de la Raza** in **Stockton, California**. I had read in the **Stockton Record**, the official newspaper of the city, that a group of Chicanos had just taken over the city council in a town called **Parlier**. It was a short article and mentioned that the recall election had something to do with the police chief.

I was excited about this story because at the time **La Raza Unida Party** which had racked up successes in **Crystal City, Dimmit** and **La Salle Counties** back in **Texas** was trying to establish itself in **California**. I didn't know if this "take over" in **Parlier** was inspired by **La Raza Unida Party** but I wanted to find out. I borrowed some video equipment from the local community college where I was a student and took off a couple of days later for **Parlier, California** with my girlfriend. All we knew was that it was somewhere close to **Fresno, California**.

We made it to **Parlier**, found city hall and managed to locate **Arcadio Viveros**. He was the organizer of what was called the **Parlier Fact Finding Committee**. **Arcadio** was about 23 years old and was farm worker who found his way into college. We told him who we were and why we had come. He was very open and made a telephone call to **Andrew Benitez** who had just been elected mayor and another man whose house we met at. The newspaper reproduction to the left tells the story of what happened in **Parlier** in 1972. My girlfriend and I came back to **Stockton**, wrote the story, developed the film and published the story. I left **Stockton** to attend the **University of California at Berkeley** and never saw **Arcadio** again, until last month.

In **Buda, Texas** there is non-profit group called the **National Center for Farm Worker Health Inc.** I had gotten to know the **Executive Director, Bobbie Ryder** and was cruising the website of her organization when I saw that on her board of directors was . . . **Arcadio Vivieros!** I learned that he had become involved in farm worker health clinics. I also learned that he was now working in **Ft. Worth, Texas**.

So I called him up, introduced myself and to my surprise he remembered us. We chatted on the telephone for a little while and he told me that he would be in **Austin, Texas** for the **20th Annual Midwest Stream Farmworker Health Forum**. We agreed to meet and did so in the bar of the **Sheratron**. I got there first and when came into the bar I spotted him immediately since he looked very much the same.

We shared our stories about what has happened to each us in the intervening 38 years, compared notes about the places where we have lived and reminisced about people we both knew who have now passed on. I share this story with you during this Christmas season because it is not often that we get the opportunity to visit with people who we met for only a short time but who left an indelible impression on me. While **Arcadio** and his friends in **Parlier** were not that much older than me, they were classic examples of Chicanos who dared to stand up for what they believed in. They felt the Mexican American population in **Parlier, California** had been done and injustice and they were determined to do something about it. While their actions were not official **Raza Unida Party**, they shared in the ideology that self-determination and dignity were an important element of who they were and hoped to become.



**Arcadio Viveros**  
CEO at Albert Galvan  
Health Center  
Fort Worth, Texas



**Arcadio Viveros, President  
of the Parlier Fact Finding  
Committee.**

When the city council met again (the first week of Feb.) the committee asked why Juan Martinez was not named, and that the appointment be reversed. The council refused saying that Carnahan was better qualified. When asked what metits Carnahan had over Martinez the council said that Martinez did not give enough tickets and that he did not wear a hat. Good reasons? Then the city council made a challenge and said that if anybody didn't like the job they were doing they could recall them!

According to Arcadio Viveros, the council gave them the idea of a recall election when they made the challenge at the meeting.

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Stockton, Ca.

What's new in Parlier? A couple of the anglo owned homes have FOR SALE signs in the front yard. Some people are not talking to others. It looks like Bobby Zapata and Mike Avilla will win in the recall election. Attempts are being made to bring Federal monies into the city. Parlier is an example of what can be done when democracy is practiced.

live and tied up to the climax, the ousting of three of the city councilmen and the election of three Chicanos. Newly elected were, the mayor, Andrew Benites, a 24 year old Fresno State College student, and as councilmen, Joe Munoz and Baltazar Tovar. Also

named, Pat Carnahan. The people from the community left the meeting. For the next two days over 300 people of the town met at the Catholic church. Out of these meetings came the Parlier Fact Finding Committee. A committee of 10 people with Arcadio Viveros as president, were chosen to find a solution to the problem.





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Ray S., veteran, ACC graduate, Ph.D. candidate

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# Making a Difference: A Mentor's Perspective

Many of us support our community by volunteering as a mentor one hour a week. Some mentors meet just at school, some meet in the community. After surmounting the hurdles of scheduling and general apprehension (\*who me, a role model?), most volunteers find mentoring to be an easy and deeply satisfying way to make a difference.

Mentored students have better school attendance; a better chance of going on to higher education; and better attitudes toward school. Adults who mentor get to take a regular break from their busy professional lives and gain insight into the day-to-day lives of youth, and often into their own childhood or children.

Five mentors shared their own story in hopes of encouraging others to take the leap!

**Q:** Tell us a little about yourself

**Phillip:** I'm 42, father of three teenagers. I work for a service organization called The Knights of Columbus as their field agent, so I sell the insurance to our members.

**Katherine:** I'm 33. I work for the US Postal Service. I'm a lifetime member of the Ladies Auxiliary, Military Order of the Purple Heart (of which my dad is a recipient).

**Miguel:** I'm 25, Relationship Banker at Capital One Bank. Parents live in Mexico. I'm a member of the **Travis County Democratic Party**, and the

## City of Austin Commission on Immigrant Affairs.

**Leia:** I'm 30, Juvenile Probation Officer. Baby's 11 months old, working on my master's, married. I grew up around gangs and drugs. When an old friend of mine died of a heroin overdose it got me thinking of the lifestyle that I grew up in. And then to imagine these kids - they look so little - are going through similar issues.

**JP:** I'm 42, Independent Real Estate Broker and Investor. Married, have a son who is 6. Been mentoring for 17 years. My parents were teenage parents, both high school dropouts, both went back and got their GED's and did right by the family, but they were divorced young also. School always kept me motivated to succeed.

**Q:** What was the first meeting like?

**Phillip:** I didn't know what I was really getting into, but sometimes you have to take that leap of faith...once I saw him, and his smile, his demeanor, it set me at ease. When we first met, he was a little bit apprehensive. And then he said something that was really funny and both of us had a big laugh. And then that allowed both of us to feel at ease and then it progressed from there.

**Katherine:** (laugh) The first meeting was a tad awkward for me and probably for her as well. Fortunately, the Match Support Specialist was able to make things less uncomfortable by sharing some of the things we had in common. Once we started talking, we were golden.

how the week has been and what the week has coming up. How was your week, what are you going to be doing for your weekend, are there any big tests coming up?

**Katherine:** We spend a lot of time talking. We talk about everything under the sun. I help her with her homework, where applicable, although she's a pretty good student. I'm very proud of her.

**Miguel:** Kayaking, eating, talking, and just hanging out.

**Leia:** Sometimes we work on homework assignments. Most of the time she likes to walk outside and show me off to her friends. She'll say, "Oh don't worry, she's cool, she's cool." If it's a heavy day where I can tell something is on her mind we'll go sit in the library.

**JP:** Usually we spend time playing games and doing school work.

**Q:** How has being a mentor impacted your life?

**Phillip:** It certainly has made me closer to my three teenagers. Eduardo has been able to do so much more with so little that he has and I reference that with my children. I say, "he's doing this on his own, and he's helping his family, his siblings and his mother." He wants to serve the community as well, so he's not just looking at it for his interests. It's awesome. I want my children to be that type of person as well.

**Katherine:** I'm very blessed to be matched with such a wonderful kid. Listening to Joana talk about school, friends, and the things going on her life has reminded me that it's not easy being a kid. There are so many factors that go into every decision kids today make...what will my friends/parents/siblings think? I have a HUGE amount of respect for her. She manages to make good solid decisions for herself day after day, despite what other kids may be doing.

**Miguel:** Siento que el ayudar a alguien mas es una cualidad que tenemos todos y que mas deben de ejercitar.

**Leia:** I have more of a new perspective on the struggles of these kids. I have an eleven year old stepdaughter, and when she comes home and tells me the gossip at school or the problems at school, I can see it through her eyes.

**Q:** How do you think having a mentor has impacted your mentee?

**Phillip:** Every week I can see him developing more as a man, and I get a better understanding of where he's coming from. Our roles are not father/son, even though Eduardo doesn't have his father there anymore. I try to be that person in his life

that will give him personal guidance. Even though I did not have that life that Eduardo has, I can at least put in some input as to the things he's doing right and encourage him to continue to follow that path.

**Katherine:** I hope that she knows when I talk to her about things that could be potential pitfalls for her that she knows I'm talking to her as a friend, not just another adult lecturing her. I hope that our talk of about the future helps her keep her eye on the ball, and that she'll keep looking forward to all the wonderful things life has to offer her.

**Miguel:** I know he knows he has a friend in me and that he can count on me.

**JP:** I'm the guy that shows up and he can say "hey this is my big buddy, he's here for me." One student I mentored gave me a plaque that said "last year this really cool guy came into my life, he's funny, he likes children, he's just a great role model, his name is JP and he is my mentor. If I get frustrated or mad, JP helps me a lot. He shows me I've got different options and helps me solve my problems. Now I know I can turn bad situations to good."

**Q:** What advice would you give someone who is considering becoming a mentor?

**Phillip:** If you have an hour of time, if you could take a lunch break during your work time and you have a school that is close in your community, see if they have a need. And that need is just being able to meet with a young person and provide them with that opportunity to have interaction with you. Once you get past that first moment of insecurity and feeling apprehensive then you'll find a long-standing benefit to you and the young person.

**Katherine:** Do it! One hour a week of your time may not seem like much but to a child, it may be the world.

**Miguel:** DO IT! It doesn't take a lot of time to make a difference!

**Leia:** To just take the time to open up and let them in. For a first time mentor, don't be afraid. They just need somebody to talk to. That's really all it is. They can't talk to a mom or dad or a teacher the way you can talk to a complete stranger and even we as adults know that, we can confess all our sins to the person on the bus, but we can't tell our own husband or wife so it's the same with kids.

**JP:** Its not a whole lot of time, when you really break it down, it's not a big time commitment if you want to make that time. Once you get in there, it's an easy deal.

To find out more about how to mentor a student in the Austin area, contact **Oscar Davila** at (512) 464-9764, or odavila@cisaustin.org.



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**Miguel:** I went to his house and met his family and the Match Support Specialist. We walked around his block and talked about our likes and dislikes, mainly sports.

**Leia:** I was nervous. I thought she was going to look at me like I was some old lady! But once it was just me and her then it was comfortable and easy.

**Q:** What kinds of things do you like to do together?

**Phillip:** Really what we do is ask



# Thousands of undocumented students await the passage of the DREAM Act

by Viridriana Tule

For Julian, a 20 year-old engineer student at the **University of Texas at Austin**, taking a calculus or an electromagnetic exam does not frighten him, as it would to other engineering students. What really terrorizes **Julian** is the idea of being deported. Although there is not a law that prohibits the admission of undocumented students into colleges and universities, the new raising anti-immigrant sentiment, which threatens the deportation of many undocumented immigrants, has sparked a fear of deportation amongst undocumented students across universities around the nation.

**Julian** was 5 years old when his parents decided to migrate illegally to this country in search of the American Dream, better employment and educational opportunities for their children. Since he first came to the United States, **Julian** has transformed into an American; from learning English, and watching cartoons to eating hamburgers and pizza, **Julian** was no different from other kids. It wasn't until recently, as he got ready to apply for college, that he learned he was different.

Like **Julian**, 65,000 undocumented students graduate from US high schools each year, only to confront the cruel reality of an undocumented immigrant. Unfortunately, not having a social security number restricts students like **Julián** from joining the military, in some states it denies their admission to postsecondary schools and are also prohibited from getting a job.

In March of 2009, **Senator Durbin** from Illinois gave hope to thousands of undocumented students when he introduced the **Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act**, best know as the **DREAM Act**. This law proposal would allow undocumented students like **Julián**, the opportunity to fix their status. Under the **DREAM Act**, students must have been brought to the U.S. more than 5 years ago when he or she was 15 years old or younger, and demonstrate a good moral character. Thousands of undocumented students around the nation have come together in support of the **DREAM Act**. Through different

demonstrations varying from sit-ins to hunger strikes many students have shown their urgency for the passage of the **DREAM Act**. Last month, the story of **Eric Balderas**, an undocumented student at **Harvard University**, became national news as he was detained by immigration authorities in **San Antonio, Texas**. He was detained after he tried to board a flight from **San Antonio** to **Boston** using his university identification.

After his arrest, thousands of students and immigrant activist have rallied to his defense. Over seven thousand supporters had joined **Eric's** support page on facebook. Thanks to all the support, **Eric** was granted deferred action, which can be used to halt deportation based on the merits of a case.

Although **Eric's** case was unique, other students that are facing deportation will not have the same luck.

In 2010, the possibility of passing the **DREAM Act** or immigration reform seems to be slipping from the hands of many immigration advocates and legislators. Many wonder if **President Obama's** promise for an immigration reform will ever become a reality. While congress debates on whether or not to take action about immigration, students like **Julian**, are trapped in the shadows realizing that the American dream of education does not include them.

Viridriana Tule graduated in May of 2010 from the University of Texas at Austin and hopes to attend graduate school in New York to study social work.



# Miles de Estudiantes Inmigrantes en espera del DREAM Act

Para **Julián**, un estudiante de 20 años estudiando ingeniería en la **Universidad de Texas en Austin**, no le preocupa los exámenes de calculo o electromagnética que a muchos estudiantes de ingeniería le pondrían los pelos de punta, a **Julián**, lo que le aterroriza es ser deportado. Aunque no existen leyes que prohíben la admisión de

estudiantes indocumentados en colegios y universidades, la nueva ola anti-inmigrante que amenaza con deportar a inmigrantes ilegales, a despertado miedo de deportación en los estudiantes indocumentados en universidades a través de toda América.

Al igual que miles de estudiantes indocumentados, **Julián** lleo a este país aún siendo niño. A los 5 años edad, se incorporo a la sociedad estadounidense, aprendió inglés, miraba caricaturas y le encantaban las

hamburguesas, **Julián** era como cualquier otro niño en su escuela. No fue hasta hace dos años, cuando se preparaba para aplicar al colegio, que se dio cuenta que era diferente.

Como **Julián**, cada año aproximadamente 65,000 estudiantes indocumentados se gradúan de escuelas preparatorias en el país. Muchos se ven forzados a truncar sus sueños por falta de un seguro social, lo cual no sólo les permite matricularse en instituciones de educación superior, pero además les permite obtener ayuda financiera federal y aplicar a becas. Para estos estudiantes indocumentados su única esperanza es el **DREAM Act**.

El **DREAM Act**, una legislación bipartita introducida en el congreso el 26 de marzo

del 2009, propone a estudiantes indocumentados que fueron traídos desde niños a los Estados Unidos la oportunidad de cambiar su estatus migratorio. Algunos de los requisitos consisten en haber llegado a los Estados Unidos hace más de cinco años cuando tenían 16 años o menos; completar dos años de educación superior universitaria o dos años de servicio militar; y demostrar un buen carácter moral.

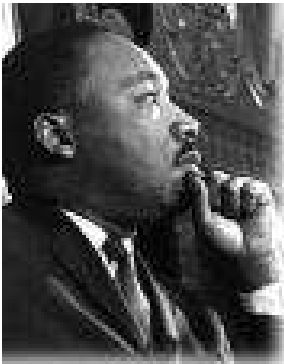
Miles de estudiantes alrededor del país se han unido para demostrar sus solidaridad hacia el **DREAM Act**. Desde manifestaciones pacíficas frente a oficinas de legisladores, hasta huelgas de hambre, estos estudiantes han demostrado su urgencia por el **DREAM Act**. Este año se ha visto la deportación de varios estudiantes inmigrantes de diferentes universidades de Estados Unidos. El mes pasado, todo el país conoció la historia **Eric Balderas**, el joven indocumentado de Harvard que fue detenido por agentes de inmigración al tratar de usar su identificación de la escuela para abordar un avión. Después del gran apoyo por medio de estudiantes que expresaron su opinión en paginas como Facebook y Myspace, y el apoyo de lideres y educadores, **Eric**, quien estudia neurocirugía en la **Universidad de Harvard** fue concedido un estatus usado para suspender su deportación a base de sus méritos. Aunque algunos han podido prolongar su deportación y seguir estudiando, mucho estudiantes indocumentados no han corrido con la misma suerte.

La realidad en el 2010, es que entre más tiempo pasa más difícil es de que se pase el **DREAM Act** o una reforma inmigratoria este año. Muchos se preguntan si la promesa de pasar la reforma del Presidente Obama se hará realidad antes de las elecciones presidenciales de 2012. Desgraciadamente, para estudiantes como **Julián** quienes cursan sus estudios universitarios, lo que les falta es tiempo. Mientras congresistas se debaten entre votar o no por una reforma inmigratoria, estudiantes indocumentados se ven forzados a permanecer en las sombras, reconociendo que el "Sueño Americano" no los incluye.





Dorothy Day



Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Cesar Chavez



Saul Alinsky

# The 2011 Social Justice Saturday School

## in Austin, Texas

Before **Rosa Parks** refused to move to the back of the bus in December of 1955, she spent time at the **Highlander Folk School** in **Mount Eagle, Tennessee** learning about the history of social protest. Before **Cesar Chavez** began organizing farm workers in **California** and undertaking the table grape boycott in the 1960s, he spent time at **Saul Alinsky's Industrial Areas Foundation** in **Chicago** learning how poor people can build power in their communities. Even **Dorothy Day**, the founder of the **Catholic Worker Movement**, went back to "school" to learn about the gospel of social change.

In January of 2011, the **Center for Mexican American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin**, **Austin Voices for Education and Youth**, **Austin Community College's Center for Public Policy and Political Studies**, and the **Mexican American Center for Community and Economic Development** have joined together to sponsor the fifth annual **Social Justice Saturday School**. This 7 week program at **The University of Texas at Austin** will provide high school students with opportunities to learn about the social change process and how to organize and improve their schools and neighborhoods.



Students pay close attention to each guest speaker during the sessions at Lanier High School

Students who attend the **Social Justice Saturday School** will take short courses in:

1. Social Movements in History
2. Economics & the Origins of Poverty,
3. Agenda Setting in the Community
4. The "ins and outs" of Texas prisons and jails
5. The Use of Public Narratives: The Story of You, Us and Now
6. Understanding the Education Pipeline
7. Superman was an Illegal Alien: Immigrations and the story of America

Students will also have numerous opportunities to hear guest speakers, watch documentary films, and participate in class discussions, debates and skits.

**Alfredo Rodriguez Santos c/s** will be directing the Social Justice Saturday School and believes that those students who participate in this project will come away with a unique understanding of how they too can become creative community activists.

**January 22nd, 2011 to  
March 5th, 2011 at  
The University of Texas at Austin**

**TO APPLY to the 2011 Social Justice Saturday School please fill out an application ([www.mexicanamericancenter.com](http://www.mexicanamericancenter.com)) and send it to [maced1234@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maced1234@sbcglobal.net) or mail it to:**

If you have any questions about the Social Justice Saturday School please call:  
(512) 944-4123 or (512) 450-1880

## Sponsors

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# Calendar of Events

**December 10, 2010** - Film screening at Resistencia Book Store 7:00pm 1801 South 1st Street Austin, Texas. Film title 9500 Liberty. A poignant and powerful film about what can happen when small communities adopt ordinances like Arizona ’s controversial and unconstitutional SB 1070. Following the film, there will be a brief update on immigration legislation that has been filed for the upcoming 82nd legislative session and a summary presentation on the state of human rights in Texas .

**December 11, 2010** - River City Youth Foundation 13th annual Merry Memories ne of Austin's largest toy give-a-ways! Event starts at 12 to 3 p.m. Location: Dove Springs Recreation Center. For more information please call: (512) 440-1111

**December 11th, 2010** - *A Conversation with Six Mexican American Trailblazers* on December 11, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m at the Austin History Center 800 Guadalupe St. Austin, Texas for more information contact Gloria Espitia at (512) 974-7498

**December 12th, 2010** - Workers Defense Project Holiday Party at 5603 Manor Road in Austin, Texas. The holidays can be a sad time for many of our members who are separated from their families. As part of the ‘5604 Manor Family’, we invite you and your family to join with our members in celebrating holiday family traditions during this season of sharing. There will be piñatas, an adult gift exchange, gift bags for the kids, singing, hot punch, Christmas music in Spanish and English, and especially foods from our families’ traditions. We want this to be a festive occasion. For the optional gift exchange, bring a gift with a value of no more than \$10. For the food exchange, please bring a dish to share. Foods that your family traditionally enjoys are especially welcome. Let the Swedish Meatballs co-exist with the pozole! Bring yourself, bring your kids, bring all your family! Event starts at 5:00pm

**December 16th, 2010** - Meeting of the Human Rights Commission at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Austin, Texas. Meeting starts at 9:30am

**December 18th, 2010** - Resistencia Bookstore presents its yearly **X-MAS TIENDITA**: where you will find unique holiday gift items: *Artesania, Jewelry, Tarjetas, Posters, Literature, Musica, y Liberacion!* Join us as we congregate/celebrate one last time before the new year! \*\*Also, come support la familia Vargas by picking up some of their fresh tamales by the dozen: \*\* Traditional & Vegetarian Tamales. This gathering is yet another humble offering in memory of our elder raulrsalinas who founded this tradition of showcasing local and regional arts & crafts at Resistencia Bookstore's X-MAS TIENDITA. For more information call: (512) 416-8885

## Scholarship Deadlines

Here is just a small list of scholarships that are available for students.

12/31/2010	Anne Ford and Allegra Ford Scholarship
12/31/2010	Hispanic Scholarship Fund Haz La U Scholarship Program
1/5/2011	Texas A&M Foundation Excellence Award
1/7/2011	A.C.E. (Accepting Challenge of Excellence) Awards
1/10/2011	Gates Millennium Scholars Program
1/15/2011	Mensa Education and Research Foundation Scholarship Essay Contest
1/15/2011	Northeastern University Torch Scholars Program
1/15/2011	SAE Engineering Scholarships
1/31/2011	Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition
1/31/2011	Manchaca Optimist Club Essay Contest
2/15/2011	AFA Teens for Alzheimer's Awareness College Scholarship
2/15/2011	Hispanic Scholarship Fund Peieris Rising Star Scholarship
2/15/2011	UT Arilngton Merit-Based Scholarship
2/25/2011	St. David’s Neal Kocurek Scholarship
3/21/2011	The Garden Club of Austin Scholarship
4/1/2011	Jasshid and Tahirih Memorial Bahai Scholarship foe Eastside, Garza, Reagan and Travis High Schools
4/15/2011	State Farm Texas Scholar Athlete
4//25/2011	Fannie Bowzer and Gomillion Byars Scholarship Fund

# 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 bi-lingual or trilingual or multi-lingual is about being edu-cated 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 cada mes a nuestros lectores de **La Voz de Austin** una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

Nada va	Nothing will
Mejorar	Get better
Hasta	Until
La Gente	The People
Organize	Organize
Tomar	Take
Acción	Action
La Unica	The only
Cosa	Thing
Los Politicos	The politicians
Entiende	Understand
Poder	Power
del Voto	of the vote
Las Palabras	Words
Son Baratas	are cheap
Cuando Hay	When there is
Hambre	Hunger



**Devon Contreras, 16, was shot and killed by an Austin Police Officer on October 1, 2010. Police Chief Art Acevedo reportedly saw the dash cam video of the shooting and stated that it matched what Officer Derrick Bown had told him took place. The question now after more than two months is:**

# **Where is the Video?**



## **The Central Texas Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas**

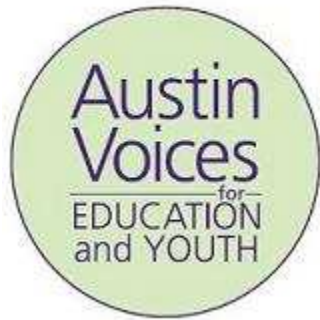
Stands in community with victims of police profiling & brutality, seeks greater openness in local governments and encourages increased public inclusion in local policy decisions that affect our constitutional rights.

"9500 Liberty" – a film about the negative consequences of anti-immigration policies is available for community viewings.

Watch our weekly program, "Taking Liberties" on ChannelAustin, Channel 10, Thursdays at 7pm (replay schedule at: [channelaustin.org/guide](http://channelaustin.org/guide)).

[www.aclutx.org](http://www.aclutx.org) or contact [centraltexaschapter@aclutx.org](mailto:centraltexaschapter@aclutx.org) for info





## Our Voice, Our Vision, Our Schools Community Conversations

### About Austin Voices

#### Austin Voices Programs and Initiatives

Austin Voices for Education and Youth is currently focusing our work of strengthening schools and expanding opportunities for Austin's youth by organizing around and implementing three goals:

- **Improving Campuses** by giving parents and students the training and tools they need to act as full partners in the process;
- **Engaging youth** to identify issues, communicate with decision makers, and partnering with adults to take action while building skills that prepare them for college, work and life;
- **Influencing District-wide Change** by implementing a community dialogue process that gathers priorities from stakeholders in neighborhoods across Austin and organizing input gathered to help create a comprehensive community vision and plan for our schools;

Find out more about these projects below. For more detailed information and to find out how to get involved, click on the headings below or on the menu links on the left side of this page.

Improving Campuses through the Stand Up Student Movement, Right Question Project.

Engaging Youth through Youth Merchandise and Youth Consultants.

Influencing District-wide Change through Our Voice, Our Vision, Our Schools: Community Conversations.

**Austin Voices for  
Education and Youth**  
**5604 Manor Road**  
**Austin, Texas 78723**  
**(512) 450-1880**

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