

La Voz^{de} Austin



Free

Volume 3 Number 1

Informando a la comunidad

January, 2008

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1952

AVERAGE INCOME
\$3,850.00

NEW CAR: \$1,754.00

NEW HOUSE: \$9,075.00

Loaf of Bread \$.16

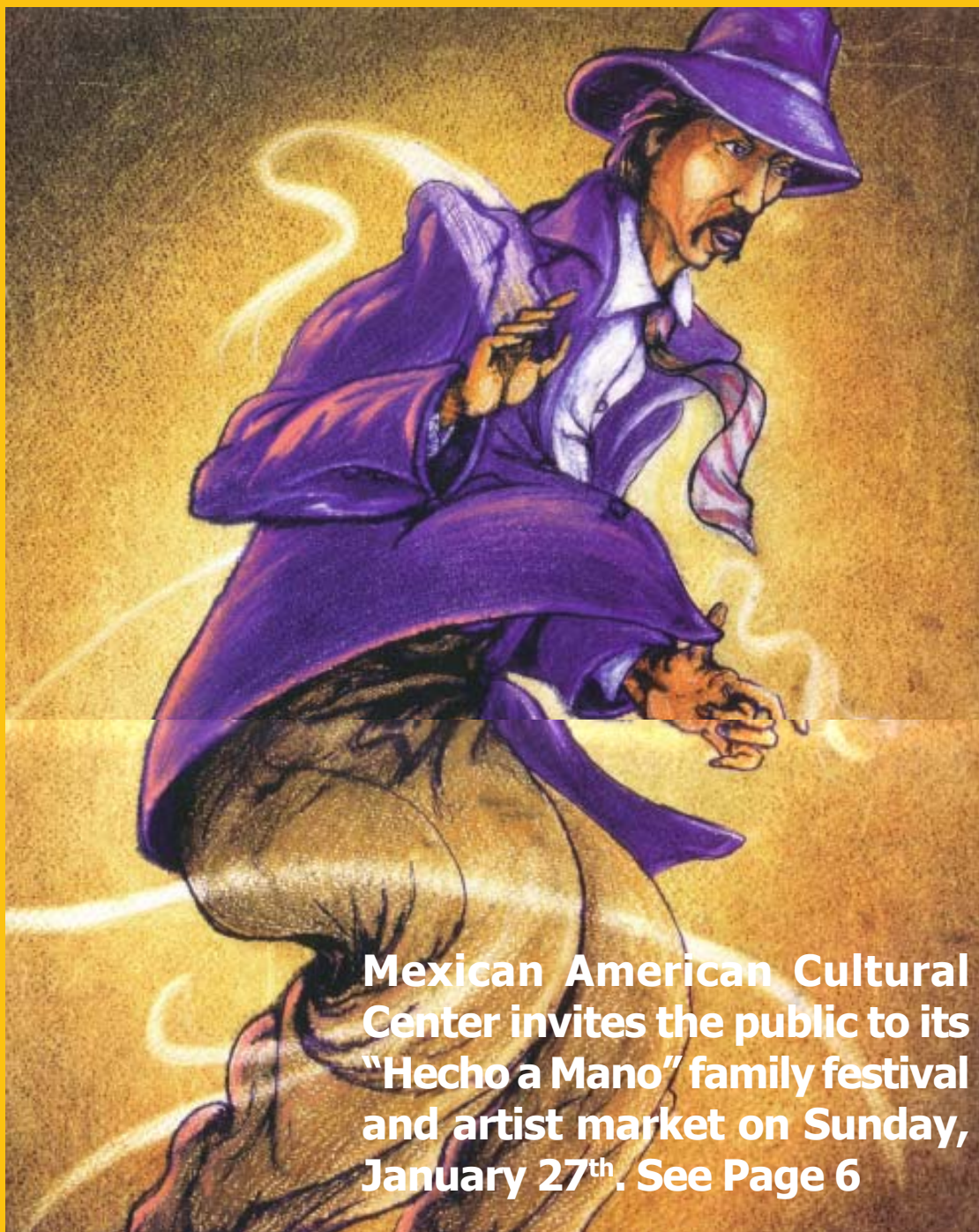
Gallon of Gas \$.20

Gallon of Milk \$.97

Dow Jones Average - 270

President - Harry Truman

Vice-President - Alben Barkley



Mexican American Cultural Center invites the public to its "Hecho a Mano" family festival and artist market on Sunday, January 27th. See Page 6

People in the News



Murano Named New President of Texas A&M

Dr. Elsa A. Murano was named the 23rd President of **Texas A&M University** on Jan. 3, 2008. She is the first woman and first Hispanic-American to serve as President of the oldest public university of higher learning in Texas.

Dr. Murano has served since January 2005 as **Vice Chancellor of Agriculture and Life Sciences** for **The Texas A&M University System** and as **Dean of Agriculture and Life Sciences** for the University.

From October 2001 through 2004, she was **Under Secretary for Food Safety** with the **U.S. Department of Agriculture**, as appointed by **President George W. Bush**. Prior to her **USDA** service, **Dr. Murano** was a Professor in the Department of Animal Science at **Texas A&M University** and holder of the **Sadie Hatfield Professorship in Agriculture**. She joined the **Texas A&M** faculty in 1995.

Dr. Murano was an **Assistant Professor** in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Preventative Medicine at **Iowa State University** from 1990 until her appointment to the **Texas A&M** faculty. She received a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from **Florida International University**, and earned both a master's degree in anaerobic microbiology and a doctorate in food science and technology from **Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University**. She is a native of **Havana, Cuba**.

A noted expert on food safety, **Dr. Murano** was principal

investigator or co-principal investigator in research projects totaling more than \$8.7 million while a faculty member at Iowa State and Texas A&M universities. She has been widely published, as author or co-author of seven books, book chapters or monographs, and scores of scholarly papers, abstracts and related materials.



Maldonado Files for Texas State Representative

Diana Maldonado has filed to run as a Democrat for **Texas State Representative** in District 52 which is contained entirely in **Williamson County**. She has no opponents in the March 4th Primary.

Republican Mike Krusee, who currently holds the seat decided in November of 2007 to not seek re-election. A total of four candidates have filed in the 2008 Republican Primary.

Maldonado, who has already been twice elected to the **Round Rock Independent School District Board of Trustees** and is its immediate past president says she will work hard to bring solutions to the problems in her district.

She is an award-winning government efficiency expert with the **Texas Comptroller's** office, where she's worked for 20 years. **Diana** earned her Bachelor's in Business Management in 2000, graduated magna cum laude from **St. Edward's University New College** and was on the dean's list while working full-time. She is a member of **St. William's Catholic Church** and is mother of two children.



Linda Yañez is Running for a Spot in the Texas Supreme Court

Linda Yañez, a Justice in the **13th Court of Appeals** has filed as a Democrat for **Place 8** on the **Texas Supreme Court**. **Yañez** said she could no longer turn a blind eye to the "extreme right judicial activism" of our state's highest court. One of the highest profile examples of the current brand of judicial activism is the case of **Duenez v F.F.P.**

"I authored the Court of Appeals' decision that affirmed the jury's verdict in favor of the brain damaged child victim of the drunk driver," Yañez noted. "The current members of our state's highest court reversed a jury verdict, ignored the Dram Shop Law, and overturned their own prior ruling in the same case after an election took place."

Yañez, was appointed to the Thirteenth Court of Appeals in 1993 by **Governor Ann Richards** - making her the first Hispanic woman to serve in an appellate court in history of Texas. She received her first law degree from **Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law** in 1976 and her Masters of Laws from the **University of Virginia** in 1998.



Hector Najera New Intern at Austin Voices for Education and Youth

Hector Najera is from **Escondido, California**, attends college in **Bennington, Vermont** and will be spending the next six weeks in **Austin, Texas** as an intern with **Austin Voices for Education and Youth**.

Originally from **Oaxaca, Mexico**, **Najera** graduated from high school in Southern California. During the 2004-2005 year he served as the student President of the **CLYLP (Chicano-Latino Youth Leadership Project)**.

He is currently the President of **Bennington College's** student government **Hector** believes that the youth have a voice relevant to any decision made about their schools. As adults, he says, we often assume we know what is best for students without taking their opinions into account. It is for this reason—to see students taking charge of their education—that he decided to intern for **Austin Voices**.



Dr. De la Teja Elected President of TACHE

Dr. Magda de la Teja, is the President-Elect of the **Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE)**. She take the helm of this 34 year old professional organization in February during its annual conference in **Austin**.

Currently she is the **Dean of Student Services, South Austin Campus** at **Austin Community College**. In this position she spends a great deal of time helping students find the resources they need in order to complete their education at **ACC**.

De la Teja earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in speech communication from the **University of Texas at Austin**. She later returned to the university and obtained her Ph.D. in higher-ed administration.

After a working at a number of jobs in the field of education she returned to **The University of Texas at Austin** and earned her law degree.

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STATEMENT**

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Pensamientos del Año Nuevo

Pues aquí estamos en el año ... 2008. Como son las cosas? Pa decirte la mera verdad no pensaba que iba estar viviendo y trabajando aquí en **Austin, Texas**. Después de muchos años en **California, Indiana, Houston** y otras partes, había regresado a mi pueblo de **Uvalde, Texas** en 1996 con las intenciones de escribir unos libros y reflejarme un poco de la vida.

Pero hace tres años se presentaron unos oportunidades de asistir a la universidad de vuelta. Había terminado mi maestría y todavía tenía el deseo de acabar el doctorado. No porque creo que me va ayudar conseguir un trabajo mejor. No, a mi edad, realmente ese tren ya paso. Quiero terminar el doctorado porque hace muchos años estaba en un programa en la **Universidad de Notre Dame** y me sali sin acabar. Regrese a **Tejas** con mucha pena y tuve que empezar en zero. Pero nunca, como quien dice, se me apago esa vela educativo.

Así es que, sea por terco o por otra cosa, tengo en la mente que hay que acabar esta meta de sacar el doctorado. Vamos a ver que pasa aquí en **Austin**. Por lo pronto Happy New Year a todos ustedes y a sus familiares.

**Cambiando
de Temas**

Dejame comentar por un momento en en esfuerzo que realizamos para encontrar los 25 Latinos más influyentes en **Austin**. En cada pueblo donde he vivido, siempre hay personas que se encuentran trabajando en la comunidad tratando de mejor las cosas. En cada pueblo existen individuos que se avientan para

organizar actividades en su comunidad. Estas personas siempre estan dando de su tiempo y en veces de su propio dinero para realizar proyectos y ayudar a la gente.

Cuando la gente empezo a votar por las personas más influyentes se podía ver que las personas que estaban escojiendo eran personas de arranque. Personas que de deveras mercian este reconocimiento. Así es que, con gusto queremos decir a todo los que participaron en la votació el mes pasado, muchas gracias.

**Cambiando
de Temas**

Como ya saben todos, ya llevo la temporada de las elecciones, de votar, de hacer propaganda y que se yo. Lo intersante con los que se han postulado para presidencia de los United States es que todos quieren hablar de cambio. Todos andan con el mensaje de "change." Change has become the big buzz word.

But I don't understand. I remember several years ago in **Uvalde, Texas**, there was a big political rally at the civic center. **John Sharp** was running for some office. He and **Kirk Watson** came to the rally and while **Sharp** was speaking he said, "*Nobody likes change except a baby in a wet diaper.*" The crowd roared with laughter because it was indeed very funny. The Mexicans in the crowd laughed also, but their laughter was more nervous.

So now some years later, "change" is not so funny anymore. It seems that it has become a serious topic of the current campaigns. Voy a seguir escuchando

lo que estan diciendo los candidatos pero este idea de "cambio" se me hace que va tronar con tiempo. Como dicen en English, something very fishy is going on here. I predict this "change idea" is going to take a very interesting turn.

Es más, when we were doing the Chicano Movement some 30 years ago, we were talking about change and a lot of people didn't want to hear what we had to so say. It's like the immigration issue today. People say they want immigration reform, pero la mera verdad es que, too many people are benefiting from the way things are.

**Cambiando
de Temas**

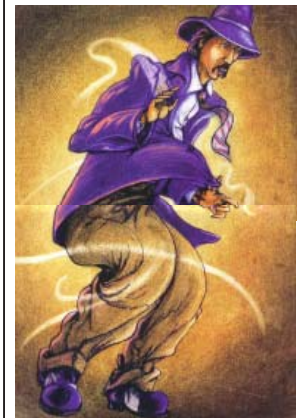
Ahora, unos cuantos comentarios sobre el contenido de este ejemplar de **La Voz de Austin**. Our main story is a take off on the **University of Texas** tuition increases that are starting to get the attention of an increasing number of students.

Before the Christmas break a group of students staged some protest activity to call attention to the proposed increases that were being considered. These students are correct to call attention to what they see as a growing problem. We join them in their efforts to call attention to the tuition issue by our reserarch contribution on pages 8 and 9.

In the coming months we will turn our focus toward the primary elections and the extent to which Latinos are participating. Expect to see reports on campagin contributions, voter turnout and platform issues that various candidates will lay claim to. Es todo!



Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor & Publisher

On the Cover

I was at an event at the Mexican American Cultural Center and saw the artwork above as a poster. I took one and found that the artist is a man named Carlos Callejos from El Paso, Texas. We tried several times to locate him in El Paso, but no one seemed to know his whereabouts. Maybe we even got the name wrong. In any event, if anyone knows who this artist is, please have him/her contact us. We have a check for them.

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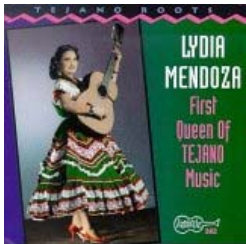
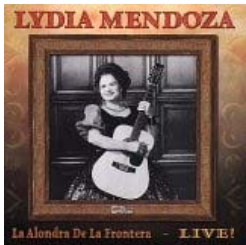
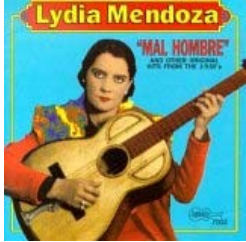
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(512) 586-4626

Lydia Mendoza Passes Away at 91 Years of Age

by Barbara Renaud Gonzales



If you don't know who she was, ask your grandmother, who likely remembers her and her twelve-string guitar at the **Plaza del Zacate** in **San Antonio, Texas**, with the chili queens in the early 1930s. She sang, literally, for pennies, as part of a struggling musical family following the migrant route to **Michigan** and back, until she was signed to the Blue Bird label. One of her songs, *Mal Hombre*, was an overnight success, when she was just 17 years old.



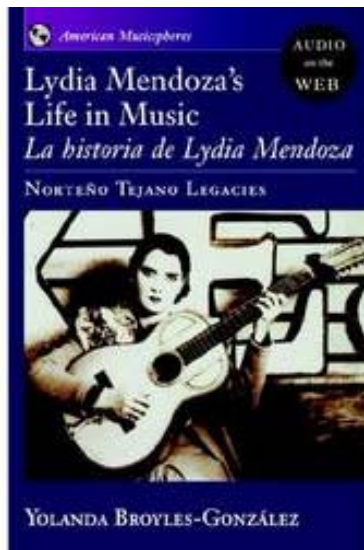
She emerged as one of the few *tejanas* to gain national prominence in a time when few women were encouraged to pursue a musical career. Throughout her life, until she suffered a stroke in 1988, she was beloved for singing the songs of the poor, working-class *mexicanos* she came from, as *la cancionera de los pobres* and *la alondra de la frontera*.

In 1982, **Lydia Mendoza** became the first Texan to receive a **National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Award**. Her last public appearance was a tribute to her, **A Serenata to Lydia Mendoza**, for her 90th birthday, presented by the **Esperanza Peace and Justice Center** at the **Plaza Guadalupe** in September 2006.

It rained that night, and **Lydia Mendoza's** illness prevented her from singing for the thousands who came to just see her, and show their *respeto* to the woman who knew a thousand songs about their lives, their joys, and their sorrow. She learned the words when she was a little girl in **Monterrey, Mexico**, from bubble-gum wrappers, listening to the men who sang those songs, teaching herself to play the mandolin, the guitar, the violin, the piano, the bass fiddle.

Adios, **Lydia**. I will remember you as the rain that falls in **Texas**, the softest *lluvia*, and the kind that haunts you all the way home.

RIGHT: The cover of the book on the life of Lydia Mendoza by Dr. Yolanda Broyles-Gonzalez.



Young Hispanic Professional Austin Association

YHPAA Professional Development Series:

"Critical Choices that Change Lives"

by Author: Daniel R. Castro

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The Hidden Cost of Remedial Education

By Brooke Dollens Terry

Last spring, angry parents protested that their kids could not walk across the stage at high school graduation ceremonies because they failed the **TAKS** test. What should really upset parents is the false notion that every student receiving a diploma is ready for college. Too many students graduate from high school with insufficient skills to succeed in college, and have to repeat high school material at two- and four-year colleges.

Last year, 35 percent of all freshmen at **Texas** public higher education institutions had to enroll in at least one remedial education course because they were unprepared for college-level work in math, reading, or writing. This equates to more than 162,000 incoming freshmen expending time and energy on remedial coursework that does not count toward their degree.

ACT, a national college entrance testing company, concluded that a mere 19 percent of this spring's **Texas** high school graduates were ready for college-level courses in math, science, reading, and English. Sending poorly prepared students to college is costly for institutions of higher learning, for students, for taxpayers, and for the

economy. Colleges and universities should not have to spend precious time and resources to re-teach basic skills before students are ready for college-level work.

But during the last academic year, the **University of Houston** taught remedial math to 924 students, remedial reading to 95, and remedial writing to 172. **San Antonio's University of the Incarnate Word** taught remedial math to 306 students and remedial reading and writing to 230. Even students at one of **Texas'** flagship universities, the **University of Texas at Austin**, needed remedial help. Last year, 113 students needed help with basic math and algebra, 29 with basic reading, and 23 with basic writing.

These numbers demonstrate a wide disconnect between high school preparation and college expectations. Remedial education makes the attainment



Brooke Dollens Terry

of a college degree less likely; in fact, it is the leading predictor that a student will drop out of college.

The National Center for Education Statistics reports that only 17 percent of students who enroll in a remedial reading course receive a bachelor's degree within eight years. In general, less education means lower earnings over a worker's lifetime. Remedial education is also a drain on taxpayers.

When students take remedial education courses in college, taxpayers wind up paying for the same material to be taught twice. Because taxpayers finance remedial education through local property taxes, state general revenue funds, federal income taxes, and other local taxes, it is difficult to determine the total cost to taxpayers. But last year's state budget appropriated \$206 million to public higher education institutions for the instructional cost of developmental (remedial) education.

Lastly, the large need for remedial education hurts the economy. **The Alliance for Excellent Education** estimates the nation loses \$2.3 billion a year from lost earnings. Other research suggests remedial education costs Texas more than \$13.6 billion a year in reduced earning potential, poor worker productivity, increased spending on social programs, and direct costs of remediation.

To restore the value of a high school diploma and ensure that students are college ready, high schools must return their focus to teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic skills. The state should also raise high school standards so that students cannot graduate with deficits in these critical areas.

The goal of every high school should be to prepare all students to be able to enter college or the workforce without the need for remediation, because all of us pay the price when Texas students don't learn the first time around.

Brooke Dollens Terry is an education policy analyst at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a non-profit, free-market research institute based in Austin.

How I learned English

by Angel Espinosa

When I came to the United States I didn't know any English. I was living for several months with my aunt and then I went to **Palm School**. I didn't understand anything and I would cry. Then I said, I came to the United States to learn English and obtain a job that I would like. Afterwards I would stay after school to learn how to speak English well.


The school year ended and I was passed to the 6th grade where I learned more English and then my mother informed us that we would be moving in about 6 months and that I would have to change schools. Soon we moved into another apartment where we didn't know anyone. We never went out because we didn't have an automobile.

Afterwards we met many people and we got to play with them. A friend of mine at school told me there was a place where students could go to do their homework and that it was called **River City**. My mother told us that she would take me to enroll. We went there for about two weeks and got to meet everyone and went to all the fiestas that **Miss Mona** would put on for everyone in the barrio.

Many children from my school would go (to River City) because it was cool and fun and you never got bored because there were computers to play on. I went every day because I didn't have anyone to help me with my home work. At **River City** there was someone to help me with my homework.


I met a new friend there and we are still friends today. He and I would go to all the fiestas at **River City**. Once we went to **Six Flags Over Texas** and he was afraid of heights. But I convinced him to get on one of the rides with me. On another trip we went to **Splash Town** in **San Antonio** which is a water park and we were there all day.

Well, that is how I arrived at **River City** and I now speak English. If it were not for **River City** I might have not been able to learn English as well because they helped me much more than the regular school did. I have now gotten used to the new apartment and the many friends who live next door. One day I am going to go back to **Mexico** to visit my family.



CENA CON LA CÁMARA

"DINNER WITH THE CHAMBER"



GAHCC and AISD want to provide you an overview with exciting changes at Travis High School. Come and learn more about the tools parents can use to ensure their child's academic success!

Students of Travis High School, their parents, and the community are welcome to come out and have dinner with the Chamber at the
Travis High School Cafeteria
 on **January 29, 2008.**

Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.
Program will begin at 6:30 p.m.

FREE Childcare!!
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To RSVP please contact Selina Aguirre @
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Liberal Arts and Science Academy High School is Now Recruiting Students



"Coming from a Hispanic background, I know it can be hard for some students to enroll in a high school that seems far from their reach because they feel like they don't belong and would stand out in the crowd. In my search for a high school that would please me, the Liberal Arts and Science High School stood out to me. This was not only because of its rigorous courses, but also for everything else it had to offer."

Karla Berrones
Junior

"Throughout my years at LASA, the program has enriched my education and not only made me a better scholar, but as well a better person. With the great faculty and the hands-on experience, it has provided me with opportunities and knowledge for me to exceed in college and pass expectations of other people. LASA has helped me prepare for the obstacles that I might face in life and encouraged me to do the best that I can"

Marzavia Crayton
Junior



Liberal Arts and Science Academy High School

7309 Lazy Creek Drive
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Fax: (512) 414-6050
website: www.lasaonline.org
email: lasa@lbjhs.net

The Liberal Arts and Science High School is the advanced academic magnet high school program of the Austin Independent School District. It offers a rigorous, innovative, interdisciplinary curriculum that educates socially responsible leaders, problem solvers, and thinkers. The school is a founding member of the National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics, Science and Technology.

The Mexican American Cultural Center Last Sunday of Every Month Family Festival and Artist Market Rain or shine!!!!



AUSTIN, TX – The City of Austin's **Mexican American Cultural Center** invites the public to its "Hecho a Mano" family festival and artist market on Sunday, January 27th. Rain or shine, the community gathering offers original art, crafts, food, live music, family theater, community forums and screenings.

As part of the festival, the gallery will offer the community a once in a lifetime opportunity to have their portraits designed in charcoal by currently exhibiting portrait artist **Carlos Rivera Pineda**. Sittings will be scheduled starting at noon with the last sitting at 3 p.m. The portraits will be scheduled on a first come first serve basis and cost is \$50 per portrait. All proceeds will support the **MACC Gallery** programs. Children who visit the gallery will enjoy the chance to learn portrait drawing in a hands-on art activity. These activities highlight the current exhibits, which will be on display through February 23, 2008: *Hacia la Vida* (Toward Life): A retrospective of over 30 works by artist **Carlos Rivera Pineda** and *Embracing Chaos*: The 12th Annual Young Latino Artists Exhibition organized by Mexic-Arte Museum featuring six emerging Latino artists from Texas.

Also taking place on January 27th, 2008 are the following activities:

11:00 – 5:00: Artist vendors, authors and food

1:00-2:00: Demo featuring the artists **Pilar Casterjon** – "Not Just Your Ordinary Paper Mâché" and International quilter **Martha Tshilas**' "Beginning Quilting" from **Del Sol Quilts**. Both will be conducting upcoming classes at the **MACC**.

1:00 – 2:30: A free screening of **NALIP-Austin's Mini-Movies**. **NALIP-Austin** is the local chapter of the **National Association of Latino Independent Producers** who will be on hand to discuss to do a membership drive and answer questions about the Austin Latino film community.

2:00: **Barco de Teatro** (family theater series) presents: Performance Encounter's "Canciones for Generations" by **Leticia Rodriguez** who explores the origins of her Tejana heritage beginning with a beauty pageant and the question, is she or is she not... a coconut?

2:30 – 3:30: **Tardeada: Mariachi Diamante** - Live music

3:30 – 4:30: **Community Forum**: The **MACC Advisory Board** invites community organizations and individuals to an open forum on the uses of the **Mexican American Cultural Center**. Bring your questions/comments about how the **MACC** can be part of your activities and programs.

What: *Hecho a Mano* Monthly Festival and Artist Market

When: Sunday, January 27, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Where: Mexican American Cultural Center 600 River Street Austin, TX 78701

Contact: Amparo Garcia-Crow, Program Manager 512-478-6222

Hail to the New Chief at TABC

by Mary Cardwell

Joel Moreno recently became the first Hispanic chief of enforcement and operations for the **Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC)** one of the highest positions ever held by a Hispanic at the agency. The **TABC** employs nearly 700 employees across the state, and is the state agency responsible for regulating and supervising all aspects of the alcoholic beverage industry in Texas.

"Chief Moreno represents the changing face of the agency, the state and the nation. His promotion represents the agency's strong commitment to diversity and continuous movement toward a modern era of inclusion and opportunity for all," says **TABC Commissioner José Cuevas**.

He's earned his place among the agency's top leaders by virtue of his achievements . . .

He's earned his place among the agency's top leaders by virtue of his achievements and a character forged by a personal understanding of struggle and hardship, education and opportunity. *"His rise through the ranks serves as a beacon for other minority employees to show them that not only do they belong in the organization, but they are leading the agency,"* **Commissioner Cuevas** continues.

A humble man, **Chief Moreno** speaks with soft-spoken humility and generous respect, *"I don't want to be known for being the first Hispanic chief of enforcement. I want to be known for having provided the best services possible for the people of*

Texas," **Moreno** says. *"The badge doesn't belong to me; it belongs to the people."*

Humble Beginnings

As the son of farm workers, he was picking tomatoes in the hot, steaming fields of the **Rio Grande Valley** by the time he was 11 years old, an age when most kids were watching TV in the comfort of air-conditioned homes.

When he was 15, he made a life-changing decision. That summer, he rode in the back of a dusty, rumbling pickup for more than a thousand miles from **McAllen to Minnesota** as his family followed another ripe crop to keep food on the table. After 18 straight hours of unloading 100-pound sacks of potatoes from a railroad car, **Joel** realized he needed to follow his mother's advice and pursue a higher education. And so he did.

Chief Moreno found his way into college and went on to earn his bachelor of science degree in criminal justice at the **Pan American University** in **Edinburg, Texas**. He then went to work for the **McAllen Police Department** in 1980.

In 1985 he was hired by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission and over the last 22 years has worked his way up the ranks

In 1985 he was hired by the **Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission** and over the last 22 years has worked his way up the ranks of **TABC** in **Laredo, McAllen, Brownsville, Houston, Corpus Christi, Odessa** and **Austin**. Recently, the **Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards**

and **Education** awarded him a master peace officer certification for the 27 years he has served the public as a peace officer.

Positive optimism defines his demeanor and defies the hardships of his youth. Always quick with a kind word of encouragement, he remains grateful for his good fortune and the lessons learned from his life in the barrio. *"Each time I go back to the projects, I look for the children. I can see myself in those kids. I was that kid,"* he reflects.

Change Agent.

Always on the move, **Chief Moreno** brings his dedication to public service wherever he goes. He builds community, inspires unity, encourages dreams and instills the confidence to achieve them. With every opportunity, **Chief Moreno** advocates for education. He reaches out to make a difference. *"I encourage the kids to dream big and get a good education. I go out to the neighborhoods because I want to gain the trust of the community, especially minority communities,"* he says.

Armed with a sincere desire to make a difference in a child's life, **Chief Moreno** travels across the state to speak at schools and community events to raise awareness about the dangers and consequences of underage drinking. He says emphatically, *"I want community leaders to believe that education builds strength in a community a strength that can bring about social change."*



Chief Moreno

Public Servant.

Ensuring public safety is among his most important missions as chief, especially the enforcement of underage drinking laws. *"One of the greatest threats to our youth and their future is underage drinking. By bringing together people with a common purpose and building community partnerships, we have a better chance of reaching our young people with a prevention message,"* he says. *"I want people to know the TABC is not only about enforcement and regulation. We aren't the bad guys, we're here to help."*



A GLIMMER OF HOPE
FOUNDATION



**THE CAMPAIGN TO MAKE
POVERTY HISTORY**

A Glimmer of Hope Foundation is requesting proposals for funding from nonprofit organizations working with disadvantaged youth (25 years and under) in East and South Austin. Other areas (zip codes) that are eligible include: 78751, 78752, 78757, 78758. For more information and grant guidelines, please visit, www.aglimmerofhope.org or call 328-9944. Deadline for submission is January 15, 2008 - 5:00pm

Ramen Noodles, Salaries Is there a Real Connection?



The rising cost of an education at The University of Texas at Austin has many students concerned. As it continues to become more expensive to obtain at UT degree, students are having to find creative ways to pay for their education.

As the Texas Legislative finds creative ways to contribute less and less money to the University, students must make up the difference.

To be sure there are many factors that contribute to the rising cost of an education. We thought that in order to put more of a face on this issue it would be a good idea to attach some names and salaries to the on ongoing discussion of the increasing tuition cost.

The list on your right was provided by The University of Texas at Austin under the Texas Open Records Act. The Ramen Noodles on your left were provided by a local HEB. The data below was provided by UT Watch, an organization that follows the affairs of the University of Texas closely. How much more can students afford to pay for a college education?

Tuition and Fees at The University of Texas at Austin from 1970 to 2008

1970	\$104 for 15 Hours
1975	\$195 for 15 Hours
1980	\$226 for 15 Hours
1985	\$364 for 15 Hours
1988	\$487 for 15 Hours
1990	\$521 for 15 Hours
1991	\$615 for 15 Hours
1992	\$761 for 15 Hours
1995	\$1,007 for 15 Hours
2000	\$1,963 for 15 Hours
2002	\$2,357 for 15 Hours
2004	\$3,075 for 15 Hours
2008	\$3,835 for 15 Hours

	NAME	ANNUAL SALARY
1	BROWN, WILLIAM (Mack)	2,500,000
2	BARNES, RICHARD D	2,000,000
3	GOESTENKORS, GAILA	1,000,000
4	GARRIDO, AUGUST E JR.	610,000
5	DODDS, DARRELL D	589,700
6	POWERS, WILLIAM C JR	577,500
7	WEINBERG, STEVEN	488,600
8	SAGER, LAWRENCE	365,000
9	HEGARTY, KEVIN P	353,900
10	LESLIE, STEVEN W	353,600
11	LAMBOWITZ, ALAN	353,300
12	TITMAN, SHERIDAN	350,900
13	GAU, GEORGE W	332,500
14	CAFFARELLI, LUIS A.	318,200
15	ENGQUIST, BJORN	318,200
16	JOHNSTON, DANIEL	308,000
17	DAVIS, GREGORY L	301,400
18	LANGLOIS, JUDITH	297,300
19	VINCENT, GREGORY J	295,500
20	EASON, RICHARD B	295,400
21	STEINBERG, JAMES B	295,000
22	SAGE, WILLIAM M	294,900
23	STREETMAN, BEN G	293,700
24	PLONSKY, CHRISTINE A	290,800
25	BARRON, ERIC J	285,000
26	RANKIN, MARY ANN R	283,000
27	STARKS, LAURA T	282,700
28	ODEN, J TINSLEY	280,600
29	KINNEY, WILLIAM R JR	274,300
30	DUKERICH, JANET M	272,600
31	SCHWITTERS, ROY F	271,300
32	HIRST, D ERIC	269,800
33	SANCHEZ, JUAN M	261,100
34	LAMBERT, DAVID L	260,300
35	DIEHL, RANDY L	260,000
36	MONTI, STEPHEN A	258,000
37	CLUBB, PATRICIA L	256,000
38	HUGHES, THOMAS J	255,900
39	ALDRICH, RICHARD W	255,000
40	TINKER, SCOTT W	254,000
41	AKINA, DUANE K	250,000
42	HARRIS, RADRON	250,000
43	DOLLING, DAVID S	249,300
44	JUSTIZ, MANUEL J	248,800
45	HART, RODERICK P	248,000
46	ROBERTS, BRIAN E	247,200
47	EKLAND-OLSON, SHELDON	246,000
48	ROUECHE, JOHN E JR	245,300
49	GERGEN, MARK P	244,700
50.	FAIR, HARRY D	243,400

Salaries and UT Tuition Relationship?

ANNUAL SALARY	POSITION AT THE UNIVERSITY
\$1,000,000.00	Head Football Coach
\$1,000,000.00	Head Men's Basketball Coach
\$1,000,000.00	Head Women's Basketball Coach
\$1,000,000.00	Head Baseball Coach
\$1,750,000.00	Athletics Director for Men
\$1,500,000.00	President of the University of Texas at Austin
\$1,508,000.00	Jack S. Josey-Welch Foundation Chair in Science and Regental Professor and member of the Physics and Astronomy Departments
\$1,000,000.00	Dean of the Law School and John Jeffers Research Chair in Law Alice Jane Drysdale Sheffield Regents Chair
\$1,995,000.00	Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the University of Texas at Austin
\$1,500,000.00	Executive Vice President and Provost
\$1,333,000.00	Director, Institute for Cellular and Molecular Biology Mr. and Mrs. A. Frank Smith, Jr. and Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Regents Chairs in Molecular Biology
\$1,967,000.00	Professor, Walter W. McAllister Centennial Chair in Financial Services
\$1,500,000.00	Dean and Professor McCombs School of Business
\$1,200,000.00	Professor of Mathematics
\$1,200,000.00	Professor, Computational and Applied Mathematics Chair I, Department of Mathematics
\$1,000,000.00	Karl S. Folkers Chair in Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research, Professor of Neurobiology, Director, Center for Learning & Memory, & Dir. Institute for Neuroscience
\$1,440,000.00	Assistant Football Coach
\$1,333,000.00	Charles and Sarah Seay Regents' Professor of Developmental Psychology
\$1,500,000.00	Vice President for Diversity & Community Engagement
\$1,404,000.00	Vice President for Development
\$1,000,000.00	Dean of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs
\$1,925,000.00	Vice Provost for Health Affairs James R. Dougherty Chair for Faculty Excellence
\$1,750,000.00	Dean of the University of Texas College of Engineering
\$1,300,000.00	Athletics Director for Women
\$1,000,000.00	Dean of the Jackson School of Geosciences at The University of Texas at Austin
\$1,000,000.00	Dean of the College of Natural Sciences
\$1,700,000.00	Director, Charles E. & Sara M. Seay Regents' Chair in Business Administration Department of Finance
\$1,556,000.00	Associate Vice President for Research Director, Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences
\$1,300,000.00	Charles & Elizabeth Prothro Regents Chair in Business and Price Waterhouse Fellow in Auditing
\$1,378,000.00	Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs The William H. Arlitt Jr. Professor of Management
\$1,333,000.00	S.W. Richardson Foundation Regental Professor of Physics
\$1,367,000.00	Associate dean for graduate programs at the McCombs School of Business,
\$1,182,000.00	Vice President for Research at The UT and holder of the Temple Foundation Endowed Professorship # 4 in the Department of Mechanical Engineering
\$1,333,000.00	Professor of astrophysics at The University of Texas at Austin
\$1,000,000.00	Professor and David Bruton Jr. Regents Chair in Liberal Arts
\$1,000,000.00	Executive Vice Provost and Professor of ChemistryThe University of Texas at Austin
\$1,048,000.00	Vice president for employee and campus services
\$1,981,000.00	professor of aerospace engineering and engineering mechanics
\$1,000,000.00	Karl S. Folkers Chair II in Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Professor & Chair, Neurobiology
\$1,097,000.00	Director, Bureau of Economic Geology Bureau of Economic Geology The University of Texas
\$1,000,000.00	Co-defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach for the University of Texas Longhorn football team
\$1,000,000.00	M. June and J. Virgil Waggoner Chair in Molecular Biology and will head the Center for the Study of Alcohol and Drug Dependence
\$1,387,000.00	Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the College of Engineering at UT Austin
\$1,500,000.00	Dean of The University of Texas at Austin College of Education
\$1,000,000.00	Dean, College of Communication
\$1,200,000.00	Vice president for information technology
\$1,000,000.00	Executive vice president and provost of The University of Texas at Austin
\$1,336,000.00	Sid W. Richardson Regents Chair in Community College Leadership
\$1,798,000.00	The Fondren Foundation Centennial Chair for Faculty Excellence at the University of Texas Law School
\$1,448,000.00	Director Institute for Advanced Technology The University of Texas at Austin

New BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mexican American Center for Community and Economic Development is pleased to announce the fourth edition of The Directory of 100 - A Guide to Latino Organizations in Austin, Texas. This directory continues the tradition set by long time Austin community activist Martha Cotera who produced the first directory in 1976.

Each organization has been contacted personally to confirm their existence and the accuracy of their organization's public profile. The directory is updated regularly and contains the name of the organization contact, mailing address, telephone number, fax number, email address, website address, number of members, and the year the organization was founded.

Included in this directory are 159 Latino organizations in the following categories:

For more information about the directory please visit: www.mexicanamericancenter.com or call (512) 944-4123.

The Directory of 100

A Guide to
Latino Organizations in
Austin, Texas

2008

Mexican American Center
for Community and Economic Development

Directory Categories

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Arts | 9. Music |
| 2. Business | 10. Political |
| 3. Civic | 11. Professional |
| 4. Cultural | 12. Religious |
| 5. Dance | 13. Social Services |
| 6. Educational | 14. Student |
| 7. Immigrant | 15. Theater. |
| 8. Media | 16. Otras |

Diana Maldonado

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 52

As a former President of the Round Rock Independent School District Board of Trustees and mother of two children, I have a strong interest in making sure our public schools are the best in the country. I have worked hard to make sure our classrooms were fully funded and staffed with terrific, professional teachers. All Texas school children deserve the same level of commitment and investment in their futures.

I'm running for State Representative in District 52 because we need leadership that represents people, not special interests or a particular political ideology. After twenty-two years as an award winning government efficiency expert in the Texas Comptroller's Office, as a single mom with two kids in college and a track record of success in building diverse coalitions and achieving my goals - I stand ready to join you in the effort to bring balance and common sense back to our Legislature.

Thank you,

Diana Maldonado



Education and Background

Diana earned her Bachelor's in Business Management in 2000 and graduated magna cum laude from St. Edward's University New College. She is a member of St. William's Catholic Church and is a member of the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas and member of the board of the Hispanic Scholarship Consortium.

For more information please visit: www.dianamaldonado.com or call 512-573-3630

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hay espacio en la nuestra**
Hasta 1 mes de renta GRATIS



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Austin, Texas 78745
(512) 441-3955



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Latino Cultural Quiz # 3

How much do you know about La Raza? ¿Qué tanto sabes de La Raza? Take the Latino Cultural Quiz and find out! There are three sections to this quiz. The first section is worth 27 points and is "True or False." The second section is a matching exercise and is worth 42 points. The final section is "Multiple Choice" and it is worth 36 points. Total points = 105. The answers to this quiz are on page 15. ¡No se vale peek!

TRUE OR FALSE SECTION

- LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) was founded in 1939.
True False
- Another name for the Rio Grande River is the Rio Bravo.
True False
- El Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan was started in 1898.
True False
- Gus Garcia was the Mayor of Austin in the 1990s.
True False
- Mocos come from the Latin derivative Mocuim.
True False
- When Chevrolet introduced the Nova in the 1960s, it did not sell well in Latin American because some believed that "No va" meant the auto wouldn't run.
True False
- There is currently no Tejano music in Austin.
True False
- Mac Brown, the head coach of the Texas Longhorns earns 2.5 million dollars a year.
True False
- The best Tex Mex taqueria in Austin is *Los Abarrotes* on Tillery and Lyons St. in E. Austin.
True False

MATCHING SECTION

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 10. Buñuelos | a Austin City Council member |
| 11. El Milago | b Celery |
| 12. Mike Martinez | c Tejano who killed a sheriff because of misunderstanding. |
| 13. Apio | d Eggs with potatoes |
| 14. Tacuachito | e Candidate for the Democratic nomination for United States Senate (Tx) |
| 15. Ajo | f Garlic |
| 16. Rollas | g A Mexican pastry |
| 17. Diana Maldonado | h Slang for records or songs |
| 18. Huevos revueltos | i Political party created in the 1970s as part of the Chicano Movement |
| 19. Huevos con papas | j Manager of the Mexican American Cultural Center in Austin, Texas |
| 20. A huevo | k You don't know me |
| 21. Gregorio Cortez | l The Primary Elections held in even numbered years |
| 22. Francisco Madera | m Chicken soup |
| 23. Los Reyes Magos | n A style of dancing made famous by Tony de la Rosa when he slowed down the tempo of Conjunto Music |
| 24. Mantequilla | o Butter |
| 25. Caldo de pollo | p The three wise men, Melchor, Gaspar y Baltasar |
| 26. La Raza Unida Party | q One time President of Mexico |
| 27. Las Primarias | r Scrambled eggs |
| 28. Amparo Garcia Crow | s Slang for "by force" |
| 29. Rick Noriega | t Candidate for Texas State Rep. |
| 30. Tu no me conoces | u The Miracle |

MULTIPLE CHOICE SECTION

- One of Lola Beltran's best interpretations was:
a. Ella
b. Paloma Negra
c. Sin un Amor
d. Ya vete
- A Pesera is a:
a. Monetary unit
b. Someone heavy
c. A form of transportation
d. Someone very boring
- Some Anglos believe that one day Latinos:
a. Will earn too many college degrees
b. Marry too many Anglo women
c. Hold too many public offices
d. All of the above
- There are currently how many Latino legislators (Senators and State Representatives) in Texas?
a. 22
b. 10
c. 39
d. 30
- En aquellos tiempos mucha gente tenia miedo de:
a. Dormir afuera
b. Viajar de un pueblo a otro
c. La electricidad
d. La mamá de Pancho Villa

Bonus Question (Worth 5 points)

- The Mexican American singer Vikki Carr's real name is:
a. Maria de Jesus Guadalupe Flores
b. Florencia Bicenta de Casillas Martinez Cardona
c. Florinda Flores
d. Maria la Mentirosa de Martinez

3 points for each correct answer

2 points for each correct answer

6 points for each correct answer

Austin Voices Presents Photos from the Stand Up Club December Training in 2007

On December 8th, 2008, the **Austin Voices for Education and Youth** Stand Up Club members came together for a meeting with all the schools. Present were: **Reagan, Liberal Arts and Science Academy, Lanier, Akins and Johnston High Schools.** While the students meet weekly at their respective high schools, this was the first time this semester that they were all able to meet as a group. In addition to sharing with each other what is going on at their school with respect to High School Redesign, they had an opportunity to work on their action research projects and participate in a merchandising workshop where they made buttons.



ABOVE: From left to right **Lanier High School** students Ericka Romero, Irayda Santana and Rubi Campuzano.



ABOVE: Jermiah Wooley and Micheal Dunn from Reagan High School.



ABOVE: Brandy Evans and Christina Briggs from Akins High School.



ABOVE: Liz Carmona from Johnston High School shares a story about her school.



ABOVE: From left to right Liberal Arts and Science Academy students Marvellous Iheuer and Chelsea Ledbetter.

RIGHT: Students from **Akins High School** were working on the Teacher Profile Booklet.





GUADALUPE
CULTURAL ARTS CENTER
**27th ANNUAL
TEJANO CONJUNTO
FESTIVAL
EN SAN ANTONIO
POSTER CONTEST
2008**

CONJUNTO MUSIC

It was the Germans and other Europeans that brought over the button accordion and introduced it to the Mexicanos who were living in Texas and Northern Mexico during the mid-to-late 1800s. The Mexicanos adopted the accordion from these settlers, combined it with a Spanish/Mexican bajo sexto guitar and began playing polkas, waltzes, redovas, huapangos and singing corridos. The accordion and bajo sexto were, and still are, the primary instruments used in conjunto music. Later the bass guitar and drums were added and conjunto music went electric.

You've probably heard some of the popular conjuntos that are played on the radio such as Flaco Jimenez, Los Dos Gilbertos, Hometown Boys, Eva Ybarra, Mingo Saldivar, or Valerio Longoria.

Xicanos have created a unique, original American musical ensemble and style of music known as Conjunto. Check out a CD by the "Accordion Wizard" Esteban Jordan sometime. You might be surprised.

Eva Ybarra

Born to a musical family, Eva began playing the accordion at the age of six by watching her brother Pedro perform. With a near fanatic intensity, Eva listened to a wide variety of music on the radio, learned it, and doubled the complexity of the arrangement, creating a unique style in the tradition of Paulino Bernal and Oscar Hernandez.



RULES AND GUIDELINES

Submissions accepted in the following categories:
Junior High • High School • College • Open

AWARDS

Overall Winner - \$500.00 and the selection will become the official poster commemorating the 27th Annual Tejano Conjunto Festival en San Antonio, 2008.
Top Selection in each category (Jr. High, High School, College and Open) - \$50.00
Honorable Mention in each category - \$25.00

ENTRY FEES

\$10 per entry for artists in the College and Open categories.
Fee does not apply to Junior High and High School.
More than one entry may be submitted.
Checks should be made payable to the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center.

THEME

Conjunto Music - traditional music born in South Texas whose main instruments include the button accordion, bajo sexto, bass and drums. All the instruments do not need to be represented in the artwork but keep in mind that we are looking for a colorful, creative interpretation of conjunto music. Please no images of current and popular Tejano and Conjunto artists as this causes copyright problems.

SPECIFICATIONS

Works submitted must be 22 inches by 28 inches (22"x 28") and in the portrait (vertical) layout. All mediums (oils, acrylics, watercolors, etc.) are accepted and are the choice of the individual artist.
Poster board, canvas, illustration board or any other suitable material is acceptable.
The words **Tejano Conjunto Festival en San Antonio 2008** must be placed within the artwork. Do not sign the artwork as this is not conducive to impartial judging.

ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

All work submitted must be accompanied by the enclosed entry form. Copies of the entry form will be accepted as well as cards with the following information: name, address, phone number, e-mail address, medium and category. The entry form or card must be mounted on the upper left hand corner of the back of each entry. The previous year's winner must skip a year before entering the contest again. In other words, no one can win two years in a row.

DEADLINE

All artwork must be submitted by Friday, February 22, 2008 to the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, 1300 Guadalupe St., San Antonio, Tx. 78207 by 5:30 pm.

JUDGING

Artwork will be judged on Saturday, February 23, 2008 at the Galeria Guadalupe, 723 S. Brazos, by a panel of some of the city's top artists and graphic designers. Artwork will be judged on the basis of its graphic and creative interpretation of conjunto music. Works submitted will be on exhibit at the Galeria Guadalupe immediately following the judging from 12:00 to 2:00 pm. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

The cash awards will be presented to the winning artists at the Tejano Conjunto Festival en San Antonio 2008 Opening Night Ceremonies on Thursday, May 8, 2008 at Rosedale Park.

AGREEMENT

Submitting a poster to this contest serves as an agreement with the rules and guidelines stated herein. The Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center will retain ownership of the winning poster and image and assumes the right to reproduce the winning poster for any purpose it deems fit including any and all publicity relating to the Tejano Conjunto Festival en San Antonio.

PLEASE CUT AND MOUNT ON THE BACK OF THE UPPER LEFT HAND CORNER OF POSTER

27th Annual Tejano Conjunto Festival en San Antonio POSTER CONTEST ENTRY FORM 2008

Please Print

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Age _____ Medium _____ School (if applicable) _____

e-mail _____

Category please check one ☐ Junior High ☐ High School ☐ College ☐ Open

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 210.271.3151
Official guidelines and entry form available at www.guadalupeculturalarts.org

Calendar of Events

- January 18,19, 2008** Daniel Llanes - Messengers from the Dreamtime Coming thru dance, music and poetry - Daniel Llanes and friends at the Dougherty 1011 Barton Springs Road Austin, Texas 8:00pm For more information please call (512) 431-9665
- January 21, 2008** MLK March To celebrate the national MLK day holiday, the **Heritage Council** is sponsoring the 2008 Community March. The 2008 MLK Community March kicks off at 9 a.m. with a short program at the MLK Statue on the University of Texas campus. The march is lead again this year by our Grand Marshal **State Representative Dawnna Dukes**.
- January 24, 2008** George I. Sánchez Memorial Lecture "Access, Equity, and Assessment in Higher Education: A Policy Research Agenda **Victor B. Saenz**, PhD. Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Administration 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Texas Union, Santa Rita Suite (3.502) The University of Texas at Austin
- January 26, 2008** Austin Independent School District 2nd Annual Mariachi Concert at the Mexican American Cultural Center in Austin, Texas. For more info: 478-622
- January 27, 2008** Hecho a Mano - Monthly Festival and Artist Market from 11:00am to 5:00pm at the **Mexican American Cultural Center**, 600 River Street Austin, Texas 78701. For more information please call (512) 478-6222
- January 29, 2008** Cena con la Cámara - **The Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** and the Austin Independent School District will provide an overview of the exciting changes taking place at Travis High School. Dinner starts at 6:00pm. For more information please call: (512) 462-4314
- January 30, 2008** Young Hispanic Professional Austin Association. Guest Speaker: Dan Castro 6:00pm Spaghetti Warehouse Banquet Room 117 W. 4th St. Austin, Texas. For more information please visit: www.yhpa.org

To get your events listed in *La Voz de Austin* please call: (512) 944-4123

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 or 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.

Asleep	Dormido
Still tired	Todavía Cansada
Diet	Dieta
Eating	Comiendo
Stop eating	Dejar de comer
Exercise	Ejercicio
Fat	Gordo or Gorda
You look good	Te vez bien
That's what you say	Eso es lo que tu dices



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Dan Arellano



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Answers to the Latino Cultural Quiz

Answers:

1. **False** - LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) was started on 18 May 1929, at the Allende Hall in Corpus Christi, Texas, when the first LULAC General Convention was called to order by Ben Garza.

2. **True** - La Raza refers to the river as el Rio Bravo

3. **True** - **Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán** is a Mariachi group that was founded in Tecalitlán, Jalisco, Mexico by Gaspar Vargas in 1898. In 1928, his son, Silvestre Vargas, took over control of the group. Over time, the group has recorded albums, starred in over 200 movies, and performed all over the world. They have collaborated with many artists, among them Linda Ronstadt. The group is based in Mexico City. They are known as "El Mejor Mariachi Del Mundo" or in English, "The Best Mariachi In The World."

4. **False** - Gus Garcia was the Mayor of Austin from 2001 to 2003.

5. **False** - Mocos come out of your nose. In America they are called boogers or snot. No tienen nada que haber con Latin. Forget it. Es todo.

6. **False** - Es un urban legend. In reality, if a Spanish-speaking person were to say that his car was not working, he would more likely use the terms no marcha or no funciona, ("does not run" or "does not work/function", respectively) instead, just as an English-speaking person would be more likely to say "this car doesn't work", than say "this car doesn't go." [1] The word nova, as opposed to no va, exists in Spanish with the same meaning as in English. Also, the Spanish word for "new" (nuevo or nueva) is a cognate to nova, which originally meant "new" in Latin.

7. **False** - There is Tejano music all over the place. Los Texas Wranglers are probably the biggest promoters of it as a band and play regularly around the city. Tejano music can also be heard on your FM radio dial on stations such as KXTN 107.5 which transmits from San Antonio. You can also hear Tejano music on the internet.

8. **True** - Check out pages 8 and 9 in this issue.

9. **True** - At least that is the opinion of *La Voz de Austin*.

Answers:

10. Buñuelos g

11. El Milago u

12. Mike Martinez a

13. Apio b

14. Tacuachito n

15. Ajo f

16. Rollas h

17. Diana Maldonado t

18. Huevos revueltos r

19. Huevos con papas d

20. A huevo s

21. Gregorio Cortez c

22. Francisco Madera q

23. Los Reyes Magos p

24. Mantequilla o

25. Caldo de pollo m

26. La Raza Unida Party i

27. Las Primarias l

28. Amparo Garcia Crow j

29. Rick Noriega e

30. Tu no me conoces k

Answers:

31. b. Paloma Negra (See Youtube)

32. c. They are called Jitneys in English

33. d. All of the above

34. d. There are 24 Latino State Reps and 6 Latino State Senators for a total of 30

35. c. La electricidad. Electricity. People did not understand how to protect themselves from getting shocked.

36. b. Florencia Bicenta de Casillas Martinez Cardona

Ramblings of a Retired Mind

I was thinking about how a status symbol of today is those cell phones that everyone has clipped onto their belt or purse. I can't afford one. So, I'm wearing my garage door opener.

You know, I spent a fortune on deodorant before I realized that people didn't like me anyway.

I was thinking that women should put pictures of missing husbands on beer cans!

I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.

I thought about making a fitness movie, for folks my age, and call it "Pumping Rust."

I have gotten that dreaded furniture disease. That's when your chest is falling into your drawers!

I know, when people see a cat's litter box, they always say, "Oh, have you got a cat?" Just once I want to say, "No, it's for company!"

Employment application blanks always ask 'who is to be notified in case of an emergency.' I think you should write, "A Good Doctor!"

Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do... Write to these men? Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the mailmen could look for them while they deliver the mail? Or better yet, arrest them while they are taking their pictures!

I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then, it dawned on me, they were cramming for their finals.

As for me, I'm just hoping God grades on the curve.

When you have a lot of things to do, it's best to get your nap out of the way first.

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Call me, I can help.

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You Don't Know Me

I see you every day in the hallway. I know you see me too. Sometimes we smile at each other. Sometimes you stop me to ask a question. I am polite and always wear a big smile. But the reality is that even though we talk and you know my name, you really don't know me.

It's not your fault. It's no one's fault really. The fact of the matter is that there are two of me, maybe even three or four of me. I choose to present myself in different ways to different people. I do this because for me it is way to survive. Am I two faced? Am I three faced? I don't know. What I do know is that I have learned that certain people expect certain things from me so I give them what want. Other people don't expect anything of me and so I don't have to give them anything. Does my life sound complicated? It's not. It's just the way things are.

As I was growing up I would watch my parents. When the telephone would ring and it was a bill collector they would pretend that they couldn't speak English. "Que? Who you want? You speakee Spanish? No? Si. Ok. Bueno bye!" This was before caller ID became popular. Now when a bill collector calls, they just look at the screen and don't answer.

When I was 8 or 9 there were days when I did not come to school. My grandmother was living with us and when she had to go to the doctor I would go with her to translate. I didn't like sitting in the health clinics with all the sick people. There was coughing and sneezing and I thought for sure I was going to catch something.

When they would call my grandmother's name we would get up together and I guess the nurses knew what my role was going to be. I didn't like knowing about all of my grandmother's health issues. But it was my job to make sure the doctor understand what she was saying. Sometimes I felt like an adult even though I was just in the 4th grade.

When I would go to school the next day, the note always said that it was me who was the sick one. It was a lie of course. So now here I am in high school and I wear masks to hide how I really feel. I hide behind masks so no one will know what is really going on in my mind. Maybe I am afraid to let people know what is going on in my head. Maybe I don't know how to trust and tell the truth. Maybe someday I will take off my masks and you will find out who I really am.