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People in the News



Paul Cruz Promoted to Chief Schools Officer in AISD

Dr. Paul Cruz, Associate Superintendent for Middle Schools was named **Chief Schools Officer** under a new organizational plan created by **Supertinent Dr. Maria Carstarphen** and approved by the school board on June 22, 2009.

Dr. Cruz earned his Ph.D at **The University of Texas at Austin** and served as the Superintendent of the **Laredo Independent School District**, Deputy Commissioner for Dropout Prevention with the **Texas Education Agency** and as an administrator in **San Benito, Texas, Round Rock, Texas** and **Kansas City, Missouri**. **Dr. Cruz** is active in a number of community affairs including the **Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**. He is married and his children attend **Austin** public schools



Olga Seelig Running for Judge, County Court of Law 3

Olga Seelig was born and raised in **El Paso, Texas**. **Olga** is one of five daughters born to **William** and **Catalina Seelig**.

She graduated from high school in **El Paso** and shortly thereafter had her first daughter, **Arleen**. Recognizing the struggles and difficulties of raising a child with only a high school diploma, she enrolled in beauty school and obtained her cosmetology license.

While working as a hairdresser, **Olga** began her academic career at the local community college, and then transferred to the **University of Texas at El Paso** where she obtained her Bachelor of Science degree. She came to **Austin** and graduated from **The University of Texas at Austin School of Law**, where she earned her J.D. in 1997. **Olga** has worked in the district attorney's office, practiced civil law and served as Municipal Court Substitute Judge. She is a member of the **Hispanic Bar Association** in **Austin, Texas**.



Alex Hernandez Moving Back to San Antonio

Alex Hernandez, saxophone player for **The Frank Gomez Band**, has accepted a management position with **Lack's Furniture** and will be leaving **Austin** to relocate to his old hometown of **San Antonio, Texas**. **Alex** has had an impressive music career having played with bands such as **The Royal Jesters** and **The Latin Breed**. **Liz Hernandez** of the **Austin Tejano Music Coalition** says that everyone wishes **Alex** the best in his new management position with **Lacks Furniture**.



Rivera To Work with MALDEF in Washington, D.C.

Attorney **Veronica Rivera** has announced her resignation from the **Austin Community College District Board of Trustees** in order to take a new position in **Washington, DC** this fall. **Rivera** will become the education and policy attorney for the **Mexican American Legal Defense Fund (MALDEF)**. She will also serve as interim regional director.

Rivera was elected to the **ACC** board in 2004 and currently serves as its vice chair. Her resignation takes effect in September. "I cannot fully convey how much it has meant to me to serve on the **ACC Board of Trustees** and how honored I was to have been selected again as an officer," says **Rivera**. "I am thankful I've had the opportunity to be part of such a great institution."

"I am so grateful for **Veronica's** many contributions to the college," says **Dr. Stephen Kinslow**, **ACC** president/CEO. "Her leadership has been invaluable, especially in the formulation of **ACC's** sustainable practices policy. Through her commitment to making **ACC** a good steward of the environment, **Veronica's** influence on the college will be long-lasting."

Rivera's last board meeting is scheduled to be September 8. At that time, the board will decide whether to appoint someone to fulfill the remainder of the term or leave it open until the next regular trustee election in May 2010.



Montoya-Hohenstein Moves Up in AISD to Associate Super

Dr. Maria Montoya-Hohenstein was recently named **Associate Superintendent for Elementary Schools** in the **Austin Independent School District**. Prior to this appointment, **Dr. Hohenstein** has served as an Executive Principal, campus principal, and supervisor of curriculum in **Austin ISD**.

Dr. Hohenstein has also worked in school districts in **Corpus Christi, Nebraska, South Dakota** and **California** as an administrator and teacher.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in elementary/special education from **Trinity University** in 1981, and a Masters of Education in Educational Administration from the **University of Nebraska** in 1985. Additionally, she received a Doctorate in Educational Administration from the **University of South Dakota** in 1993.

Dr. Hohenstein is a national presenter on such topics as best practices in literacy, instructional leadership, and developing business partnerships to sustain schools and is the author of **TAKS Guide** and **3-5 Reading Assessments**.

She lives with her husband **Bryan** who is a laser engineer. Together, they raised twin girls, **Elizabeth** and **Victoria** that are majoring in civil/environmental engineering at **Carnegie Mellon** and microbiology at the **University of Pittsburgh**, respectively.



George Strait Canta El Rey en Español

Taking chances is a rare thing in mainstream country these days. Taking chances that are culturally significant is even rarer. Leave it to veteran **George Strait** to be the diamond in the rough.

On his new album, *Twang*, **Strait** covers "El Rey" a traditional Mexican folk song delivered entirely in Spanish. The move has the country music world buzzing.

About the Song: "El Rey" (which means "The King") was written over 50 years ago by **Jose Alfredo Jimenez**, who is one of Mexico's most esteemed songwriters. **Jimenez** is sometimes referred to as the **Mexican Woody Guthrie**, and has been described as "**Mexico's Elvis, Frank Sinatra** and **Hank Williams** all rolled into one."

William Gradante in *The Latin American Music Review* had this to say about **Jimenez**: "Inspiration and intensity, simplicity and sincerity, were probably **Jose Alfredo Jimenez's** greatest attributes. Even casual listeners are impressed by these qualities in his singing style, particularly when compared with other singers of the day[...] **Jimenez's** purpose was not to sing about himself as much as to evoke in his listeners memories of similar sentiments and experiences in their own lives."

According to the blog *Songlations*, "El Rey" is a tribute to Mexican macho-ism and masculinity; the protagonist goes around saying that he is king and that everyone will cry when he dies. He's not married and has no strings attached—he basically just does what he wants.

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The State Board of Education**vs.****Cesar Chavez and Thurgood Marshall**

By now many of you who read *La Voz de Austin* have heard of a committee that is recommending that **Cesar Chavez** and **Thurgood Marshall** be removed from the social studies books. These "experts" are recommending to the **Texas State Board of Education** the removal of **César Chavez** and other progressive historical figures from new social studies curriculum standards. They argue that **Chavez** is an inappropriate role model for students. The same panel members — appointed by far-right state board members — are also arguing that the new standards should emphasize that America's Founders intended to create a distinctly Christian nation based on biblical principles.

Some people upon hearing this breaking news are shocked, just shocked that anyone would dare to tamper with the legacy and memory of **Cesar Chavez** and **Thurgood Marshall**. These same shocked and concerned individuals are now mounting a campaign to shine the light on this dastardly attempt to whiten the school curriculum.

So the question before those who are yet to be shocked and concerned is what is going on here. The first answer is that this is another example of where the conservatives are playing offense and the progressives, (for lack of a better word at this moment) are playing defense. What happens when people choose to play defense? Basically they are letting the other side define the terms of the debate. They are reacting to what the other side says and does or says it's going to do.

The lesson from political history is that when people spend their time reacting to what others do or say they are going to do, they never get anything done themselves. It is sort of like football, the only time you score on defense is when the other side fumbles. The bottom line is that this is not a great way to use people's time, talent, and resources.

The other question this issue of removing **Chavez** and **Marshall** from the curriculum begs is whether the government, i.e. the public schools, are the only ones that can teach about the life and work of these two heroic figures? The short answer is no. The public schools do not have a monopoly on teaching. If parents and concerned citizens really want students to learn about a certain topic, then they can teach it themselves.

All around the country, there are various ethnic and racial groups who done just this. **The German School of San Francisco**, established in 1935 has been teaching students of all ages the German language, culture, customs and history. In **Seattle**, **The Polish School** has been doing the same thing since 1918. The **French-American School of New York** which opened in 1980 has a completely bilingual curriculum that has students graduating and speaking two languages when they receive their diplomas. Many years ago right here in **Texas**, Mexican Americans saw the bad education that their children were receiving in the public schools and so they formed *escuelitas* to supplement that which was not being taught. During the years of the Chicano Movement there were those who decided to create institutions of higher education, i.e. Chicano colleges and universities, and they did. (Colegio Jacinto Trevino, Colegio Cesar Chavez in Oregon)

The bottom line today, just as it has been over the years, if you don't like something, then do something about it. But don't waste your time playing defense. Get on offense and define the dimensions of what you want to do and how you want to do it. You don't need the government to give you permission. You don't need the government to be the one to solve the problem. Do it yourself and do it without excuses.

Editorial

Alfredo R. Santos c/s
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* * * * *

small business
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
CITY OF AUSTIN

Letter to the Editor

We have too many youngsters walking after midnight. They sit on my corner of Govalle and Linden. They tag my side walk and the street sign this past weekend. I saw 4 police cars drive by and didn't even slow down to check these minors out. They smoke dope, cars slow and stop to buy dope. They even have gone into my drive way and stole some paint and painted (tagged) my sidewalk. I have a 95 year old grand-mother that is terrified to go outside when no ones home. Two weeks ago hispanic wanna be bang-ers crips and bloods had a brawl in this same corner. It took less than a minute then they jump into cars and drove off. My pick-up have been broken into 3 times and the window has been broken 2 times. My band equipment truck has been tag "Mexican Pride" while being park in my back yard (gate was closed and locked).

I've lived in this neighborhood for over 50 years and have never seen these kids so out of control and parents just turn away as if they were afraid of their own kids. My wife asked me if we should apply and register to own a gun. I told her, no! Guns and firearms aren't the answer.

I think if we the neighborhood would call the police anytime kids are out after hours. This should show these kids they are being watched and there behavior will not be tolerated.

Yes, there was a drive by shooting on the corner of Govalle Ave and Tillery. The story is, that the kids that live there, held up some illegal aliens and the aliens took action upon themselves and drove by and shot up the place. Yes, there were little kids at the house no one got hurt. But the aliens didn't get caught. So the danger is still there!

How many more meetings is it going to take. We need action! Not words. The police officers should be a little more diligent, stop these kids and clean up this out of control community. This was a nice quiet community we now have a more deverse community and it seems the gangs think they can prey on our new neighbors.

We need to form the "Yanomas" Tribe and help our police in stopping this stigma in our community. Operation "Ya No Mas"!!!

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LO MEJOR DE LA MUSICA TEJANA, NORTEÑA,
INTERNACIONAL Y MUCHO MAS

Texas Medical Association Awards Scholarships to Students Entering Medical School

Nine Texas minority college students about to enter medical school each have received a \$5,000 scholarship from the **Texas Medical Association (TMA)**. America's largest state medical society awarded the scholarships to the students at TexMed, **TMA's** annual conference and expo, held this year in **Austin**. Since 1999, **TMA** has awarded scholarships to encourage outstanding minority students to enter the medical profession and help meet the medical needs of Texas' diverse population. To date, **TMA** has awarded 47 scholarships, totaling \$235,000.

TMA selected the scholarship recipients from a highly competitive pool of minority students who have been accepted to a **Texas** medical school this fall. Each honoree demonstrated outstanding community service, health care experience, and academic standings.

The nine scholarships are made possible through a grant from the association's philanthropic arm, the **TMA Foundation**, thanks to generous gifts from physicians and their families, and others.



2009 TMA Minority Scholarship Recipients

Janet Benavidez of Freeport graduated in May 2009 with a master's in medical science from **Sam Houston State University** in **Huntsville**. She will begin her study of medicine at the **Texas A&M University Health Science Center** this fall. **Ms. Benavidez** plans not only to practice medicine, but also to motivate and teach potential physicians. **Ms. Benavidez's** scholarship was provided through a gift from **James Rohack, MD**, and **Charli Rohack**, and physicians and their families.

Amaranta Craig of Houston graduated from **The University of Texas at Austin**. She will attend **Baylor College of Medicine** this fall. She plans to attain a master of public health degree and a medical degree, and believes the combination will enable her to treat underserved populations through preventive medicine, health education, and health promotion. Her scholarship is provided by **Wendell D. Daniels, MD**, in honor of **Vester B. Daniels** and in memory of **Ona Daniels**, and other physicians and their families.

Nelly Estrada of El Paso graduated from **The University of Texas at Brownsville**. She will attend the **Paul L. Foster School of Medicine at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center** at **El Paso** in the fall. **Ms. Estrada** hopes to set up a student-run health clinic where she can address the unmet medical needs of the urban poor. In addition, she hopes to organize health fairs so she can help patients acquire the knowledge and skills needed to successfully manage their own health. **Ms. Estrada's** scholarship was provided through gifts from the **Dallas, El Paso, Harris, Hidalgo-Star, and Travis County Medical Societies**.

Carlos Gonzalez of Laredo graduated from the **Texas A&M International University** in **Laredo**. He will attend **The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center** at **Dallas** this fall. **Mr. Gonzalez** plans to start research in the fields of immunology and autoimmune diseases, where as a physician investigator he can improve the lives of people in **Texas** and around the world. **Mr. Gonzalez's** scholarship was provided through a gift from **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas**.

Paul Hernandez of Laredo graduated from **Harvard University** in **Cambridge, Mass.** He will attend **The University of Texas Health Science Center** at **San Antonio** in the fall. **Mr. Hernandez** wants to provide proper health care to underserved **South Texas** border communities while helping to solve emerging border health issues. Gifts from the **Khushalani Foundation**; **Somayaji Ramamurthy, MD**, and **Rajam Ramamurthy, MD**; and physicians and their families provided **Mr. Hernandez's** scholarship.

Cynthia Miranda of Laredo graduated from **The University of Texas-Pan American** in **Edinburg**. She will attend **The University of Texas Medical Branch** in **Galveston** this fall. As a Spanish-speaking physician, **Ms. Miranda** hopes to better serve Spanish-speaking patients in the **Rio Grande Valley**. Gifts from physicians and their families funded **Ms. Miranda's** scholarship.

Asongu Josephine Ncho of Midland graduated from the **Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC)** in **Lubbock**, where she obtained a master's degree in physician assistant studies. She will attend medical school at **TTUHSC** in the fall. **Ms. Ncho** plans to become a preventive medicine physician in the public sector and wants to improve health care at the community level. **Ms. Ncho's** scholarship was provided through gifts from **Alan and Sarah Losinger, Potter-Randall County Medical Society**, and physicians and their families.

Jose Romero of Brownsville graduated from **The University of Texas at Austin**. He will begin his medical study at **The University of Texas Health Science Center** in **Houston** this fall. After attaining his medical degree, **Mr. Romero** plans to pursue political involvement in precollege education systems. His goals include improving the quality of education in deficient regions so that students will be prepared and even encouraged to attain a higher education. Additionally, he hopes to allow students on the pre-med path the opportunity to shadow him so that they can receive the same kind of insightful observation that he received from mentoring physicians. A gift from **H-E-B** provided **Mr. Romero's** scholarship.

Amy Thorne of Tulsa, Okla., graduated from **Rice University** in **Houston**. She begins her study of medicine at the **University of North Texas Health Science Center** at **Fort Worth** this fall. **Ms. Thorne** plans to practice as a family physician in rural **Texas**, where she hopes her bilingual skills will help her to improve the health care delivery system for a largely underserved population. **Ms. Thorne's** scholarship was provided through a gift from an anonymous donor.

TMA is the largest state medical society in the nation, representing nearly 44,000 physician and medical student members. It is located in Austin and has 120 component county medical societies around the state. **TMA's** key objective since 1853 is to improve the health of all Texans.

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EAST AUSTIN COLLEGE PREP ACADEMY SELECTED FOR NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL PILOT PROGRAM

Students selected to travel to conference and help initiate curriculum models

Austin, TX (June 26, 2009)— **The National Council of La Raza (NCLR)**, the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States, awarded **The East Austin College Prep Academy (EACPA)** a \$20,000 Service Learning Grant to participate in an educational pilot program starting this summer. The program will run for two years and will contribute to curriculum development to be used as a nationwide model.

The **EACPA** was one of three schools selected from across the nation for this distinguished award. The **EACPA**, a newly awarded charter school, is set to open its doors to 90 sixth graders in August and is quickly taking charge to implement innovative teaching methods such as the ones that will be derived from the **NCLR** pilot program.

The grant is intended to provide and facilitate a service learning model to **NCLR** network schools serving middle school students. Through this initiative, **NCLR** seeks to raise student awareness of community work, increase creativity and hands-on learning, and support teacher development in student learning standards. "We are truly excited to have been selected for this contemporary program. This grant will provide us the opportunity to learn true actual service learning approaches that can be incorporated into our curriculum," says **Dr. Magali López**, **EACPA** Principal. "Best of all, our students are going to be able to apply what they learn to their communities."

Three students will travel to **Oakland, California** for training along with a teacher and **Dr. López** from June 28 through July 1. Students will participate in team building exercises and will help inaugurate the project. Activities include a visit to the Jack London Aquatic Center and boating in the East Bay. Upon completion of training, students will develop projects based on the service learning models and will present their completed projects next summer in Chicago, Illinois at the **National Council of La Raza Conference**. After completion of the program, the **EACPA** intends to strategically apply and incorporate the models into its curriculum to maximize the expected educational achievement benefits.

Belinda Acosta Debuts Her First Novel

Damas, Dramas, and Ana Ruiz

Austin's very own **Belinda Acosta** has a new novel coming out on August 18th. The title: **Damas, Dramas, and Ana Ruiz** will be available at book stores all over town.

Acosta, who was born in **Lincoln, Nebraska** moved to **Austin** in the mid eighties. She earned her bachelor's degree and MFA at **The University of Texas at Austin** and currently works for the **Austin Chronicle** as a columnist. Her writing has appeared in **Poets & Writers**, the **San Antonio Current** and **Latino Magazine**. She is a member of the writing collective **Macondo** which is led by **Sandra Cisneros**. Below is an excerpt from her book.

Don't let anyone tell you that being a woman is like — cómo se dice? — a piece of the cake. Mira, take a look around. All these niñas dressed up like Barbie dolls outside of **Our Lady of Guadalupe Church**, their toes scrunched into pointy high heels, hair pulled into tidy buns, bangs springing over their foreheads or hanging in gaunt strands alongside their girlish faces. The smell of hairspray and designer perfume, starched shirts and polished shoes mingle in the air.

The matching boys are tucked into tuxedos looking like they want to be someplace else. They do! The **Spurs** game starts in thirty minutes. The limo driver allá, is looking at his watch for the same reason. And then there's pobrecita **Ana Ruiz**. That poor woman! All she wanted was to have a small quinceañera, a nice way to celebrate her niña **Carmen** con cariño. She wanted **Carmen's** fifteenth birthday to be special and lovely. Instead, there she is, the one in the lilac dress, her wavy hair going flat and her feet screaming from running around in heels, taking care of one disaster after the next.

... but with meat in all the right places, as the men might say.

Today, she looks older than her thirty-eight years, weary from months of worry. The few streaks of gray she has, she got this month alone! Still, everything about **Ana** is soft—her hands, her laugh, the color of her amber skin. She has a small patch of dark skin below her ear that some women get when they have babies. But because **Ana** is what you would



call pretty, you don't even notice. She's a good-looking woman; thin, but with meat in all the right places, as the men might say. For the women who need to be the center of attention when they walk into a room, **Ana** is the last one they worry about.

They think, *She's like a sugar cube* — easy to melt with the heat they make with the sway of their nalgas or the heave of their chichis. But oh no! **Ana** is the one that surprises them. With those lips béseme, the whispery hollows of her cheeks, the way her neck curves like poured water, and finally, that look from her smoky black eyes — that alone will make some men walk into walls while the women, who thought they were the main dish at the party, will cluck to themselves and think, *Her? Quién es esa?*

You can tell right away that **Ana Ruiz** is respectable. She's no spring kitten, but she's way too young to cover it up in housedresses. But right now, **Ana** doesn't care what she looks like. She's wondering how this wonderful day turned to this. All she wanted was a little tradition, a nice way to mark this time in **Carmen's** life and maybe get back to the way things were before **Esteban** left.

Carmen is officially becoming a woman today, in a time when becoming a woman happens in a flurry like a million cascarones

broken over your head. Just this week, she was figuring out the best way to brush her hair to make the tiara sit just so. Pero, no one knows where the tiara is now and **Carmen** doesn't even care. Today means nothing and everything to **Carmen** who, right now, only really wants to know, *When will this pinche day be over?*

Ana is standing near the door of the church. No one would be surprised if she snapped in two from all this drama! But no, like always, there she is: like a blade of grass in a hurricane. You can smash her down but she will never break. She's the one they call a strong woman, though she never understood why.

She would say she only did what she had to do and that if patience and hard work are what it takes to be a strong woman, then okay, call her what you want. But right now, she feels spent. She feels like she might lose it. Her son, **Diego**, didn't come home last night, and **Carmen** has been barfing since midnight. The band that showed up is not the nice mariachi **Ana** thought was coming but three boys, one with tattoos on his arms and silver rings poked aquí y allá on his face and ears. And did I tell you about the cake?

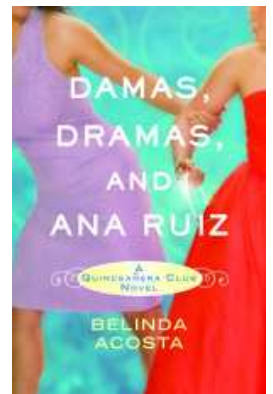
One of the boys in the court showed up with a black eye

The cake is late. There was talk that there might not even be a cake, and well, you can't have a quinceañera without a cake, can you? Well, the cake finally comes, right after **Ana** made some calls and that girl they call **Bianca** tore her dress (accidentally on purpose, if you ask me). One of the boys in the court showed up with a black eye. And just when it seemed like the ground should open up and swallow up this whole mess, then, then there comes la señora with the cake. Four stories tall, all pink and sparkly. Bien pretty, but late. And because she's late she shows up in shorts and chancas. No

“discúlpeme.” No “perdóname.” Instead, she laughs como la loca, saying she's on Mexican time. “Mexican time”? Ay, por favor! La señora toda sin vergüenza in those chancas and that thing stuck in her ear like she works in the secret service.

One of the boys in the band goes to help la señora with the cake, and then so does the boy in the tuxedo with the black eye. They're all talking, no one is listening, and everyone wants to be in charge. So of course you know what's going to happen, right? La señora with the chancas and the boy with the black eye he can hardly see out of, they look like they're going to crash. I see the whole thing before everyone else. I see the whole picture. I can tell you why **Ana** is wrung out. I can tell you why **Carmen** is sick. I can tell you why **Ana** and **Carmen** have been fighting. I can tell you where **Diego** is. I can tell you why the cake is late and why that boy has a black eye. And I can tell you if, and when, that cake is going to fall.

Pero, let me go back to the beginning. The very beginning, because hijole! I love a good quinceañera story. And I got to tell you this one.



The Book Release Party FOR Belinda's book is free and open to the public. **Cuba Libre** is extending their Happy Hour until 8 p.m. for this special occasion. Thanks to Barnes & Noble, the official bookseller for the event, a portion of book sales at the book release party will benefit the **Austin Public Library Friends Foundation**, to support the **Mexican American Oral History Project** at the Austin History Center.

The Judicial System

Where Does it Start?

¿Donde Empieza?

The Latino Educational

For many individuals the introduction to authority and the rules of society use to begin in the home, in the neighborhood and other places where one came into contact with people not related to you. Today it appears that more and more young people are having their first encounter with authority in the public schools.

Over the last several years a number of school districts have changed their disciplinary management strategies. Some school districts have adopted “zero tolerance” programs. Some school districts have strengthened their student codes of conduct and created their own in house-in house police forces. Increasingly we have seen the criminalization of certain school behaviors that in previous years were dealt with only by school officials and parents.

The judicial system has been brought “closer” to home by the daily presence of licensed law enforcement personnel on school grounds and in the hall ways during the delivery of regular instruction. Some school districts now offer truancy courts on campus just to handle the increasing number of cases.

In the 2007-2008 school year, the **Austin Independent School District** had an end of year enrollment of 89,065 students. During this school year, there were a total of 33,090 disciplinary incidents. (a single incident/offense may result in multiple disciplinary incidents) These disciplinary incidents resulted in the removal of students from their regular academic program to an alternative education program, a juvenile justice education program or simply an out of school suspension.

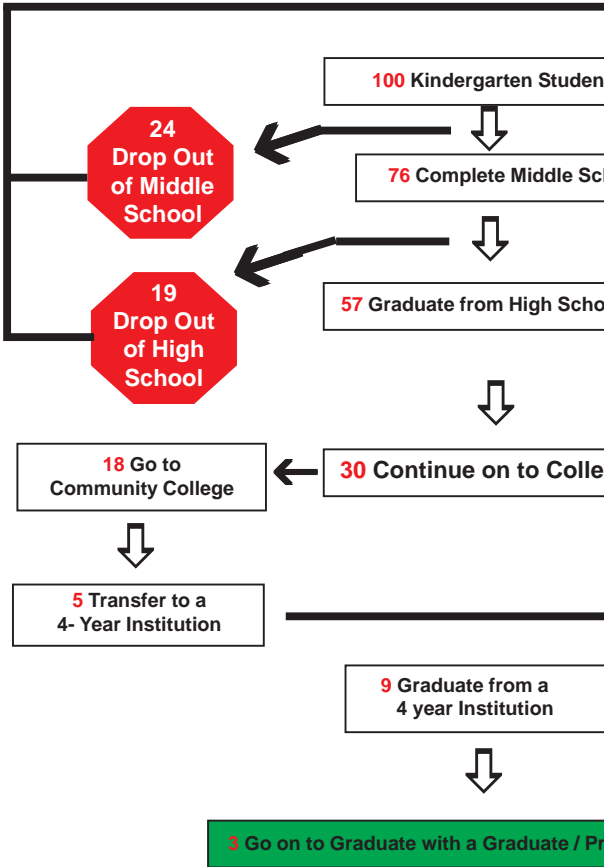
Table 1 below shows that of the 33,909 disciplinary incidents in the **Austin Independent School District**, only 10,730 students were in fact responsible for these incidents. Stated differently, some students are responsible for more than one disciplinary incidents multiple times. On average, during the 2007-2008 school year, the 10,730 students in question were responsible for 3.16 incidents.

Table 2 School Disciplinary Rankings in the Austin Independent School District by School and Count		
School	Count	
1. Pearce Middle School	3,528	
2. Dobie Middle School	3,524	
3. Travis High School	1,902	
4. Lanier High School	1,753	
5. Webb Middle School	1,738	
6. Akins High School	1,709	
7. McCallum High School	1,621	
8. Paredes Middle School	1,592	
9. Fulmore Middle School	1,530	
10. Mendez Middle School	1,312	
11. Martin Middle School	1,200	
12. Burnet Middle School	1,154	

Source: Texas Education Agency, Accountability Division

Table 2 shows the top 12 schools in the **Austin Independent School District** with respect to the number of disciplinary incidents that were reported during the 2007-2008 school year. As can be seen in the table above, the middle schools tend to dominate the list with **Pearce** and **Dobie** holding the number one and two spots respectively.

Altogether, of the 12 schools on the list above, eight of them are middle schools. Some students are getting their first serious experiences with school authority at the age of 13 or 14. This is where the foundation for the pipelines models you will see on the following pages are being built. Not only is the delivery of education changing in the 21st century but so is the manner in which young people are taught about the rules and regulations of acceptable behavior.



Source: Pew Hispanic Center Mid Decade Report, integrated with prior Hispanic School

The metaphor of a “pipeline” to describe the educational and life pathway of young people is popular in the literature on juveniles. The pipeline model above was taken from a report by the **Pew Hispanic Center** and provides a theoretical estimation of where 100 Hispanic students end up as they move through their lives. As the model suggests, 40 of the Hispanic students will not see their high school graduation day by the time they turn 18 years of age.

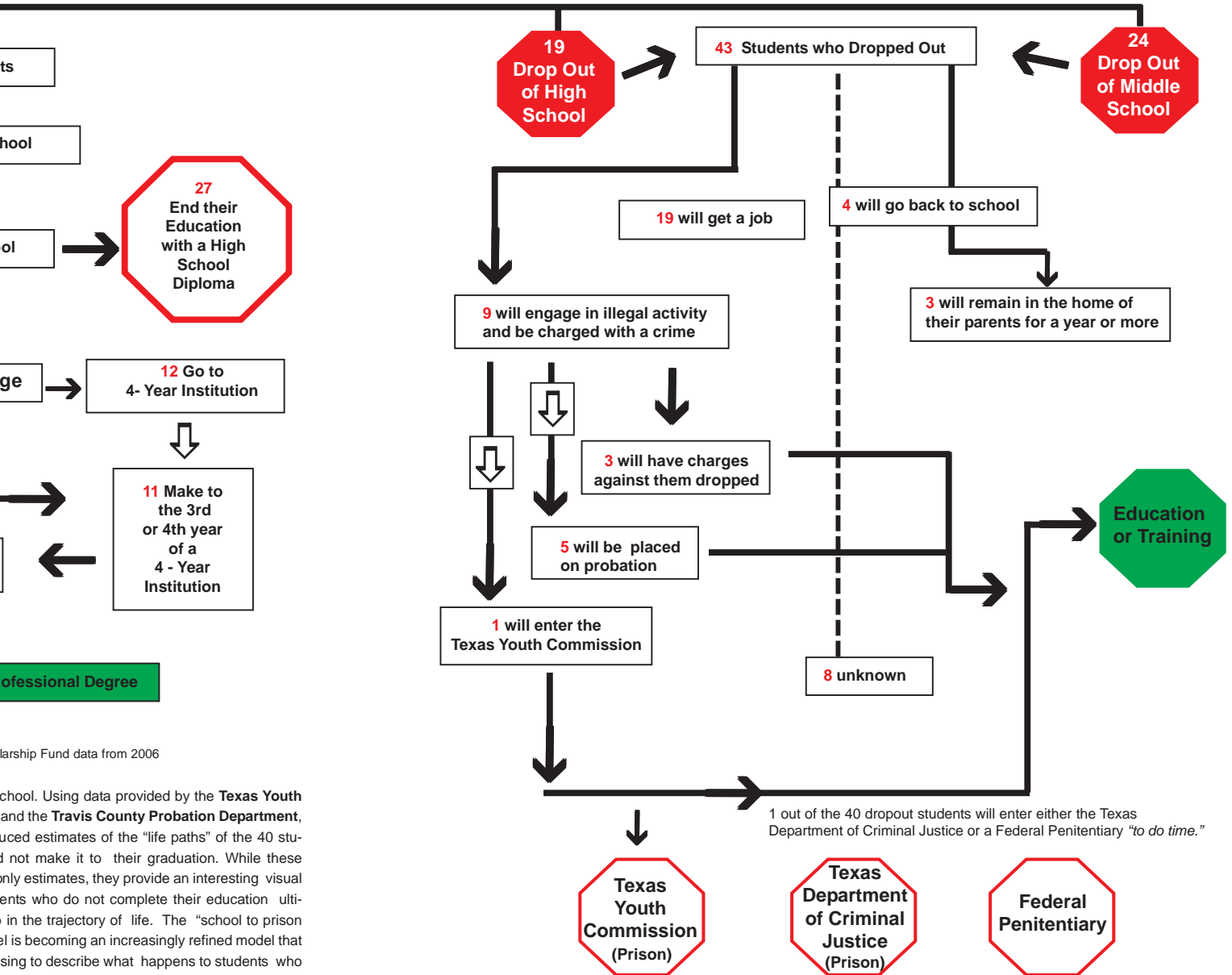
The pipeline model on the next page is a theoretical model of what happens to those Hispanic students who end up dropping out of school. The pipeline model on the next page is a theoretical model of what happens to those Hispanic students who end up dropping out of school.

-ping out of school
Commission
we have produced
students who did not
numbers are close to
of where students
imately end up in the
pipeline” model. The
scholars are urged to
begin to have a more

El Sistema Judicial

Pipeline

The Latino Incarceration Pipeline



Scholarship Fund data from 2006

school. Using data provided by the Texas Youth Commission and the Travis County Probation Department, we produced estimates of the "life paths" of the 40 students who did not make it to their graduation. While these are only estimates, they provide an interesting visual of the trajectory of life. The "school to prison" pipeline is becoming an increasingly refined model that is used to describe what happens to students who have problems at an early age in school.

TEXAS YOUTH COMMISSION

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No Apologies, No Regrets

by Alfredo Rodriguez Santos c/s

Some 40 years ago the winds of social change were blowing across **Texas** in what came to be known as the **Chicano Movement**. I was a teenager living, working and going to school in **Uvalde, Texas**. My first connections to the world outside of **Uvalde**, were the **Sears** catalog, radio, and the grainy TV images that we would pick up from our television antenna it we twisted it a certain way on a certain day.

In 1968, I knew there were social and political events going on all around me and I did my best to understand. I scanned the newspapers and heard radio broadcasts. I even listened to **Paul Harvey**. But it was after they killed **Martin Luther King, Jr.** in April that I really started to pay attention.

As a member of the local **MAYO** (Mexican American Youth Organization) chapter in **Uvalde**, I would go to the meetings in the two story building on **Nicolas Street**. The older **MAYO** members like **Rogelio Muñoz** and **Amaro Cardona** would lead the *pláticas* and point out the unfairness and bad treatment of Mexicanos. I did not speak very well as a teenager, so I just listened.

As the brothers of friends started coming home from **Vietnam** in coffins I finally understood how we were connected to the world. They say that death makes you grow up faster. I believe that because when my grandfather died in March of 1969, my world sort of fell apart.

I dropped out of high school, got into trouble with the police and was turning into a very angry young man. It was suggested to me that maybe it was time to leave **Uvalde**. I agreed and joined the **Jobs Corps** and was sent to a camp in **Kingman, Arizona**. I was 16 years old.

In the **Job Corps** we worked one week and went to school one week. During the first few weeks of school I discovered that many of the other students couldn't read. They had books with sentences like, "The Dog Jumped Over the Ball." "The Ball Went Over the Dog." I thought to myself, *en la madre*, I may not be that good in school, but at least I can read. The time in the **Job Corps** allowed me to see people from other parts of the United States and how bad they had it.

After the stint in the **Job Corps** was over in the summer of 1969, I came back to **Uvalde**. I wandered the streets for a few weeks, broke and with no prospects of getting a job. A friend of mine named **Oscar Castro**, who passed away in June of 2009, invited me to go work up North in the fields . . . in the *betabel* to be more exact. Without hesitating I said "¡Vamonos!" We worked in **Minnesota**, and **North Dakota** hoeing the longest rows I had ever seen in my life. After the *betabel* (sugar beets) was over, we went to **Wisconsin** to work in the cannery. I spent the rest of the summer working in a **Del Monte** cannery in a little town called **Markesan, Wisconsin**.

I was still working in the cannery in September when one morning I drove past a high school and saw all the students going to class. I slowed down and watched all the happy people carrying books. They were all laughing and talking. That's when it really hit me that I was a high school dropout.

Shortly after this incident I hitched a ride back to **Texas** and got myself back in school. It was now my fourth year of high school and according to **Mr. Ammerman**, the vice-principal, I had enough credits to be considered a "high sophomore." I went to class and applied myself academically, but the sound of the **Chicano Movement** grew louder and louder. We began to have marches and protests in **Uvalde**. I remember going to the county jail to do picket line until 10 at night. Through our **MAYO** meetings we began hearing more and more about **Crystal City**. I wasn't sure what the issues were but we were told to stand by for something big.

By now we were having **Chicano Days** at **Uvalde High School** on Fridays. About 50 of us would wear *chalecos* and bring *tacos* to school. In those days, people did not eat *tacos* in public. We would go to the cafeteria at noon and sit in the middle of everyone and eat our *tacos* in the most public way you could. Some of the Mexican American students who watched us were very embarrassed.

Then in December we found out that the students in **Crystal City** had walked out of school. Those of us who were **MAYO** members would cut school and go help them do picket lines in **Crystal City**. It was a very exciting time. After the **Crystal City** students won and went back to school, there were concerns that there was going to be a walkout in **Uvalde**.

On April 14th, 1970, the **Uvalde School Walkout** began. At its peak, more than 600 students were boycotting classes because of an incident with a school teacher named **Mr. Garza**. While we were out of class, a list of 14 demands were drawn up. A parent group called **MAPA** (Mexican American Parents Association) was formed to support the students. A *huelga* school was set up and college students and others came to **Uvalde** to provide instruction for the students who were in the walkout.

The Anglo community was furious that "its" Mexican Americans would have the audacity and gall to stage a walkout like **Crystal City**. The **Texas Rangers** were called in. The **Texas Department of Public Safety** brought in the helicopters. A local insurance agent formed a group called **GAPA** (German American Parents Association) Every time **MAPA** went to the school board to speak, **GAPA** would sign up to speak also. Everything our parents said, the **GAPA** members would say, only they changed the word "Mexican" to "German." The only purpose of **GAPA** was to make fun of and ridicule the parents and students.

In the end, the school board in **Uvalde** refused to discuss any of our concerns as long as we were staging a walkout. As the school year came to an end, hundreds of students were flunked back one year as punishment for participating in the walkout. Many of the older students, myself included, were too embarrassed to go back. Some students joined the military, others got drafted. Some students tried enrolling in other school districts and some went back to working in the fields. I went back to the fields.



ABOVE: Uvalde students marching in front of what was then the junior high school.

I was picking tomatoes in **Stockton, California** after the walkout and had a lot of time to think about what I had been involved in over the last couple of years. As I moved down the rows searching for ripe tomatoes to put into my bucket I replayed scenes in my head. I thought about all the people who were against us. I thought about my family. Was it

right to stand up and protest? Was it right to help the students in **Crystal City**? Was it right to call into question the practices and policies of the **Uvalde Independent School District**?

Looking back, some 40 years later, I say yes! Being in the **Chicano Movement** was the right thing to do. Somebody had to do it and I am glad it was my generation. Do I have any regrets? No. Do I feel the need to apologize for anything we did 40 years ago as **MAYO** activists? Hell no! Standing up for social justice is always the right thing to do. And that is why, 40 years after the fact, people in **Uvalde, Texas** still talk about that school walkout.

On August 21st-23rd, 2009, Chicano activists and all those who supported the Chicano Movement from around the world will gather in Dallas, Texas to celebrate the impact of the movement. On this page you will find the poster for the event, the website for more information and a brief statement of purpose.

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AUGUST 21-23, 2009

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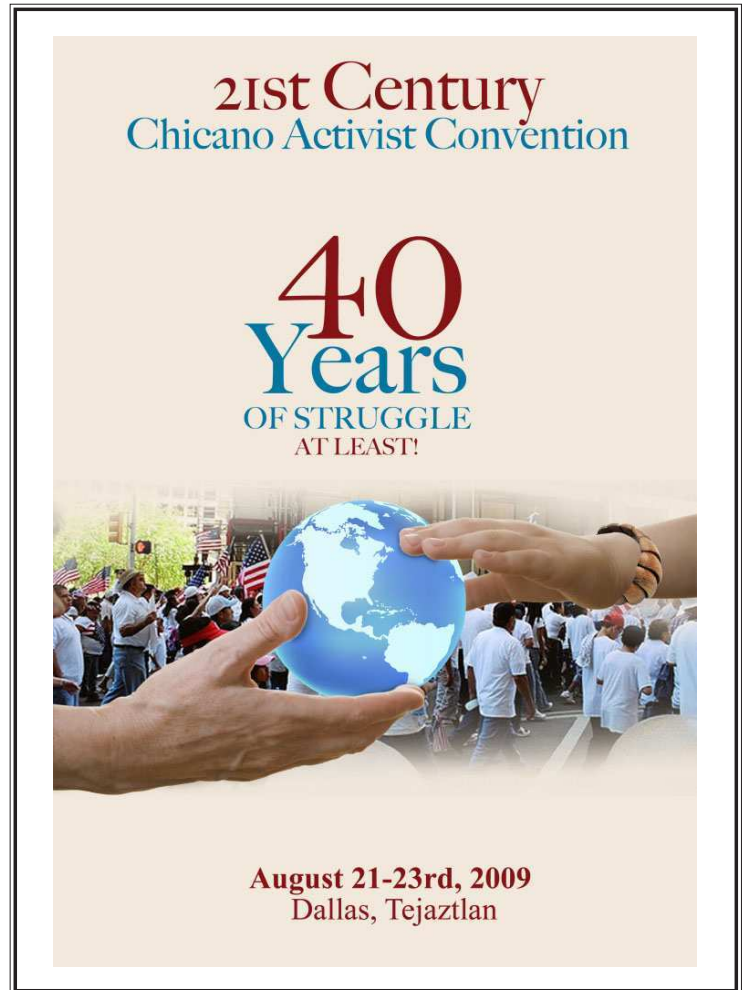
- TO CELEBRATE NEARLY HALF A CENTURY LATER MANY OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE CHICANO STRUGGLES AND EVENTS SINCE THE 1960s
- TO REVISIT, RETELL, RELIVE EVENTS AND EPISODES OF YEARS PAST
- TO LISTEN AND LEARN FROM EXPERTS, ONCE PARTICIPANTS, THEIR ANALYSES OF SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES OF THE CHICANO MOVEMENT
- TO EAT, DRINK, LAUGH, DANCE, AND BE HAPPY WITH EACH OTHER
- TO MEET AND GREET THOSE INTERESTED IN CARRYING FORTH THE CHICANO/MEXICANO STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY AND JUSTICE
- TO PASS THE TORCH OF STRUGGLE FOR CONTINUED GROUP ASCENDENCY
- TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PRESENT LIVES
- TO REMEMBER, REFLECT, AND EULOGIZE THOSE DEPARTED FROM OUR RANKS
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Texas State University Approved for Ph.D Program in Criminal Justice

Texas State launches new doctoral program in criminal justice

SAN MARCOS – The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has given final approval to a new doctorate in criminal justice at Texas State University-San Marcos.

Enrollment will begin immediately, with the Department of Criminal Justice offering classes for the fall 2009 semester.

"There's been considerable demand for a doctorate in criminal justice in this area for a very long time," said Mark Stafford, a professor in the criminal justice department at Texas State who will supervise the program. "The department recognized the demand in Austin and San Antonio several years ago and began developing a doctoral program."

Currently, there are only about 35 criminal justice doctoral programs in the nation. **Texas State's** new criminal justice doctorate is a research degree that should appeal to people in state agencies and law enforcement who are interested in conducting original research and applying that research to the criminal justice system, **Stafford** said. Potential enrollees are not so much prosecutors or police officers as they are upper-level administrators who see the value of research and desire more graduate education.

"Our enrollment will be a mix of traditional graduate students and working professionals. Ideally we will have 50 percent of each," he explained. "There's been nothing in the area to serve working professionals who are place-bound."

The **Texas State** doctorate will also draw upon the strengths of existing programs, such as **Professor Kim Rossmo's** Center for Geospatial Analysis. This will allow graduate students pursuing a criminal justice doctorate to join research projects almost immediately.

"Kim Rossmo's work is a cutting-edge, up-and-coming field of study in criminal justice. We see that as where we want to be—on the cutting edge," Stafford said. "Here at Texas State we can make use of the interdisciplinary strengths of our university. The excellence of the Geography program is one example. It only makes sense to do so, given the expertise of our department."

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Oscar Casares

will read from his new novel, **AMIGOLAND**, out from Little, Brown & Co. this month.

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Thursday, August 13

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Casares' 2003 story collection **BROWNSVILLE** won him many fans who have been awaiting the release of this first novel. He is a member of the fiction faculty of the University of Texas Department of English and the Michener Center for Writers.

AMIGOLAND, set on the South Texas border with Mexico, is the story of estranged brothers Don Fidencio Rosales—querulous, nearly 92 years old, and living in a nursing home—and Don Celestino, twenty years his junior and newly widowed, who finds himself somewhat ambivalently involved with his young cleaning woman, Socorro. The housekeeper turns out to be a catalyst for the brothers reconnecting, and the improbable trio takes off on a bus trip into Mexico, where the siblings hope to settle a long-standing dispute about how their grandfather arrived in the United States and Socorro hopes to find clarity in her unlikely romance. The trip stirs up powerful issues of family and pride and about how we care for the people we love.

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Calendar of Events

August 4th, 2009 - Stimulating Jobs to Bring Equality to East Austin. A presentation at **Southwest Key** 6002 Jain Street in Austin, Texas Starting time is 6:00pm. Hear from workers, business owners, and lenders from East Austin's economy as we discuss struggles in finding good employment in **East Austin**, starting and maintaining local businesses in East Austin, defending the rights of low-wage workers in Austin citywide, and solutions we can use to improve East Austin's economic condition.

August 8th, 2009 - **Little Joe y La Familia** at Villa's Music Garden 4406 South Congress Austin, Texas 8:00pm to 12:00 midnight

August 8th, 2009 - **Johnny Hernandez y La Gente** at Monarch Event Center 6406 North IH 35 Austin, Texas Doors open at 7:00pm. For more information call (512) 371-1711

August 13th, 2009 - Oscar Caseras reading at Book People corner of 6th and Lamar in Austin, Texas. 7:00pm

August 14th, 2009 - **Sunny Ozuna** and **Augustin Ramirez** at Cuauhtemoc Hall 1100 Patton Street San Marcos, Texas.

August 14th, 2009 - **The Hometown Boys** at **Country Cabaret 839 FM 467 Seguin, Texas**

August 15th, 2009 - **Santana-rama** adn 40th Anniversary Woodstock Celebration featuring The Frank Gomez Band & special guests at The Copper Tank 504 Trinity Street Austin, Texas. Doors open at 8:00pm

August 18th, 2009 - Reducing the Educational Disparity in East Austin - Another presentation in a series at **Southwest Key**. Starting time is 6:00pm. 6002 Jain Street, Austin, Texas For more information please call: (512) 462-2181

August 21st, 2009 - **Ricky Naranjo and the Gamblers** at the Country Cabaret 839 FM 467 Seguin, Texas

August 21-23, 2009 - Chicano Activist Reunion in Dallas, Texas. 40th Year Reunion of those who participated in the Chicano Movement and those who want to learn more about this event. Visit the website: www.dallaschicanoconvention.org.

August 23rd, 2009 - **Benefit for Ben Marines at La Zona Rosa** 612 West 4th Street Austin, Texas - Ruben Ramos, Joe King Carrasco, Los Flames, Salaman and Special Guests.

August 28th, 2009 - End of Summer Party With FGB In Port Aransas, Texas at the Back Porch Bar Located Right On The Waterfront!

August 28th, 2009 - La Causa Dance in San Antonio, Texas (See Poster on facing page.)

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



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

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

Many years ago	Hace muchos años
People	La Gente
Decided	Decidieron
Not going to take it	No se iba a dejar
They organized	Se organizaron
They yelled	Gritaron
They marched	Marcharon
The newspapers	Los periódicos
What do you want?	¿Qué quieren?
When?	¿Cuándo?
Are you sure?	¿Están seguros?
You are fools!	¡Están pendejos!
Get out of here	Salgan se de aquí
We will stay	Vamos a quedar
We are here	Aquí estamos
Now is the time	Ahora es cuando
Wait until . . .	Espere hasta . . .
Today!	Hoy!



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Chente Montes - From The Sunliners

Henry Parrilla - Little Henry & The Laveers, and The Sunliners

Arturo "Sauz" Gonzalez - Westside Horns

Ralph Cortez - Royal Jesters

Joe Jama Perales - Royal Jesters and Casino Royale

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