

LA VOZ

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de **AUSTIN**

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A Bilingual Newspaper

June, 2007

Johnston High School Awaits Decision on its Future



**Social Justice
Summer School to
Start June 19th**

**Eye on Crime
Ojo en el Crimen**

**Principal Tells the
Truth about Student
Attendance**

People in the News



Rene Sanchez
New Principal of
LBJ LASA Academy

Austin Superintendent Pat Forgiore announced that **Rene Sanchez**, will be the new director of the **Liberal Arts and Science Academy of Austin at LBJ High School**. We are fortunate that someone who is familiar with the **LASA** and has contributed to its success has accepted the position," said **Superintendent Pat Forgiore**.

Sanchez has a Bachelor's degree from the **University of Notre Dame**, a Master's degree from the **University of Texas at Austin** and a law degree from the **Ohio State University College of Law**.

He has experience as a teacher in the **Weslaco, Edinburg and Austin** school districts. He has been at **LBJ** Since 2000 and has been an AP economics teacher, college academic adviser and Coordinator of **Project ADVANCE** (Assess, Decide, Visit, Apply Now for your College Education)



Linda Medina
New Program Mgr.
at Chamber

The Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber has appointed **Linda Medina**, the new Program Manager for the Education Foundation. Born and raised in the west Texas town of **El Paso**. **Linda** received her Bachelor's from the **University of Texas at El Paso** in 2001 and Master's in Education with Honors from **Concordia University** in 2005.

In her new position she will be working with the **Austin Independent School District** on High School Redesign. **Medina** has been a member of the district's Strategic Planning Focus group and the **AISD's Superintendent's Task Force Strategic Planning Committee** that discussed the issues and challenges the public education system faces.

Linda is also the founder and president of the **Young Hispanic Professional Austin Association** and is an **AISD Teacher Leadership Development Program**.



Raul Alvarez Goes
to Work for Austin
School District

Former Austin City Councilman **Raul Alvarez** was recently named the new grassroots coordinator for the High School Redesign Project in the **Austin Independent School District**.

In this new position **Alvarez** will interface with community organizations and help the school district as it goes about redesigning its 12 high schools. **Alvarez**, who officially started his job on June 4th, was born in **Roma, Texas** and graduated from **Rio Grande City High School**. He went on to earn a bachelors degree from **Stanford University** and a masters degree in urban planning from the **University of Texas at Austin**.

Over the years he has been active in a number of community organizations including the **Community Action Network**, serving on the board of **METRO**, and helping to build the **Austin Latino Music Association**. **Alvarez** will bring a wealth of knowledge to his new job.



Maggie Rivas
Rodriguez Leads
Campaign

Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez is an Associate Professor in the **School of Journalism** at the **University of Texas at Austin**. For the past eight years she has been spearheading the **U.S. Latino and Latina World War II Oral History Project**. So far her team has collected interviews with over 450 men and women throughout the country.

When **PBS** (Public Broadcasting Service) decided it was time to produce an epic film on **World War II**, it hired veteran filmmaker **Ken Burns**. **Burns** completed the 14 hour film but forgot to include the many contributions to the war effort by **Latinos and Latinas**.

Dr. Rivas-Rodriguez found out and began a campaign called **Defend the Honor** (www.defendthehonor.org) to lobby **PBS** and **Burns** about who helped to kick **Adolf Hitler's ass**. So far it is unclear whether **Burns** understands the importance of getting this story right.



Texas State Rep
Eddie Rodriguez
Recaps Session

State Representative Rodriguez worked hard to better the lives of his constituents and citizens of **Texas** during the **80th Regular Session** of the **Texas Legislature**. After a long session, **Rep. Rodriguez** said the citizens of **District 51** will be pleased with what he accomplished.

"I'm proud of our accomplishments, but there's still a lot of work left to be done," **Rep. Rodriguez** said. He showed leadership in voting for an across-the-board teacher pay raise, for raising the homestead exemption, to lower the skyrocketing cost of tuition, against gutting the public schools with voucher schemes and to restore fully children's health insurance cut in 2003.

Representative Rodriguez is originally from the **Rio Grande Valley** and in addition to serving as a state representative he is currently attending law school at the **University of Texas**.



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 June 30, 2007 - 5:00pm

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La Junta en la Johnston High

Editorial

On May 31st, 2007 there was a community meeting at **Johnston High School** to discuss the possible closure of the school. **Johnston**, as almost everyone has heard, has been rated as academically unacceptable for the past three years. Under the **State Accountability System**, it now faces a series of sanctions including the possibility of closure because the TAKS scores have dropped in 12 of 16 categories.

As the meeting got started **Dr. Celina Estrada Thomas**, the chief academic officer of **Johnston**, welcomed everyone for taking the time to be present. It was clear from the buzz in the crowd that those present had come to say something. Some had even made signs and banners.

But **Dr. Estrada Thomas** had to deliver the bad news. She told the crowd that the fate of **Johnston High School** was now in the hands of the **Texas Education Commissioner, Shirley Neeley**. She also told the crowd that improving **Johnston's** test scores was indeed very difficult when students do not come to school.

Dr. Estrada Thomas told the crowd that of the 780 students at **Johnston High School**, more than 600 had missed 10 or more days of class. When the magnitude of this number settled in, the audience became very quiet. "How are we suppose to teach when students do not come to school?" **Dr. Estrada Thomas** asked the audience. There was no answer. When **Dr. Estrada Thomas** shared with those present that **Johnston High School** has had to file over 300 truancy cases in the **Justice of the Peace** court this year alone, again there was silence. There are so many cases of truancy at **Johnston High School** that the **Justice of the Peace Court** has set aside a whole each month just to hear **Johnston cases**.

After **Dr. Estrada Thomas** finished speaking she handed the microphone over to other speakers who attempted to explain a new plan to save **Johnston High School**.

But the crowd didn't appear in a mood to listen as evidenced by all the talking while the presenters tried to explain a new program for **Johnston High School** called First Things First.

Yes, it was true that the First Things First presentation included some technical language and details that seemed to be over the heads of many people. And yes, the slides may have been difficult to read, but my impression is that the people had come to be heard and wanted to speak.

Otra vez, that is just my impression. On pages 6 and 7 you find an assortment of comments taken from the tape recorder. In the mean time, we all wait for the decision of the **Texas Education Commission** on the future of **Johnston High School**.

Cambiando de Tamas

The Recent Shootings by the Austin Policeman

I feel compelled to say something on the recent shooting of **Mr. Kevin Brown** by a member of the **Austin Police Department**. Over the last couple of days my email account has been flooded with notes from people who have something to say about the shooting. So here goes my two pennies. From what little I know at this point, it appears to me that both **Mr. Brown** and **Mr. Olsen** made some bad decisions that fateful Sunday night.

When the police tell you to stop . . . put your hands in the air . . . or get on the ground, assuming you understand the language in which you are being addressed, you have exactly one choice, do what you are told. When decide to exercise another option, like running away, reaching for some-



Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Publisher

thing in your pocket or making a quick and sudden movement, the police do not view this as friendly and acceptable behavior. And if they have their weapons drawn, your actions action can have dire consequences.

Yes, you can talk to me all you want about policy and appropriate procedures. You can talk to me all you want about how the police are suppose to be trained professionals. But I will tell you that in my 55 years on this planet, when a person has a gun pointing at you, you are in serious trouble!

From what we can see of the video that has been played on the television, **Mr. Kevin Alexanders Brown** decision to run from the police that night was indeed a fatal decision. Like **Daniel Rocha**, who was also shot by a policeman two years ago, the failure to comply with direct and specific orders from a policeman and the subsequent decision to try and get away, proved fatal.

There are more reports and information that has still to come in about what happened at **Chester's Club**. But from what little I know, it doesn't look for anybody at this point. Another man has lost his life and the summer has just begun.

Otra vez, una familia va quedar llorando por un hijo que nunca va regresar a su casa. (Once again a family is left to cry for a son that will never return to his house.)



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CHANGE THE WORLD IN A SINGLE DAY! Jesus calls each of us to change the world, just as He did. Come join us in a dynamic and exciting day of learning, participation, and prayer, all aimed at global and local issues of human dignity and the lives of those most in need. Bishop Gregory Aymond will deliver the keynote address at the **Harvest of Justice Conference**, and link the words of Scripture to Catholic Social Teachings and the Biblical call to action. Our feature presenter is Jeff Korgen, author of "My Lord & My God – Engaging Catholics in Social Ministry". He will speak on implementing social justice programs in parishes and congregations. The day will also include **nine** breakout sessions on contemporary topics, a panel discussion & vendor exhibits. For more information and registration (\$20) go to www.harvestofjustice.org or call Sean at St. Ignatius parish in Austin at 512-442-3602.

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Austin Police Chief Candidates Community Forums

Three chances to visit face-to-face
with Police Chief finalists
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Monday, June 11
6 p.m.

Tuesday, June 12
8:30 a.m.
Noon

All of the Community Forums are at
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More information:
www.cityofaustin.org/hr/police_chief.htm



Aiiana de Triana Earns Masters Degree in Social Work

By Nancy Neff

Growing up in poverty, becoming a runaway and homeless by the time she was a teenager, **Aiiana de Triana** was destined to become a social worker.



Photo: Christina Murrey

She was born into a family of 12 children in the rural mountains of **Durango, Mexico**.

When de Triana was three years old, she began selling candy on the street to help put food on the table — although her family had no kitchen or utilities in their simple adobe house. De Triana has wanted to help people ever since. She will receive her master's degree in social work in May.

Uncertain of what the future held for her in **Durango**, 13-year-old de Triana ran away from home hoping to better herself and further her education. She lived on the streets for a time in **Tijuana** and then found her way to **San Diego** where she learned English and attended community college. De Triana went on to earn a bachelor's degree from the **University of California at San Diego**, always supporting herself with various jobs. "I'm the first one to say that my life has not been perfect," said de Triana, who has had little parental support or guidance. "There have been painful bumps in the road."

Soul searching and reflection led her to the field of social work. "I began to realize that I needed to work in a profession where I could play an active role in making underprivileged people's lives better," she said. De Triana became a U.S. citizen five years ago. "I never imagined myself in the United States," she said. "I'm still in awe of it."

"Aiiana's years of growing up in poverty ignited in her a deep sense of empathy for those in need and a passion for promoting social justice," said Vicki Packheiser, clinical associate professor of social work. "Her story is truly inspiring and has provided her with a fervor for social justice, true compassion for the suffering of others and a cultural sensitivity that far exceeds her peers and many social work professionals."

During her field placement at **Refugee Services of Austin**, de Triana was a powerful advocate for her clients — traumatized human trafficking survivors — linking them to much needed services, said Packheiser. "Aiiana is bilingual, but her ability to form relationships with people across cultures exceeds her language skills," she said.

De Triana has a long history of extending a hand to others. While in **San Diego**, she bought meals on her way home from work or school to give to the homeless, remembering when she was in the same situation. She also has delivered meals to indigent elderly people, run a books for prisoners program and helped develop workshops to bring health and sexual education to the indigenous people of **Chiapas, Mexico**. De Triana also coordinated with a group of social work students a visit to the **Rio Grande Valley** to learn about improving working conditions for immigrant farm workers. This semester, in addition to her internship working with substance abuse adolescents, she is teaching Spanish literacy classes to immigrants.

"My insights into social work have led me to recognize the worth, uniqueness and dignity of all individuals," de Triana said. "Every person deserves to be treated with dignity and respect." De Triana wants to help foster and strengthen the family and other support systems by helping individuals, groups and communities fulfill their potential. "I really believe that as human beings, we can create change. If you do — good things can happen."

Guest Editorial

'Cowboy up,' Alberto Gonzales

by David Iglesias

David C. Iglesias was the U.S. attorney for New Mexico from October 2001 to February 2007.

What happens in a presidential administration when loyalty, to borrow a phrase from "Star Trek," becomes the "prime directive"? What happens when its all-encompassing fog obscures all other values - such as fealty to the Constitution, the rule of law or simple humanity? What happens is that terrible decisions are made, repeated and then justified by this shibboleth. That's just one of the lessons that has emerged from the U.S. attorney scandal.

Recently the Senate is threatening to vote on a resolution of no-confidence in **U.S. Attorney Gen. Alberto R. Gonzales**. The **House Judiciary Committee** heard testimony from **Monica Goodling**, the attorney general's former aide, why at least eight U.S. attorneys, including me, were put on a list to be forced from office.

What has become clear already is that the "loyalty uber alles" mentality has infected a wide swath of the **Bush** administration. Simple notions like right and wrong are, in their eyes, matters of allegiance, not conscience.

The chilling congressional testimony given by former **Deputy Atty. Gen. James B. Comey** provided a graphic example of loyalty run amok. **Comey** recounted how, in 2004, former **White House Chief of Staff Andrew H. Card Jr.** and then-White House counsel **Gonzales** visited a hospitalized **Attorney Gen. John Ashcroft**, who had undergone surgery for pancreatitis. Undoubtedly under the influence of powerful painkillers, **Ashcroft** had just enough presence of mind to refuse, as **Comey** already had, to approve the extension of the illegal warrantless wiretap program. **Comey** was right there in the darkened hospital room but was ignored by **Card** and **Gonzales**, even though both knew he was the acting attorney general while **Ashcroft** was critically ill. Where was the compassion, conservative or otherwise, in that dark, silent room? Where was the humanity? Subsumed by loyalty.

The oath is to the U.S. Constitution, not to the president or his Cabinet.

Loyalty is a virtue with limits. That was one of the many hard lessons from **Watergate**. In that scandal, some of **President Nixon's** staffers carried their loyalty to the president all the way to federal prison. All federal prosecutors take a public oath when they assume office. I personally swore in about 30 new federal prosecutors during my tenure as U.S. attorney for **New Mexico**. The oath is to the **U.S. Constitution**, not to the president or his Cabinet.

Somehow **Goodling** did not understand this keystone concept. She appears to have placed her loyalty to the **Bush** administration and the **Republican Party** above any allegiance to the Constitution - which may have led her to believe that **Bush** acolytes would make the best federal prosecutors. Paradoxically, she knew enough of the Constitution to claim the protections afforded by the 5th Amendment-the right against self-incrimination.



I trust she now understands what is at stake in the U.S. attorney scandal: the rule of law, the independence of the prosecutor and the apolitical calculus of who should be prosecuted. Now, her immunity deal secured, she needs to seek redemption by clearly testifying about how my colleagues and I came to be placed on the to-fire list. It will demand moral courage, but she must name the political operatives regardless of where they sit in the West Wing of the White House. She needs, in the words of **Isaiah** the prophet, to "maintain justice and do what is right."

Yet, somewhere along the line, he drank the loyalty Kool-Aid.

And what of the embattled attorney general? Will **Gonzales** stay on to be the only Cabinet officer to receive a no-confidence vote? I once said that I found **Gonzales** to be a personal inspiration. No one can deny him his life's story, which is the American dream writ large. It began in **Humble, Texas**, born of impoverished Mexican American parents. He, like me, is a veteran of the U.S. military. He went to some of the best schools in America, including **Harvard Law**. Yet, somewhere along the line, he drank the loyalty Kool-Aid. Watching him testify before the Senate and House was painful for me. He had been a trailblazer for the Latino community, and then, in the space of a few hours of tortured testimony, he became just another morally rudderless political operative.

Will he "cowboy up,"

Will he "cowboy up," as we say in New Mexico - that is, find the courage to do the right thing? Or will he make the Senate go right up to the precipice of a no-confidence vote?

To be sure, the Justice Department is "dysfunctional," in the words of **Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.)**, but it is also in desperate need of leaders who place loyalty to the Constitution on a higher level than politics. We don't need latter-day **Haldemans**, **Ehrlichmans** or **Colsons** going to jail. The nation needs leaders who take ultimate responsibility for the wrongful actions of their subordinates; leaders who do the right thing, regardless of the consequences. **Mr. Attorney General**, it's time for you to cowboy up and do what's best for the American people you serve.

Commentary & Photos from Community Meeting on

Mr. Turner, the Executive Director for Facilities for the **Austin Independent School District** is answering questions from the audience. A lady from the audience asks in Spanish:

Lady: Quiero saber en que nivel estan las otras escuelas a donde van ir los muchachos? Estas pasando o estan igual a esta? (The translator speaks) Among the schools where the students are going to be reassigned, I want to know what is the level of those schools? Are they passing?

Mr. Turner: That's a really good question.

Audience member: Do you have an answer for her?

Mr. Turner: Yes. Currently we have two schools that will be receiving students that have accountability issues but they are not in the same tier as **Johnston**. Both **Reagan** and **Travis** would be schools that would be on one of these lists because of accountability issues. Now, accountability issues means they have received a rating of academically unacceptable. One of them is in the first year and the other is in the second year.

Audience member: So the answer is yes, they are low performing.

Mr. Turner: That is what I said.

Audience member: No, you didn't say that.

Mr. Turner: I said they were academically unacceptable which means low performing.

Audience member: OK, and if we are shut down we will find out June 15th, correct?

Mr. Turner: Again, that is something that we don't have any control over. We were originally told that the Commissioner would tell us something by June 15th. But here in the last couple of weeks we have heard that news might not come until the first part of August.

Audience member: So if it does come later on in August, do you honestly think that is enough time for us to decide which schools to send our children to?

Mr. Turner: I agree with you that it would be a very challenging situation. We would have to move quickly to set up meetings with counselors, organize transitions activities and get a lot of things in place.



You say people have choices. I understand that. But what I want to know is what have you taken away from Johnston? We had drafting, we had cosmetology we had a lot of stuff and you all took it away. So what choices do we have? So what do students say? They say, "they don't have nothing at Johnston. Let's go to

another school." We had a science academy and you all took it away. (Addressing **Mr. Turner** from the Central Office of the school district)

So what are you going to offer students that is going to make them want to come back? What are you going to offer them?



My name is **Justin Menchaca**. I come here to **Johnston High School** and next year I'm going to be a senior. I just want to say to all the parents and everybody here, this morning I had to go register for summer school. After that I went to my best friend, **Marco** and we made signs because we care about the school. Everybody here is trying so hard to make the school look so good. People care about the school. Everybody here is family cause we all have Ram Pride. If we have to march down 6th street and give them hell and tell them to not close **Johnston** then we will do it. Like everybody said, it's a community thing. And yes, we will try hard to make things better next year. (Applause)



the Johnston High School

May 31st, 2007



Dr. Celina Estrada, Chief Academic Officer at Johnston Addresses the Parent Meeting

I know we have a lot of people leaving but I feel it is important to say this, when I came to **Johnston** two years ago, we were already in this state (of being low performing.) We have spent thousands of dollars sending mail outs and calling homes. In the two years that I have been here, this is the first time that we have a packed house.

This is a community problem! We own it together. But somehow we need to get the word out there that we have have to stay united. If by chance we are allowed to stay open, this room needs to continue to be packed every month. (Applause)

I called for a meeting back in September to talk about the TAKS scores from last year. There were maybe 5 parents who came to the meeting. And that was after spending thousands of dollars in mail outs, and copying and man power behind that effort.

Yes, we have a responsibility to let you know when things are happening. But you also have a responsibility to question us. I wish my phone was ringing off the wall about why the scores are low. I haven't fielded one call. I almost wish that parents were angry with me. No one.

We need to rise up and get aggressive with this. You need to be questioning why the students aren't learning. And if you don't get a response from a teacher, or if you don't get a response from an administrator, call me. That's my job! I promise to make sure that you get your questions answered.

Cynthia Valadez Speaks at Johnston High School

We are not going to lay blame on anybody but **Johnston** did make a presentation to the school board on Tuesday night, two days ago, (May 29, 2007). And there was nobody in the audience. There were no parents. There were no students. It was just **Dr. Estrada** and the AISD administrators.

Johnston was not there. We are not going to blame anybody for not being there, but you now know that you have a school board meeting next Monday. There were school board members at the dais who were asking where is the spirit at **Johnston**? Where are the people from Johnston? Where is the community? Where are the students? Because they are not there.

When **Webb** made their presentation, it was a packed house! And now you know and you can't say you don't know. It is incumbent upon you to take two or three or five people with you on Monday night to the central office and let our school board know that you are not going to stand by quietly and let Johnston be closed!



En la Comunidad



Austin Voices for Education and Youth hosted its second community conference on May 19th, 2007 at the **Dove Springs Recreation Center**. Various community organizations which operate in the 78744 zip code were in attendance to discuss their programmatic activity and plans for the future. Everyone present also had the opportunity to hear from students about what they have seen taking place in their schools.

It was indeed very revealing what some of the students had to say about a variety of **Austin Independent School District** policies and how students are impacted. Among those in attendance were, **Paso Adelante, Office of the Austin Police Monitor, River City Youth Foundation, the Austin American Statesman, Attorney at Law Daniel Gonzalez, Buena Vista** and students from **Mendez** and **Paredes Middle Schools**. The photos on this pages were taken at the community conference.



ABOVE: from left to right, **Wayne Sanchez, Franco Martinez, Juan Rubio Dr. Deborah Havens, Raven Hill and Hermelinda Zamarripa.**

RIGHT: **Boomer Garza** listens to the discussion go around the able.

LEFT: **Wayne Sanchez** from **Mendez Middle School** thinks about an answer to a question.



LEFT: **Sue Cole** from the **River City Youth Foundation**

RIGHT: **Daniel Garza** from **Austin Voices** responds to **Selena Walsh** from **Buena Vista**.

This page brought to you by Austin Voices for Education and Youth



En la Comunidad

Dr. Nestor Rodriguez from the University of Houston presented a guest lecture on the current immigration debate



ABOVE: After Dr. Nestor Rodriguez's presentation on immigration, staff members of the **Center for Mexican American Studies** at the **University of Texas at Austin** posed for this group photo. From left to right: **Dr. Jose Limon, Luis Guevara, Clarisa Hernandez, Elvira Prieto, Dolores Garcia** and **Dr. Nestor Rodriguez**.

Doyle Valdez 'Social Justice Award' Presented to Austin Bishop John McCarthy



Photo credit: Carmen Luevanos, Austin Independent School District

ABOVE: Left to right, Doyle Valdez, International High School Principal Anabel Garza and Bishop John McCarthy, Bishop Emeritus of the Catholic Diocese of Austin.

Bishop John McCarthy, Bishop Emeritus of the Catholic Diocese of Austin, is the first honoree of the **Doyle Valdez Social Justice Award** for his continued volunteer work in the Austin community. The second recipient is **International High School Principal Anabel Garza** for her steady vision and guidance in the development of the campus, which focuses on teaching secondary immigrant students English. The event was sponsored by the **University of Texas Principalship Program**, which, in partnership with the **Austin School District**, "transforms educators into insightful leaders." Upon completing the two-year program, participants receive a master's degree in Educational Administration and the required principalship certificates. Currently there are 28 educators participating.



ABOVE: **Cantrell Daniels**, a student at **Johnston High School**, was one of several speakers at the May 31, 2007 community meeting.



ABOVE: **Pat Alvarez** and **Jill Ramirez** were recognized at the **Doyle Valdez Social Justice Awards** event for their respective contributions in the greater Austin community.

20 Questions for Alma Sanchez Perez

La Voz: Last month you shared the cover of the May, 2007 edition of *La Voz de Austin* with **Janie Muñoz Sanchez**. We had just learned that you were scheduled to graduate and were not able to get you the interview questions on time. So as we promised our readers, you are our interviewee for June. Let's start by asking you how you feel?

Alma: I feel the most driven that I have ever felt in my whole life. Driven, in terms of the accomplishment of my goals.

La Voz: When you look back on your educational journey how have you changed?

Alma: I believe that my life has been enriched as a person. Making the decision to pursue a doctoral degree from the **University of Texas at Austin** at this stage in my life has been very significant. I call this accomplishment a renewal of my goals and a thrust into the next phase.

La Voz: Where did you grow up?

Alma Perez: grew up in **Sonora, Texas**, where I attended **Elliott Elementary School** in a segregated school district. The No Spanish Rule of 1918 was still in existence until the law to permit bilingual education was enacted in 1969.

La Voz: Where did you go to high school?

Alma: I graduated from **Sonora High School** in 1963.

La Voz: As a teenager in high school, what was important to you?

Alma: Growing up as a teenager in the 1950's and 1960's was very exciting and frustrating at the same time. Racial discrimination was rampant but small town living was safe and *familias* were very united and supportive in forming good values in children.

La Voz: Did you work when you were in high school?

Alma: In our small community, it was very difficult to work while attending high school. The scarcity of jobs for teenagers



Alma Sanchez Perez

encouraged our parents to travel to *el norte* for migrant work. I remember that many of *us* (the Mexican students) worked pulling bitter weeds during the summer for ranch owners. I later found out that that our wages were subsidized by federal funds from the government to prevent the cattle from poisoning.

La Voz: When you were in high school, was higher education something that you thought was in your future?

Alma: I always knew that higher education was very essential and important in my life.

La Voz: Who influenced you the most before you entered college?

Alma: My participation as a member of the **American Junior G. I. Forum** in **Texas** was the greatest motivator in going to college.

La Voz: The **Chicano Movement** was going on when you were in college. What effect did it have on you and your education?

Alma: The **Chicano Movement** directly affected my educational goals during

undergraduate work in college. The **Kennedy-Johnson Era** was a remarkable part of my political life since it initiated many of the federal programs that moved Chicanos into the mainstream and created and opened the door to many of the changes that we enjoy today as Latinos in the United States.

La Voz: When you think back to your early years in college, was a doctorate in education part of the dream?

Alma: A doctoral degree was always a part of my dream. However, as a traditional Mexican/Chicana/Latina female, I wanted to raise a family first and then finish pursuing my educational efforts.

La Voz: Looking back, was there ever a time when you stopped and asked yourself if a graduate education was something within your reach?

Alma: I have never looked back to ask myself if graduate education was something within my reach. In fact, all of my three children are college graduates. One has a law degree.

La Voz: Did anyone ever discourage you or suggest that **Alma Perez** should choose another path in life?

Alma: No one ever discouraged me to choose another path in life. However, I wish that in high school I had been encouraged to attend college by my teachers.

La Voz: Who has been your inspiration in life?

Alma: I have had different people and events to inspire me at different stages in my life. The educational and economic status of our Latino population has always been a factor in my efforts to achieve. At the present time, my children and grandchildren are my inspiration because they motivate me to be driven and accomplish my goals.

La Voz: What do you do to remind yourself that there is light at the "end of the tunnel?"

Alma: I have undertaken many difficult challenges in my life in different arenas. However, the task of writing a dissertation was rigorous and my patience was tested as I reminded myself that there had to be "light at the end of the tunnel."

La Voz: What did your children say, when you told them you were going to be pursuing a Ph.D at the **University of Texas at Austin**?

Alma: My children were very supportive when I was accepted to pursue the doctoral degree at the **University of Texas at Austin**. They are very proud of anyone who wants to accomplish any goal to improve his or her status in life.

La Voz: At your graduation party at **Serranos Restaurant** in **Austin**, you thanked a lot of people. Are we to take it that this last part of your educational journey was made possible with a lot of help from your friends?

Alma: I had support from many friends and family members while working on my doctoral degree. My dissertation committee and chair, **Dr. Angela Valenzuela**, were outstanding.

La Voz: Looking back on your academic career, is there anything you would have done differently?

Alma: I do not regret anything that has been a part of my educational career and I would not have done anything differently.

La Voz: What is your favorite color?

Alma: My favorite color is red because to me it is a promising color and it provides happiness and well being of spirit.

La Voz: Who is your favorite musical group?

Alma: I have many musical groups. Mexican music is my favorite. Rancheras make me feel emotional and Tejano music moves me to dance.

La Voz: What does the future have in store for **Dr. Alma R. Perez**?

Alma: I have a list of things that I want to do in the future. The list grows more as I grow older because this is the most exciting phase of my life.

Social Justice

Summer School in Austin, Texas

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

This summer, **Austin Voices for Education and Youth**, **Austin Community College**, **Austin Community College's Center for Public Policy and Political Studies** and the **Latino/Latin American Studies Center** have joined together to sponsor the second annual **Social Justice Summer School**. This 5 week program at the South Austin (1820 West Stassney Lane) and Riverside Campuses of **Austin Community College** will provide members of the **Stand Up Clubs** and other students with advanced training in the social change process and how to organize and improve their schools and neighborhoods.

Students who attend the **2007 Social Justice Summer School** will take short courses in:

1. The history of social protest
2. Economics and the Origins of Poverty,
3. Agenda setting in communities of color
4. The ins and outs of Texas prisons and jails
5. How students have changed the public schools

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

Dates and Times

Start: June 19th, 2007

End: July 26th, 2007

Days: Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays

Times: 11:00am to 2:00pm.



TO APPLY to the 2007 Social Justice Summer School please fill out an application (www.austinvoices.org) and send it to asantos@austinvoices.org or mail it to:

Austin Voices for Education and Youth
3710 Cedar Street, Suite 229 Box 21
Austin, Texas 78705

If you have any questions about the Social Justice Summer School please call Alfredo Santos c/s at: (512) 450-1880 or (512) 944-4123

Facilitators for 2007

Tim Eubanks is the lead organizer for **Austin Voices for Education and Youth**. He has extensive experience working with young people and facilitating small group discussions. **Eubanks** earned his bachelors degree from **Antioch College**.

Alfredo Rodriguez Santos c/s is a community organizer with **Austin Voices for Education and Youth**. He has worked a school teacher, labor organizer and journalist. **Santos** earned his bachelors degree from the **University of California Berkeley** and masters degree from **Sul Ross State University - Rio Grande College**.

Daniel Garza is a parent leader with **Austin Voices for Education and Youth**. He is the father of five and an aspiring hip hop artist. He is currently attending **Austin Community College**.



Dorothy Day



Cesar Chavez



Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Saul Alinsky

Austin
Voices
for
EDUCATION
and YOUTH



Students pay close attention to each guest speaker during the sessions at Lanier HS.



Last summer Dr. Federico Subervi was explaining how images are shaped by the media.



Austin Voices Stand Up Club members reporting out at a NCLB hearing in Houston, Texas.

OJO EN EL CRIMEN

**Incidents Reported to the Austin
Police Department for the
period Jan. 1st, 2007 to May 29, 2007**

**Reportes al Departamento de
Policia de Austin por el período
1 de Enero 2007 hasta 29 de mayo 2007**

Number of Incidents by Zip Code (see facing page) Numero de Casos porCodigo Postal (vea la otra pagina)

| Type of incident Tipo de incidentes | 78702 zip code | 78704 zip code | 78721 zip code | 78744 zip code | 78758 zip code | Totals |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|
| 1. THEFT | 291 | 400 | 96 | 230 | 250 | 1,267 |
| 2. BURGLARY OF VEHICLE | 243 | 327 | 63 | 296 | 380 | 1,309 |
| 3. FAMILY DISTURBANCE | 282 | 288 | 167 | 323 | 288 | 1,248 |
| 4. LEAVING THE SCENE CRASH/ACCIDENT | 215 | 254 | 50 | 166 | 190 | 875 |
| 5. CRIMINAL MISCHIEF | 163 | 234 | 64 | 194 | 218 | 873 |
| 6. DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED | 123 | 173 | 13 | 42 | 82 | 433 |
| 7. PUBLIC INTOXICATION | 182 | 163 | 22 | 115 | 73 | 555 |
| 8. HARASSMENT | 94 | 126 | 64 | 118 | 188 | 590 |
| 9. ASSAULT W/INJURY-FAM/DATE VIOL | 112 | 118 | 70 | 160 | 174 | 634 |
| 10. BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE | 45 | 98 | 49 | 119 | 181 | 492 |
| 11. POSS OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA | 227 | 96 | 20 | 47 | 21 | 411 |
| 12. AUTO THEFT | 55 | 63 | 21 | 51 | 91 | 281 |
| 13. DISTURBANCE/OTHER | 68 | 78 | 49 | 56 | 55 | 306 |
| 14. BURGLARY NON RESIDENCE | 61 | 56 | 16 | 31 | 57 | 221 |
| 15. ABANDONED VEHICLE | 75 | 45 | 59 | 63 | 66 | 308 |
| 16. DWL SUSPENDED SR | 37 | 42 | 10 | 38 | 12 | 139 |
| 17. ASSAULT BY CONTACT | 29 | 64 | 18 | 24 | 32 | 167 |
| 18. ASSAULT WITH INJURY | 64 | 76 | 33 | 54 | 61 | 288 |
| 19. CRIMINAL TRESPASS | 152 | 63 | 28 | 48 | 41 | 332 |
| 20. DWL SUSPENDED MANDATORY | 66 | 42 | 17 | 46 | 27 | 198 |
| 21. CITY ORDINANCE VIOLATION/OTHER | 73 | 57 | 4 | 24 | 20 | 108 |
| 22. POSS CONTROLLED SUB/NARCOTIC | 134 | 42 | 14 | 30 | 26 | 246 |
| 23. CUSTODY ARREST TRAFFIC WARR | 60 | 42 | 15 | 29 | 22 | 168 |
| 24. TERRORISTIC THREAT | 21 | 46 | 9 | 39 | 33 | 148 |
| 25. ASSAULT BY THREAT | 33 | 26 | 13 | 15 | 22 | 109 |
| | | | | | | 11,706 |

EYE ON CRIME

What Do These Numbers Suggest?

The table on the facing page contains reported incidents to the **Austin Police Department** from January 1st, 2007 to May 29th, 2007. The reported incidents cover the five zip codes currently being targeted by **La Voz de Austin**. The incident categories represent the most reported incidents for the four months in question.

Altogether, in just these five zip codes, in the first three months of this year, there were a total of 11,411 incidents in the 25 categories we are examining. What is immediately striking about these statistics is the high number of violence related incidents. Out of the 25 categories, 7, or 28%, are violence related:

| | | |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. | Family Disturbance | 1,248 |
| 2. | Harassment | 590 |
| 3. | Assault with Injury to a Family Member Dating Violence | 634 |
| 4. | Assault by Contact | 167 |
| 5. | Assault with Injury | 288 |
| 6. | Terroristic Threat | 148 |
| 7. | Assault by Threat | 109 |

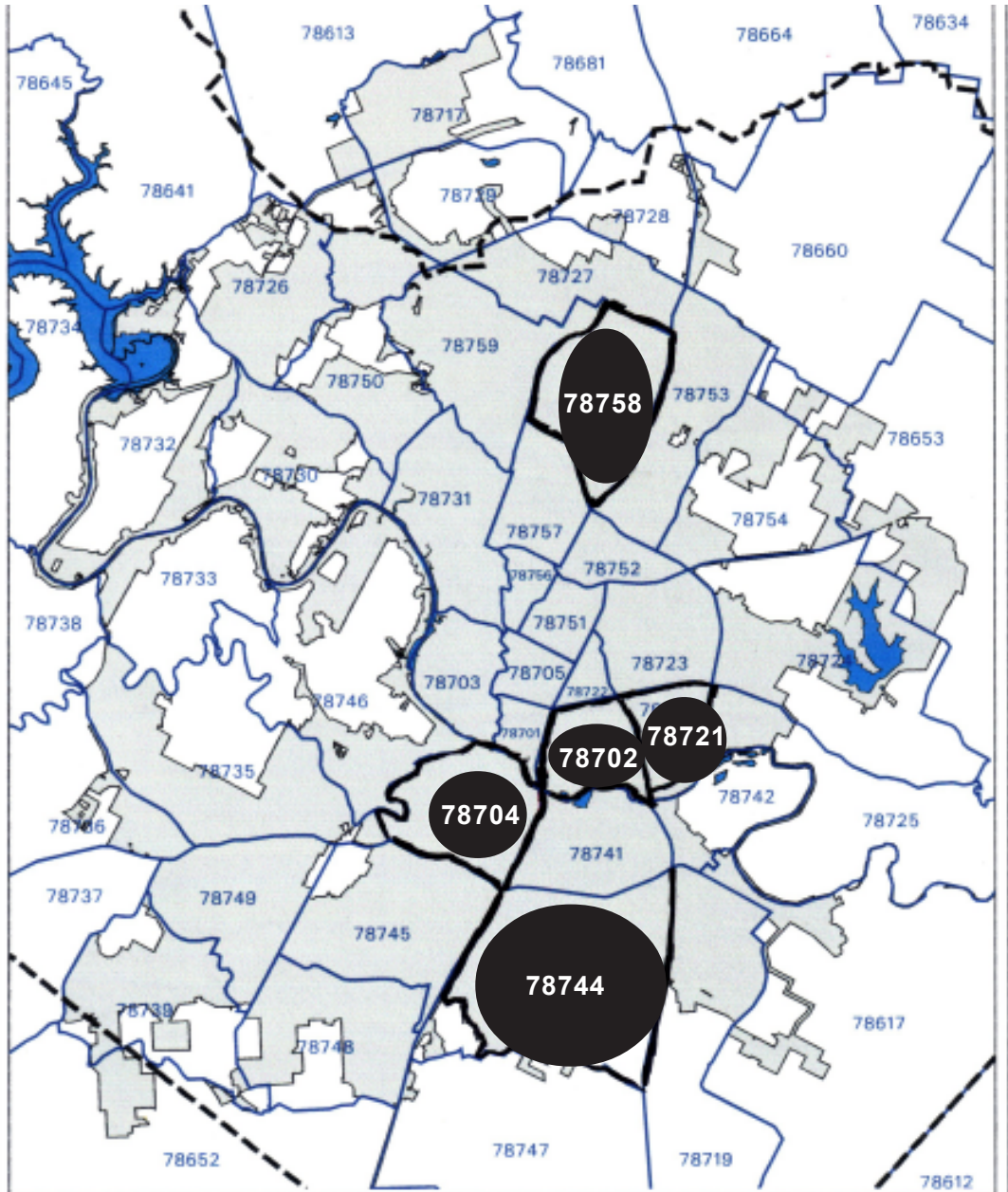
3,184

The next thing that stands out in looking at these statistics is the number of property crimes reported.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Theft | 1,267 |
| Burglary of a Vehicle | 1,309 |
| Burglary of a Residence | 492 |
| Auto Theft | 281 |
| Burglary of a Non-Residence | 221 |

3,570

Here is a question, with this amount of property crime and violence going on, how are people suppose to get a good night's sleep? Second question, how are school children affected by the kind of crimes that are going on around them?



Zip Codes and Austin City Limits

Source: Ryan Robinson, City Demographer, Department of Planning, City of Austin, August 2003.

City of Austin Full and
Limited Purpose
Jurisdiction: 8.1.2003

Summer Southside Sale:

10% - 60% OFF All Books,

Spoken Word/Music CD's, & Posters

including

Chicano/Latina Literature

Caramelo (English) by Sandra Cisneros 60% off

Chicana Lives & Criminal Justice by Juanita Diaz Cotto 15% off

Soldados: Chicanos in Vietnam by Charley Trujillo 15%

This Side of Skin by Deborah Perédez 20% off

LGBTQ Literature

Bullets & Butterflies: Queer Spoken Word Poetry

edited by Emanuel Xavier 15% off

Nothing Ugly Fly: Poems by Marvin K. White 15% off

santo de la pata alzada: poems from the queer/xicano/positive pen

by lorenzo herrera y Lozano 15% off

Tommy Stands Alone (Young Adult) by Gloria Velásquez 15% off

Libros en Español

Caramelo (Español) por Sandra Cisneros 60% off

Iglesia, Tierra y Lucha Campesina: Suchitoto, El Salvador, 1968-1977

por José Inocencio Alas 20% off

Una Herida Por Otra: Testimonios de Latin@s in the U.S. through Cyberspace Claire Joysmith Y Clara Lomas (editoras) 20% off

Spoken Word/Music CD's

Pájaros de Otro Canto by Lourdes Pérez 20% off

Intersection by Taco Shop Poets featuring

raúlsalinas & jose Montoya 15% off

Amniotic/Flow by sharon bridgforth 15% off

June 9 through July 31, 2007

Resistencia Bookstore Casa de Red Salmon Arts

1801-A South First St., Austin, Texas 512-416-8885

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 cada mes a nuestros lectores de **La Voz de Austin** una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| This | Este |
| Summer | Verano |
| It | Es |
| Very | Muy |
| Important | Importante |
| People | Gente |
| Take | Toma |
| The | El |
| Time | Tiempo |
| Learn | Aprender |
| Importance | Importancia |
| Education | Educación |
| Students | Estudiantes |
| Parents | Padres de Familia |
| Please | Por favor |
| Don't | No |
| Close | Cerrar |
| High School | Secundaria |



Dan
Arellano

DareCo Realtors

Thinking of buying a house, then think of me. I have been in the real estate business for more than 20 years. I can help you realize your dream of owning your own home.



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THE ARTS ALIVE INSTITUTE

A bi-lingual inclusive arts exchange

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2007

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

SRI ATMANADA SCHOOL

4100 RED RIVER

(located in the chapel at the corner of East 41st Street, entrance on Red River - in Central Austin)



FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION:
VISIT VSATX.ORG OR CALL EMILY AT 512-573-3071

FOR FULL INSTITUTE SCHEDULE:
VISIT VSATX.ORG OR CONTACT INFO@VSATX.ORG

The Arts Alive Institute is brought to you by:



INSTITUTE DETAILS

The Arts Alive Institute is a one day arts exchange of best practices in bi-lingual arts education and inclusion open to artists, educators, and teaching artists.

Presentations:

Storytelling in the Classroom:

Applications Across the Curriculum

by Diane Williams of the Mississippi Arts Commission.

Theatre for Social Change: A Workshop on Embodied Activism

by Joni L. Jones, Ph.D./Omi Osun Olomo, Founder of The Austin Project, Associate Professor of The Department of Theatre and Dance and Associate Director of the Center for African and African American Studies at University of Texas at Austin.

Creative Writing in the Bilingual Classroom

by Grady Hillman, President of Southwest Correctional Arts Network"

Expressive Arts laboratory at the VSA arts of Texas Multi-Arts Space, led by Nilea Rohrer-Parvin of VSA arts Teaching Artist Fellow.

Roda Performance by Project Life, Free Angola Capoeira Society.

Open to the public. Lunch provided.

CPE CREDITS AVAILABLE FOR EDUCATORS.

Daniel R. Gonzalez, Attorney at Law, P.C., wishes to announce the opening of his law office at 13284 Pond Springs Road Suite # 403 Austin, Texas 78729. The office is opening from 8:30 to 5:00pm Monday thru Friday. The telephone number is (512) 219-9300. The fax number is (512) 219-9375.

El Abogado **Daniel R. Gonzalez** anuncia la apertura de oficina de leyes ubicado en la 13284 de el camino Pond Springs # 403 aquí en Austin, Texas 78729. La oficina esta abierta de las 8:30 hasta las 5:00 de lunes a viernes. El teléfono es (512) 219-9300. El fax es (512) 219-9375.

La Primer Consulta es gratis.

DANIEL R. GONZALEZ
ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.C.



If you have any legal questions, please give me a call.

Gracias

Not certified by the Board of Legal Specialization in the State of Texas

Akins Summer Experience

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| What? | A 3-week summer experience to get used to being in high school |
| Why? | You get to know Akins & you get high school credit |
| When? | June 5 th - 22 nd |
| Time? | 9:00 a.m. - 1:35 p.m. |
| How? | We'll provide bus transportation to and from Akins |

You get to choose a class, go on weekly field trips, and get a semester credit in only 14 class days! You'll have a head start at getting your diploma!

Choose 1 of these classes:

PE, Health, Teen Leadership, or Reading

Registration is FREE & only for incoming

9th graders from Paredes.

Students admitted on a first come, first served basis.

**Contact the Akins 9th Grade Center
for details**

@ 841-9881

THE Eagle Experience (THE EE)

What is THE EE Program?

The Eagle Experience program is a FREE enrichment program for incoming 9th grade students at Akins High School. You must attend summer school at Akins to participate.

Why should I attend THE EE Program?

Students will get academic support and enrichment activities on a high school campus.

When is THE EE Program?

The Eagle Experience will start June 5th and will end June 22nd.

What time is THE EE Program?

1:45 pm to 5:45 pm will be the academic enrichment session. Sponsored by the 21st Century Program, the session will focus on academic enrichment programs to include **Healthy Habits, STEP CLASS, Music Makers (DJ School), Passport to Manhood and SMART Girls sessions**. (This session is on a first-come, first-serve basis)

Transportation **will not** be provided home from THE EAGLE EXPERIENCE (THEEE). We need both parents and students to make plans to be on time arriving and departing daily.

**To confirm your registration for the
academic enrichment session, contact
Mr. James Calahan,
21st Century Program Site Coordinator
at Paredes Middle School 841-7061.**