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LA VOZ de **AUSTIN**

Gratis/Free

Volume # 2 Number # 5

A Bilingual Newspaper

May, 2007



Alma R. Perez

Janie Muñoz Sanchez

Why are these Women Smiling?

People in the News



Professor Nestor Rodriguez Lectures at UT Austin

Dr. Nestor Rodriguez came back to his alma matter as a guest of the **Center for Mexican American Studies** to deliver a talk on the current state of immigration in the United States.

Dr. Rodriguez, who graduate with his doctorate from **UT Austin** in the early 1980s is currently a professor at the **University of Houston**. In the more than 20 years he has been in **Houston**, he has directed some of the most interesting research in the country, especially on Central Americans. In addition to teaching at the **University of Houston** he is the director of the Center for Immigration Research.

His present research projects in collaboration with researchers in the United States and abroad include 1) a study of the impact of the 1996 immigration act on detention and deportation, and 2) a study of migrant deaths at the U.S.- Mexico border. He is also working on an edited volume with **Cecilia Menjivar** on state-sponsored terror in Latin America and on a book on Guatemala immigration with **Susanne Jones**.



Aurora Martinez Jones Graduates UT Law School

Aurora Martinez Jones grew up in **La Porte, Texas** and is first generation American. Her mother is from **Jamaica** and her father is from **Mexico**. In 2001, **Aurora** moved to **Austin, Texas** to attend **The University of Texas at Austin**. She received her Bachelor of Arts in three years and in 2004, she entered **The University of Texas at Austin School of Law**.

While in law school **Aurora** founded a new civil rights and community development organization called the **Minority Association for the People**. She was also recently married on March 10, 2007.

On May 19th, 2007 **Aurora** will receive her J.D. from **UT School of Law**. After passing the bar exam and receiving her law license, **Aurora Martinez Jones** plans on opening her own law office in **Austin** focusing on Immigration law, Juvenile law, and Real Estate law.



Sam Guzman Wins School Board Race for District # 2

Sam Guzman beat three other candidates for a spot on the school board of the **Austin Independent School District**. **Guzman** who has been active in a number of community based organizations enjoyed high name recognition going into the race.

As the former President of the **Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce**, he had a well established base of support.

Why are these Women Smiling?



They are smiling because come May 19th, 2007 you can call them **Dr. Alma R. Perez** and **Dr. Janie Muñoz Sanchez**. Each received their doctorates from the **School of Education at The University of Texas at Austin** under the guidance of **Dr. Angela Valenzuela** who served as their dissertation chairperson. See page 13 for an interview with **Janie Muñoz Sanchez**. Look for the interview with **Alma R. Perez** in the June, 2007 issue of **La Voz de Austin**.

Austin Independent School Board Election Results for District 2

21 of 21 Precincts Reporting						
Candidate	Early Vote	%	Election Day Vote	%	Total Vote	Final Percent
Sam Guzman	266	61%	307	75%	573	68%
Fred McGhee	42	10%	24	6%	66	8%
Gerald Guerra	46	10%	26	6%	72	9%
Gary Johnson	83	19%	50	12%	133	16%



A GLIMMER OF HOPE
FOUNDATION



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 30th, 2007 - 5:00pm

**THE CAMPAIGN TO MAKE
POVERTY HISTORY**

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One Man, One Vote?

I don't know about you, but when I saw that segment on TV earlier this week about State Representatives reaching over and voting for other legislators in the Capitol, I said to myself, What? *¿Que estan haciendo estos?*

As it is, the public is not particularly enamored with politicians and so then they see this on TV . . . si mira mal. What can I say? Y deja tu, si mira mal especialmente in light of the fact that the politicos are debating the idea of making people show more forms of identification before THEY (the people) cast their votes! Ahora sí, los ironies aquí son muchos.

El Sam Guzman

El buen amigo **Sam Guzman** won the May 12th school board race he was in with three other candidates. Aunque sacó nomas 537 votes, he is still the winner. But the fact that voter turnout was so low doesn't say very much about how serious the average voter takes education issues. Bueno, por lo pronto, lo dejamos porque alcabo va haber otra elección muy pronto. Congratulations to **Sam Guzman**.

The TAKS in AISD

The preliminary **TAKS** scores have come in and the news is mixed for two schools in particular. For **Webb Middle School** their insistence on proving themselves paid off not only to themselves, but also to everyone who feared they were going to be ordered to close down by the **Texas Education Agency Commissioner**. Ever since the

Webb community stood up and said NO to the superintendent's idea of closing the school, the burden has been placed on the community's shoulders to make this school a go. Here at **La Voz** we congratulate them for not giving up.

Johnston High School

Johnston High School on the other hand did not do well on the **TAKS**. Their **TAKS** scores while not fully disclosed as we go to print, are reportedly below last year's scores in some areas. In the coming weeks there is going to be a lot of attention on **Johnston High School** as the **Texas Education Agency** gets ready to make a decision. Next week there is going to be a big community meeting in the cafeteria at **Johnston High School** on May 22nd to discuss this very topic.

We would caution anyone who is planning to attend this meeting to refrain from pointing fingers at the teachers and administration as they look for someone to blame. The teachers and administrators worked overtime throughout the year doing all they could to help students with their classes.

But when students do not go to school regularly it is very difficult to impart knowledge. On some weeks, over 20% of the student body at **Johnston High School** was not in school. When it came to getting to class on time, the tardys were in the hundreds. And we won't even begin to get into a discussion of students who dis-

Editorial



Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Publisher

rupt classes and make it next to impossible for those who do want to learn.

As different people begin to take a closer look at what is going on at **Johnston High School**, we predict that the gloves are going to come off as each stakeholder is held to account about their role during the 2006-2007 academic year.

Last Comment

We want to call to our reader's attention the women who grace our cover in this month's edition of **La Voz de Austin**. Despite families and full work schedules, **Alma Perez** and **Janie Muñoz Sanchez** have achieved one of their goals in life: a doctoral degree. We congratulate them!

Employment Opportunity

Non Profit looking for the following positions for a customer service training program: **Career Coach/ Recruiter** to provide community outreach, public presentations, recruiting and job coaching. Must have strong computer skills, public speaking. Flexible hours required. & **Trainer** to train for telephonic based customer service training program. Must have strong computer skills and previous training experience, curriculum development experience preferred. Evening hours required. For both positions- BA required and Bilingual preferred. To apply submit salary req. w/ application and EEO found at www.swkey.org via fax 512-912-7690 or jobs@swkey.org EOE

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AISSD Holds First Hispanic Young Men's Leadership Conference

On April, 21, the **Austin Independent School District** sponsored a half conference for Hispanic young men at **Travis High School**.

After a welcoming by the **Dr. Rene Gargantan**, Principal of **Travis High School**, **Austin City Councilman Mike Martinez** delivered the keynote address and shared with the 200 people present part of his life's story growing up in a small Texas town.

After a brief intermission there were several breakout sessions where students and their parents had the opportunity to learn more about college and career opportunities.

A Fajita Lunch was served and several surprise guest speakers including local TV personality **Ron Oliviera** shared how they found their way into college. **Oliviera's** talk was especially moving because told everyone how several male members of his family died from sudden heart attacks including his father.

A Fajita Lunch was served and several surprise guest speakers including local TV personality **Ron Oliviera** shared how they found their way into college. **Oliviera's** talk was especially moving because told everyone how several male members of his family died from sudden heart attacks including his father.

Dr. Paul Cruz, Assistant Superintendent of Education Support Services along with a committee of community members had met on several occasions since last year to organize this event. It is expected that these leadership conferences will continue in the near future.

LBJ High School student **Alberto Alvarez** along with his mother were among the many who turned out to participate in this event. **Alvarez** said he likes to go to all types of event because you never know what you are going to learn. His mother echoed his statement when she added, "*Alberto le gusta andar en todo. Siempre me dice de juntos que se estan llevando a cabo en la comunidad. Y si no estoy trabajando, pues, yo lo llevo.*"



Dr. Rene Gargantan



Dr. Paul Cruz

Hispanic Allowed on the Cheerleader Squad at Austin High School

No te metes con Camen porque ella no se deja. This is what the principal at **Austin High School** finally learned when he denied **Carmen Degollado's** daughter (**Illianna**) a spot on the cheerleading squad.

Earlier this year, **Degollado's** daughter tried out for the **Austin High School** cheerleading squad. When the names were posted on the internet her was one of the lucky ones who had made it. Then about 30 minutes later the internet site went down. When it came back up **Degollado's** daughter name had been removed.

She called the school and tried speaking to various people. Finally she got a meeting with the principal, a **Mr. John Hudson**. According to **Degollado**, there had been a mistake. The principal said he was sorry but there was nothing he could do. **Degollado** left his office. As she drove home she thought about the way this situation was going down. Finally she said to herself, she was not going to take no for an answer.

In the ensuing days of March, she spoke to a lot of people and sought counsel and advice. As she began to dig deeper into the cheerleader selection process with open records requests, she also began to get more people involved. **Degollado** went to a meeting of **Unidos de Austin**, a coalition of community activists to share with them what was going on and to ask for support.

In a subsequent meeting with the principal **John Hudson**, he offered to make **Degollado's** daughter the "water girl" or manager. **Degollado** basically said, Hell no!" and went to the school district office to file a complaint.

As more and more people began making inquiries as to what was going on at **Austin High School**, out of the blue came the offer and invitation for **Degollado's** daughter to join the cheerleading squad. What happened? Who changed their mind? What did **Carmen Degollado** discover that all of a sudden led to change of heart?

Degollado isn't telling right now but she is hinting that there may be more to come. From what we can tell so far, **Carmen Degollado** is a shining example of what parental involvement can mean. *Qué tal si más padres de familia se pusieron firmes como Carmen?*

Austin Community College Profile

by Lisa Malan

Growing up in **Laredo, Texas**, **Juanita (Garza) Mendez** aspired to be a teacher. With eight children in the family, however, college was rarely, if ever, mentioned. But the influence of **Mendez's** high school friends prompted her to follow them to **Laredo's** junior college. And when they talked about transferring to a four-year school, **Mendez** did too.

She chose **East Texas State** – now **Texas A&M University-Commerce** – 600 miles from her home. **Mendez** picked the school because a cousin and uncle were students there, but "*My parents didn't understand why I had to go so far away.*" Her parents also did not have the money to send her to college. So **Mendez** applied for financial aid and took out student loans. She participated in work study programs and got a job at a **7-Eleven**. And, for the first time in her life, she experienced prejudice. "We were a very, very small Mexican-American minority there," she said. "It was predominantly white and African-American."

Though it was a challenging experience, **Mendez** stuck with it. She even passed up an opportunity to work for the state, an offer presented to her when she had one year left of school. "*I can't believe it, but I did say, 'You know what, I'm just going to go back and see if I can finish.'*" And she did.

Mendez graduated in 1978 with a double major in Business Education and Spanish. She returned to **Laredo** and worked in a school business office for two years. She got married, but stayed in **Laredo** to care for her ailing



Juanita (Garza) Mendez

mother while her then-husband pursued his degree at the **University of Texas at Austin**. After **Mendez's** mother passed away, she joined her husband in **Austin** and got a job in the business office at **Austin Community College**.

Now the campus manager at Eastview,

Mendez continues to pursue her lifelong dream. She has been a member of **ACC's** adjunct faculty for 25 years, teaching classes in the Office Administration department.

Mendez's siblings followed in their oldest sister's footsteps, each attending college in some form or another.

Though it took one of her brothers several years to finish, **Mendez** urges fellow Latinos to pursue their degree, no matter their age or how long it takes. Because she is living proof of her own advice: "There is nothing that you cannot overcome."



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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 Eastview Campus of **Austin Community College** (3401 Webberville Road) 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 a 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



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.

Austin
Voices
for
EDUCATION
and YOUTH

Texas State Representative Berman Speaks on a Matter of Personal Privilege

The chair recognized Representative Berman who addressed the house on a matter of personal privilege, speaking as follows:

Mr. Speaker, members, this is probably the only time that you're going to hear anyone talk about illegal aliens on the floor of this house of representatives because we've been shut out of this bill at every single turn. And I think the final straw, for me, was the fact that from Friday night until this morning, or until today, sanctuary cities and the cities like **Farmers Branch** were taken out of that bill and today we have absolutely nothing in the bill but total border security.

A majority of the members on the house floor consider **HB 13** to be half a bill. But let me tell you, we all voted for it and we all supported it. We say it's half the bill because we dealt with border security only. But at the same time it was silent about the one and half million illegal aliens in Texas that are costing your tax payers three and half billion dollars every single year.

Members, there were two dozen bills that were filed to deal with this problem and the reason we filed these bills is because our constituents asked us to do this. Everyone—or many members on this floor—need a vote on illegal aliens to take home and say we did a little bit of something about it. When they were referred to the State Affairs Committee, I visited with the chairman almost immediately. I came away disappointed with the knowledge that the chairman told me that he does not want any circuses in his committee and that all the bills are divisive. Members, everything we do in this house is divisive, that's the nature of this beast. There's nothing that we don't do that's divisive.

As it turned out, most of the hearings held by State Affairs were marathon circuses anyway

As it turned out, most of the hearings held by State Affairs were marathon circuses anyway. It was hard for me to accept that a committee chairman took it upon himself to unilaterally decide that no legislation dealing with illegal aliens would be heard on the floor of the house this session. Folks, that's not what my constituents wanted to hear. But whether you agree with me or not about the question of illegal aliens I know that all of you will agree about the method of these two dozen bills were killed. The State Affairs chairman sent all of our bills to the Attorney General for review. Members, that flies in the face of the balance of power. There's not a single bill that you should file in this house that has to be reviewed by anyone in the executive branch. We are the legislative branch and nothing should ever leave this house to be reviewed by anyone.

It's a dangerous precedent and I could kick myself

now for not protesting it as soon as it was done. But members I implore you, never let a committee chairman do that to you. If he wants to kill the bill unilaterally, let him do it right here and tell

you he is going to do it. But don't let him send it outside of this chamber to do it elsewhere.

Members, I want to tell you why we're concerned about this issue. Recently, I Wall Street financial giant **Bear Sterns**—you've all heard of **Bear Sterns**—reported that there are more than 20 million illegal aliens in the **United States**. The report also said that five million illegal aliens work for cash and don't pay income or FICA taxes at all. And if they do pay FICA taxes, members, they are doing so with a stolen identity or with a fraudulent Social Security card. And under the U.S. code dealing with Social Security fraud, they are liable to five years in prison, up to a \$150,000 fine, and three years of probated sentence.

Members, if these numbers don't concern you, consider this. In the early part of the Twentieth Century when my parents came through **Ellis Island** as emigrants from Europe, they were given a complete physical examination. If anything was deficient in that examination at all, they were put right back on the boat, and they were sent back to the country they came from. Notice I used the word emigrant, they were emigrants. An emigrant is someone who comes to a country legally, willingly adopts the culture, willingly speaks the language, willingly pays all the taxes, and then at some point in time they willingly raise their hands and pledge allegiance to this country.

We cannot examine illegal aliens when they come across the border, but according to the **American Journal of Physicians and Surgeons** they have brought with them, into the United States, and into **Texas**: multi-drug resistant TB, polio, the plague, leprosy or Hansen's disease, malaria, Dengue fever, and Chagas disease. The treatment of one TB patient runs anywhere from \$250,000 to \$1.2 million a year. And at the beginning of 2006, according to our department of HHSC we have 1,535 TB patients in **Texas** today. We have 36 leprosy patients and we have a number of other patients who are suffering from malaria,



Texas State Representative Leo Berman

Chagas disease, and other diseases that are tremendously costly to treat. If this doesn't concern you, consider this.

As of August of 2006, there were 12,500 illegal aliens in the **Texas** prison system. There were as many more in county and municipal jails. Illegal aliens make up the bulk of violent gangs in major cities across the **United States** and **Texas**.

We're talking about fighting drugs on the border. We also have to fight drugs in **Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, and El Paso**. Finally, if this doesn't concern you, a detailed report from the **Lone Star Foundation** right here in Austin made to an immigration conference last year in September in **Washington DC** concluded that 1.5 million illegal aliens in **Texas** are costing **Texas** taxpayers \$4.5 billion each year. Considering that illegal aliens are spending almost a billion dollars in sales taxes and a small amount of property taxes, **Texas** is left with a bill of \$3.5 billion every year. Look at the multi-million dollar bond elections in our schools. **El Paso** is going through a \$290 million bond election right now. They are doing this to accommodate the children of illegal aliens. And look at the chaos in our hospital emergency rooms.

Those of you in the Dallas delegation know that 70 percent of new births at **Parkland Hospital**—you all know this—are illegal aliens. Look at the **Fort Worth** delegation, where **John Peter Smith Hospital** in **Fort Worth** 75 percent of the new births are illegal aliens. And in **Houston**, in the public hospital, 70 percent of the new births are illegal aliens. Last fall before she left office, the **Comptroller of Texas** issued a report relating to illegal aliens. One of the highlights was that illegal aliens input \$17.9 billion a year into the **Texas** economy. That sounds good. But let's examine the **Texas** economy. The gross state product of **Texas** is over \$900 billion a year. That means that illegal aliens who make up seven percent of our population produce two percent of the gross state product. Members, any financial expert will tell you that anyone earning under the federal poverty level for a family of four makes little or no contributions to your economy.

A Supreme Court ruling allows free education, but the most lucrative benefit of all, is the one which allows a pregnant illegal alien to check into any U.S. hospital, receive prenatal care and give birth, pay absolutely nothing . . .

Let's look for a moment at the benefits that illegal aliens are getting from our Federal Government. Under **EMTALA**, the **Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act**, we provide

free health care in every emergency room in the **United States**. A **Supreme Court** ruling allows free education, but the most lucrative benefit of all, is the one which allows a pregnant illegal alien to check into any U.S. hospital, receive prenatal care and give birth, pay absolutely nothing for the medical service and then receive U.S. citizenship for that child while committing a crime against our country. I want to talk about that for a minute, because I filed a bill that challenged the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

For those of you who don't know, the Fourteenth Amendment to the **U.S. Constitution** was ratified in 1868. Three years after the Civil War. It was ratified in response to the worst and most horrendous decision ever made by the **U.S. Supreme Court**, the **Dred Scott** case. It was terrible and I'm glad they passed the Fourteenth Amendment when they did it. And the Fourteenth Amendment was ratified to ensure that the children of former slaves, born in the United States, were indeed U.S. citizens.

That's why, members, the children of ambassadors that come to the United States who have children in our country every day are not U.S.

In 1866, when the amendment was debated in the **United States Congress**—we always talk about legislative intent—well, the congress had legislative intent in 1866. The author, **Senator Howard of Michigan**, said that it does not apply to foreigners or individuals who have allegiance to another country. That's why, members, the children of ambassadors that come to the **United States** who have children in our country every day are not U.S. citizens because it does not apply to foreigners. And I thought it was time for us to challenge the Fourteenth Amendment because we're creating 350,000 new U.S. citizens each year and I believe it's being created erroneously.

Members, finally I just want you to know that my middle-income constituents and your middle-income constituents have less benefits than illegal aliens. When your middle-income constituents are making too much money for **Medicaid**, and they are making not enough to pay for their own health insurance, they can't walk into a hospital emergency room and get free medical care. I'd like to see **EMTALA** repealed. And let's do the same thing for our constituents who receive no medical benefits.

Members, on January 9th, 2007, we all stood in this room and took an oath to preserve, to protect, and to defend the Constitution and laws of the **United States**. Not 98 percent of those laws, but all of the laws. We are a nation of laws and if we can arbitrarily ignore the immigration laws, what other laws can we ignore? Thank you, members.

Texas State Representatives Trey Martinez Fisher and Joe Pickett Respond to Berman

The chair recognized Representative Martinez Fisher who addressed the house on a matter of personal privilege, speaking as follows:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, I will not take the chamber's time up. I know that we have a calendar and we have lots of work to do, but I can't go home and talk to my constituents knowing that I sat there and listened to that. And, in fact, I can't even go to my house and look at my wife, look at my family, and say that I came up to Austin, at the expense of everything else, and got a mouthful of that.

All I'm going to say is I want to thank **Chairman Swinford** for drafting a bill and passing a bill that relates to the relating clause of "homeland security issues, including border security." That's what his bill does. That's what **HB 13** does. That's what we debated. That's what we amended. That's what we passed. That's what is going to the senate—**HB 13**. So, **Chairman Swinford**, I want to thank you for that.

My friend, Rafael Anchia, reminds me that this is a capitol that was built on the backs of immigrants. European immigrants built this capitol, stone by stone, brick by brick, so that we can have a forum that we can debate these ideas.

I respect my colleague from **District 6 (Leo Berman)**. I respect his right; I respect his right of free speech. That's why we build this capitol, to debate. Speaking of this capitol, I know that my friend, **Rafael Anchia**, reminds me that this is a capitol that was built on the backs of immigrants. European immigrants built this capitol, stone by stone, brick by brick, so that we can have a forum that we can debate these ideas. And we've debated these ideas. This is my fourth term. We've been debating ideas for four terms now. I hope that I have the privilege of debating future issues in this chamber. But I want to leave with a piece for you to think about.

Many of you attended a luncheon, a bipartisan luncheon, where **Father Jimmy Drennan** from **St. Paul's Catholic Church** talked about the issue of immigration and reminded us about our Holy Family that traveled from **Judea** to be born in **Bethlehem**. **Jesus** is a **Nazarean**, but he went to **Egypt** as a child. There are issues going back to immigration in our Bible and you won't find one sentence in there about anybody having to show papers, anybody having to check-in with the **Office of Homeland Security** because they are going to someone else's country. The issue of immigration just did not start in this state; it did not start in this century; and it will not end in this state and it will not end in this century.

Let's take for a moment, when we have these debates—we will divide, I guarantee you we will divide. We've been dividing all this session. Let's think about the humanity. Let's think about the human issue. There is nothing more human, nothing more elemental, and nothing more fundamental, than humanity. And when we as a body move in a direction where we break down the human aspect and replace human beings by calling them "aliens" or derogatory terms, we're no longer making them human, so that it's easier to criticize and break them down. We're talking about human beings. We're talking about mothers reacquainting with their husbands, reacquainting with their children—building families. Let's, members, let's not forget about the human aspect of our debate. And we will disagree and we've

always disagreed, but I think we can all agree to be human and to remember the humanity in our debate and our words. Thank you for your time.



**Texas State Representative
Trey Martinez Fisher**

ADDRESS BY REPRESENTATIVE PICKETT

ON A MATTER OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

The chair recognized Representative Pickett who addressed the house on a matter of personal privilege, speaking as follows:

Mr. Berman, I respect your views, but you said something I just could not sit down and not object to. You mention that the El Paso Independent School District was floating a \$290 million bond issue to take care of illegal children in the schools. You couldn't be more wrong. El Paso is going to grow by 50,000 American citizens by way of Fort Bliss. That bond issue is for U.S. military, in uniform, and their families. That's what the bond issue is for.

**Texas State Representative
Joe Pickett**

Editor's Note

In recent weeks and in the coming months, we will continue to hear more and more about what is going to happen to the immigrants who are coming to the United States and to those who are already here.

On May 12th, the voters of a small community in **North Texas** called **Farmers Branch** let their views be known when they passed a city ordinance that penalized apartment landlords and managers for renting to people without proper documentation.

Already, Mexicans are moving out of **Farmers Branch** saying they are not going to put up with this crap. As the country watches the fallout from **Farmers Branch** we can expect

all kinds of reactions from different sides of the debate.

Related Topic

Here in **Austin**, the **Texas Legislature** has also been having their own debates about what to do with immigrants who want to go to college. If you have already read the comments of **Texas State Representative Leo Berman** on the facing page, you can get a taste of the kind of thinking that some of these people carry around in their head. We predict the immigration debate is going to get louder as the summer gets hotter.

ACC registration is open until until May 23.

Register for summer classes!

**Register and pay early -
classes begin May 29.**

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En la Comunidad

River City Youth Foundation 24th Annual Youth Awards Ceremony at St. Edwards University



ABOVE: Edna Iruegas, Valentino and his mother pose for the camera. Each of them were honored with an award.



ABOVE LEFT: The Martinez family received the River City Youth Foundation family of the year award.

RIGHT: Manuel Garcia received the River City Youth Foundation Church Nugyen Service Award.



LEFT: Sarah Wilson was named River City Youth Foundation Intern of the year. She is with UTeach.

15 Questions for Janie Muñoz Sanchez

Janie Muñoz Sanchez is a former migrant farm worker from *el Rio Grande Valle de Tejas*. On Saturday, May 19th, 2007 at the age of 36, she will walk across a stage and receive her Ph.D from **The University of Texas at Austin**. We thought her reflections about her journey thus far in life would be appropriate in this issue of *La Voz de Austin*.

La Voz: Where is Janie Muñoz Sanchez from?

Janie: Pueblo Azul, a 2-street colonia on the border of Texas in the Rio Grande Valley.

La Voz: Did you work as a teenager?

Janie: Yes, after we moved to the Houston area I worked everyday after school as a live-in baby-sitter & nanny taking care of 2 school-aged boys in a wealthy neighborhood/suburb of **Houston**. Later I worked at a local fast-food restaurant until high school graduation. One summer I mowed grass with my dad to save enough money to buy my 1st car.

La Voz: Where did you go to high school and college?

Janie: I graduated from **John F. Dulles High School** in **Sugar Land, Texas**. I was then accepted by **The University of Texas at Austin** where I received my bachelor's degree.

La Voz: Was there a teacher or other person that inspired you in high school or college?

Janie: Yes, **Ms. Cangelosi** – high school social studies teacher who taught world history. She was single and I thought she was the most learned individual I had ever met. Although she probably never knew it, since I never said anything in her class, I wondered, how did she ever get all that knowledge in her head — I naturally figured she'd gotten all that in a great university!
The other person was **Milton Jamail** – college professor who taught Tejano

History. He seemed to relish in pointing out all the unbelievable pieces of information that had been disseminated as "Anglo" white washed history to us young college students. He was so funny and really seemed to enjoy life and his work. He inspired me to keep striving for what I thought I needed to do with my life.

La Voz: Was there a book or movie that made a big impact on you when you were growing up?

Janie: There was a movie, *To Kill A Mockingbird*. It taught me that we should never give up and that justice will somehow prevail no matter how difficult things may be for us, people of color

La Voz: Now that you are preparing to graduate with a Ph.D from the University of Texas at Austin, does it seem as though a long time has passed?

Janie: Yes, this pursuit seem to be all-consuming of your life at times, that you end up missing important events or things that you want to do or really being able to have the normal semblance of life. The past 5 years have taken a toll on me. For example, I missed out on the potty training of my two children.

La Voz: Did anyone ever try and discourage from seeking an advanced degree?

Janie: Yes, there was a counselor in high school that was assigned to my name, who I didn't even know (she was a very pretty and thin woman with long platinum blond tresses with red painted lipstick and the bluest eyes) who told me that going away to **Austin** wasn't for me and that I



should instead concentrate on perhaps *"going somewhere local like a community college for someone like you."* Needless to say, I didn't listen to her and her hurtful words.

La Voz: You went to school back East. Tell us about that. Was it hard going so far away?

Janie: No, I wanted to get away from what I thought was overt racism toward

Mexican-Americans in Texas. I landed in **Washington, D.C.** a week after I graduated from **UT-Austin** working on Capitol Hill and in the halls of the **U.S. Congress**. Once there, I was only very sad during the holidays when it was too expensive to buy plane tickets to come home and be a part of family gatherings. I had to settle for listening on the telephone to all the fun and laughter when I called to check in with my family.

La Voz: What did you do to remind yourself about your goals?

Janie: I plastered posters on the walls of my one room efficiency apartment of other less fortunate *'mujeres'* from other parts of the globe in developing countries: indigenous women working hard and laboring away in the fields or performing hard work outside. I did this remind myself that things were always worse somewhere else and that I should be grateful to be housed in a nice safe, warm cozy place directing my own life and no longer having to endure the hard life of a migrant worker as I did when I was a youngster.

La Voz: Was there ever a time when you asked yourself, what am I doing?

Janie: Yes, when I no longer had a full-time job and was pregnant with my second

child. I had with no health benefits and was I trying to stay in the doctoral program as a full time student at UT Austin.

La Voz: Who was a personal hero?

Janie: My grandmother **Maria Paz Contreras**, who came here to the Rio Grande Valley after my grandfather left her on the farm in **Michoacán, Mexico** (for another woman) to raise a large family of 7 children all alone. She left her farm and everything she knew and ultimately emigrated here and began to be an integral part of our migrant farm-worker life. She cooked, she took care of me & raised me when my mother was out in the fields along with the rest of my brothers and sisters when I was very small. I looked up to her because she no matter how hard her life must've been personally, she never cried or felt sorry for herself. She just kept going and doing what she could, living with various sons' families at various times.

La Voz: Looking back on your academic career, what would you have done different?

Janie: I would've applied for every scholarship I could locate. I also think that I may have gone to **University of Houston** when I received the full 4-year scholarship instead of trying to work my way through the **University of Texas-Austin**.

La Voz: What is your favorite color.

Janie: Blue

La Voz: Who is your favorite musical group?

Janie: The Beatles (especially because they spawned the John Lennon song "Imagine" which is my all-time favorite song)

La Voz: Are you planning on sleeping more this summer?

Janie: Yes!

OJO EN EL CRIMEN

**Incidents Reported to the Austin
Police Department for the
period Jan. 1st, 2007 to April 30, 2007**

**Reportes al Departamento de
Policia de Austin por el período
1 de Enero 2007 hasta 30 de abril 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	218	313	72	173	201	977
2. BURGLARY OF VEHICLE	184	253	50	217	335	1039
3. FAMILY DISTURBANCE	227	234	136	256	244	1097
4. LEAVING THE SCENE CRASH/ACCIDENT	176	206	41	133	158	714
5. CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	147	190	48	161	166	712
6. DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED	94	141	10	34	68	347
7. PUBLIC INTOXICATION	150	123	13	88	54	428
8. HARASSMENT	83	102	52	100	93	430
9. ASSAULT W/INJURY-FAM/DATE VIOL	90	93	52	117	133	485
10. BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	46	71	38	94	148	397
11. POSS OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA	184	82	16	32	18	332
12. AUTO THEFT	44	50	17	41	78	230
13. DISTURBANCE/OTHER	55	59	37	43	37	231
14. BURGLARY NON RESIDENCE	51	40	13	28	51	183
15. ABANDONED VEHICLE	61	34	42	60	53	250
16. DWL SUSPENDED SR	30	37	10	35	10	122
17. ASSAULT BY CONTACT	21	46	13	19	28	127
18. ASSAULT WITH INJURY	60	61	27	46	44	238
19. CRIMINAL TRESPASS	133	50	26	40	34	283
20. DWL SUSPENDED MANDATORY	48	38	14	37	22	159
21. CITY ORDINANCE VIOLATION/OTHER	52	50	12	18	18	150
22. POSS CONTROLLED SUB/NARCOTIC	113	31	12	24	21	201
23. CUSTODY ARREST TRAFFIC WARR	52	37	12	25	21	147
24. TERRORISTIC THREAT	16	36	7	25	25	109
25. ASSAULT BY THREAT	24	24	8	13	19	88
						9,476

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 April 30th, 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.

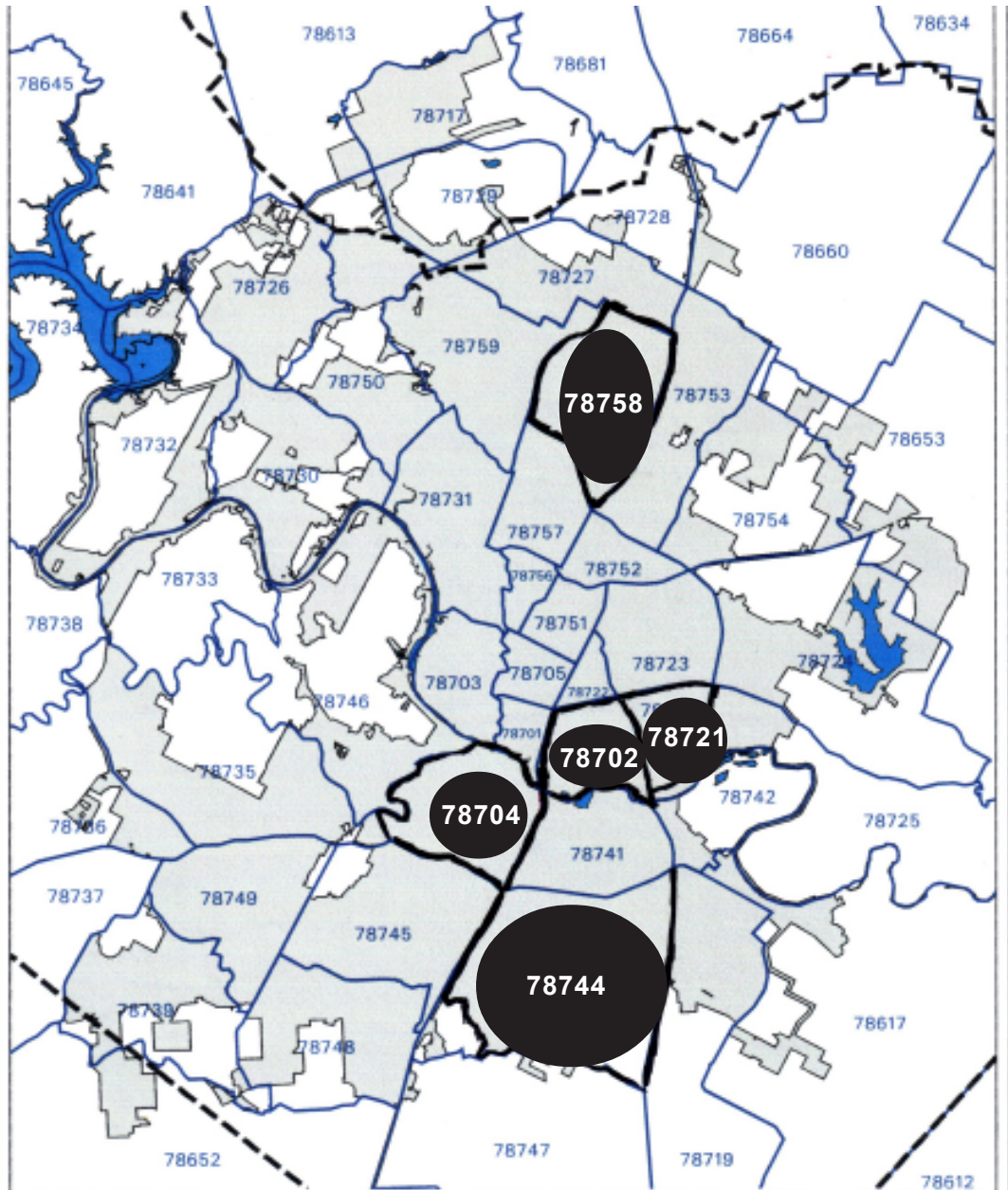
Altogether, in just these five zip codes, in the first three months of this year, there were a total of 9,476 incidents in the 25 categories we are examining. What is immediately striking about these statistics is the high number of violence related incidents. Out of the 25 categories, 7, or 28%, are violence related:

1.	Family Disturbance	1,097
2.	Harassment	430
3.	Assault with Injury to a Family Member Dating Violence	485
4.	Assault by Contact	127
5.	Assault with Injury	238
6.	Terroristic Threat	109
7.	Assault by Threat	88
	2,574	

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

Theft	977
Burglary of a Vehicle	1,039
Burglary of a Residence	397
Auto Theft	230
Burglary of a Non-Residence	183
	2,826

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

City of Austin Full and
Limited Purpose
Jurisdiction: 8.1.2003

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

Documentary traces Tejano struggle for civil rights

SAN MARCOS – A documentary film that traces the struggle for civil rights of **Texas Mexican Americans** will be screened at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 24, at the **Texas Spirit Theater** in the **Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum** in Austin.

Mexican American Legislative Caucus: The Texas Struggle for Equality and Opportunity is a documentary film that traces the story of **Tejanos** and their efforts to secure their civil rights and expand their social and economic opportunities through the legislative process.

The documentary opens with an overview of the role Texas Mexicans played in the independence and political organization of early Texas and explains how, as a group, Tejanos were gradually excluded from political power by the early 20th Century.

The film then turns its attention to the Civil Rights Movement, during which Mexican American organizations in Texas led the fight for greater inclusion, overcoming barriers to full citizenship, such as the poll tax, segregated schools, and discriminatory labor and police practices.

Through interviews with a number of retired and present-day Tejano legislators, the story of the Caucus and its increasing influence in state affairs unfolds from its founding in the early 1970s to the present.

The documentary is a product of a **Texas State University-San Marcos** team: **Jaime Chahin**, Dean of the College of Applied Arts; **Frank de la Teja**, Chair of History and State Historian of Texas; **Jaime Armin Mejía**, professor of English; **Magda Hinojosa**, narrator and professor of Political Science; and History graduate student **Roque Planas**; supported by technical director **Robert Currie**.

The project was funded by **Anheuser-Busch Inc.** and the **Verizon Foundation**.



DAY TIME ROBBERY

by Mary _____

October 9th 2006, Time, 10:45 am. I had a dental appointment for a root canal at 11:00 am. The dentist was 4 miles from my home. After picking up medication I arrived home at 1:45 and opened my garage door and parked my auto.

I had a strange feeling when I got out of the car I noticed the door entry to the dining room was open and I also noticed a bureau with odds and ends had been opened and documents scattered on the garage floor.

As I entered the dining room, a buffet draw was on the floor and warranty papers were scattered all over the floor. I did not hesitate to call 911 when I heard a noise in the master bedroom, I was on the phone reporting a home break-in to the police I said in a loud voice "Hello is there any one in here?" The police dispatcher instructed me to quickly get out of the house and wait outside until the police get there.

The only way they could have entered my home was to break the dining room window. The solo screens were removed and the windows are low. I feel there were two persons which I will mention at the end of this story. I found band aids on my kitchen counter and so I think whoever broke the window to unlock it must have gotten cut.

The police arrived in a matter of a few minutes and had me wait until they checked all the rooms. I could not touch a thing until fingerprints were taken. The family room sectional leather couch seats were all off the couch, my CD's were thrown on the floor.

I don't know which hurt the most, the invasion of my privacy or the root canal wearing off, but I did not have time to think about myself, as the police asked me to give them a tentative list of what items that were missing.

I asked one of the officers to go with me to the master bedroom. The mattress was off the bed and leaning against the dresser where I had all my expensive jewelry. All the jewelry was gone and only empty boxes remained. The weapon was missing, and in the walk in closet, all the suit cases were thrown on the floor and unzipped. The fire proof container with all the important papers were gone. I think that upset me the most.

In my son's room, collection of baseball caps were thrown on the floor, all the draws were on the floor and emptied.

The police officer gave me a case number and explained that a detective would be assigned to the case. I faxed a three page list of stolen items, and the cell phone that was stolen from me. I also provided the police with the serial number of the weapon that was stolen. There were two calls that were placed shortly after the robbery, one here in **Austin** and another to **Bay City**.

On the day of the robbery, a neighbor who had moved in the area only five months prior was driving by and saw all the police cars at my home. She rang my doorbell and the Officer walked to the door with me. She told the policeman that she witnessed two men in their early 20s banging and kicking my front door.

She slowed down and they both turned and looked at her. She gave the police a statement and described the intruders and stated the time was 12 noon.

In fact I had seen the two men whom she described in the neighborhood a couple of times and knew they were not residents of this particular street. I strongly felt that there had to be two intruders involved in the break-in, because one person could not steal the number of items removed and mess up a house in less than one and half hours.

I strongly feel there should be at least some way to ease the mind of the victims. Either a positive or a negative status follow up..

The Law Enforcement Officers that who had responded need to be commended for their quick response. Any victim should realize the Detective Branch has many open cases and are governed by priorities. Thank You.

SIGNED A "VICTIM"

If you have been the victim of a crime, please consider sharing your story with **La Voz de Austin**.

Austin Independent School District Students Reflect on the TAKS test

Lanier High School

The students of the **Stand Up Club at Lanier High School** were recently asked to reflect on the TAKS test that was administered during the month of April. Below is a sampling of what they thought.

I think that this time the teachers took more of their time to prepare us for the TAKS. Last year I didn't take the TAKS so I don't know how hard it was. This is the first time I have ever taken it and I felt prepared. I think that the majority of the questions were easy.

Rubi Campuzano

The TAKS test was not really hard it was just confusing. It took me longer to finish but it was because I studied stuff that was not on the test. There were like only 2 or 5 questions that I studied and the rest I had to give my best answer. I really got nervous the last two weeks. I was really stressed out. I couldn't sleep thinking about what the test was going to be about. I tried my best and I think that my teachers did the best they could to prepare us for the TAKS.

Irayda Santana

Tengo dos años estudiando en el high school. Yo siento que el TAKS se me hizo muy dificiles porque no hablo bien el Ingles. Este año es la primera vez tome los TAKS.

Irma Anzora

I feel relief that the TAKS is behind me and now I can focus on real subjects in school. All this school year we been working on the TAKS. I took the TAKS last year and have already passed them so my time is wasted having to work on something I have already passed. Finally it is over and there are only four more weeks of school left.

Luis Orozco

Reagan High School

The students of the **Stand Up Club at Reagan High School** were recently asked to reflect on the TAKS test that was administered during the month of April. Below is a sampling of what they thought.

We felt that we were more prepared than last year and our confidence was somewhat high, however we felt that all the preparation didn't get us to the level that (we) wanted in order to pass.

We were more prepared than last year. Teachers were organized.

It was a lot easier this (time) compared to last year's exam. I think that it's a waste of time and that it doesn't really need to exist. All we really need is our credits. It was the typical ideas, twist, turns and faults that come with taking any TAKS.

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

LBJ High School

The students of the **Stand Up Club at LBJ High School** were recently asked to reflect on the TAKS test that was administered during the month of April. Below is a sampling of what they thought.

The TAKS test this year was a lot more difficult than last year. Last year's preparation for TAKS wasn't as organized as this years. We practiced last year, but this year they definitely tried to get the students a lot more prepared. TAKS testing has been pretty easy for me in the past. I don't think this year's TAKS was really difficult but it made you think a lot harder, maybe because I'm older.

Cammie Ledbetter

I think we weren't well prepared for TAKS, some teachers started preparing a week before or after TAKS. I also feel it was harder and that they should void the test for us because it is on its way out anyway.

Leslie Lara

I have not taken the TAKS test before this year so I am unsure as to whether this exam was more difficult than last year's. In the weeks leading up to the TAKS, a lot of my teachers went off the topic we had been learning and began trying to prepare us for TAKS. I do not care for TAKS testing because I do not believe it accurately evaluates our skill sets.

Aiyana

This year when I took the TAKS test, my teachers helped me prepare for it a lot more. Then when I took the test, I finished it faster than I usually do. I feel the test was more challenging this year. I am pretty sure that I even got commended on a least one of the tests.

David McCullough

This year's TAKS test seemed easier than last year's because I was better prepared in my Algebra class. My teacher did remind us about how the subjects we are learning are going to be on the TAKS. Sometimes I feel that the TAKS causes too much stress.

Michelle Do

Calendar of Events

- May 19th, 2007** **78744 Community Conference in Austin, Texas**
Austin Voices for Education and Youth is organizing a community conference in the Dove Springs neighborhood to bring together activists and social service providers for a discussion about programming activity that addresses dropout prevention at the middle and high schools. The conference runs from 10:00 to 1:00pm. For more information please contact Alfredo Santos c/s at (512) 450-1880
- May 19th, 2007** **Center for Mexican American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin** will hold its graduation ceremonies at 3:00pm in the University Teaching Center (UTC) 2.112A. The keynote speaker will be Texas State Representative Roberto Alonzo (D-104). A reception with music will follow from 4:30pm to 6:00pm in Homer Rainey Hall 3.102 (Old Music Room)
- May 19, 20, 2007** **Hispanic Leadership Training in Waco**
The Servant of God as a Leader," part of an ongoing leadership workshop series sponsored by the Hispanic Ministry Office, will be held May 19 and 20 at St. Francis on the Brazos in Waco. The program is offered to leaders and potential leaders of lay movements and organizations in the Hispanic community. Space is limited. Registration should be made in advance by contacting Roberto Navarro or Cecilia Avila at (512) 873-7771.
- May 20th, 2007** **Red Salmon Arts presents a reading & book signing of**
Telling Tongues: A Latin@ Anthology on Language Experience (co-published by Red Salmon Press & Calaca Press) featuring Rudy Garcia, Celeste Guzman Mendoza, Roberto Pachecano, raulsalinas, Liliana Valenzuela, along with editors Louis G. Mendoza & Toni Nelson Herrera. 4pm
- May 22nd, 2007** **Community Meeting at Johnston High School.**
There will be a community meeting in the cafeteria of Johnston High School to discuss the 2007 results for the TAKS test and the possible closure of the school. The meeting starts at 6:00pm. For more information please call (512) 414-5810
- May 22 th, 2007** **A Call to Men-Austin: A Grassroots Group Shifting Social**
Norms that Define Manhood in Austin. It is time for "well-meaning men" to take a stand against the epidemic of men's violence aimed at women and others. Please join us to view a short video and informally talk about what we can do in Austin to create solutions to the epidemic. Snacks and refreshments will be provided — AND BRING A FRIEND. FREE Gathering! 6:30 - 8:00pm
- May 30th, 2007** **The University of Texas at Austin Principalship Programs**
5th Annual A Call for Social Justice Event and the presentation of the Doyle Valdez Justice Award 8:30am to 10:00am in the George I. Sanchez Building, Room 104 at The University of Texas at Austin. For more information please call (512) 414-3847

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.

Texas	Tejas
Legislature	Legislatura
Votes	Voto o Vota
End	Terminar
Exams	Exámenes
Hurt	Lastimadura
Students	Estudiantes
Long Run	A lo largo
Many	Muchas
People	Gente
Waiting	Esperando
For	Para
This	Este
Day	Día
We	Nosotros
Find	Encontramos
Hope	Esperanza
Today	Hoy

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Announcing the Opening of the Law Office of **Daniel R. Gonzalez**

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.



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

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es gratis.**

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questions, please give
me a call.**

Gracias

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

La Reina del Tex-Mex Conjunto **Linda Escobar** y Su Estimable Conjunto

www.linda.escobar.com



ABOVE: Linda Escobar at the Tejano Conjunto Festival en San Antonio, Texas on May 12, 2007