



“Si Se Puede”

Inside this Issue

Albert Peña, Jr.
1912-2006

By the Numbers

LULAC Elects
New President:
Rosa Rosales

Vilma Luna
Resigns from
Legislature

Social Justice
Summer School
Wraps Up In July

Career Profile:
Rubén Martínez
from UTSA

TYC
Commitment
Profile

Calendar of
Events

Feature Story:
“There is nothing
illegal about
wanting to feed
your family”

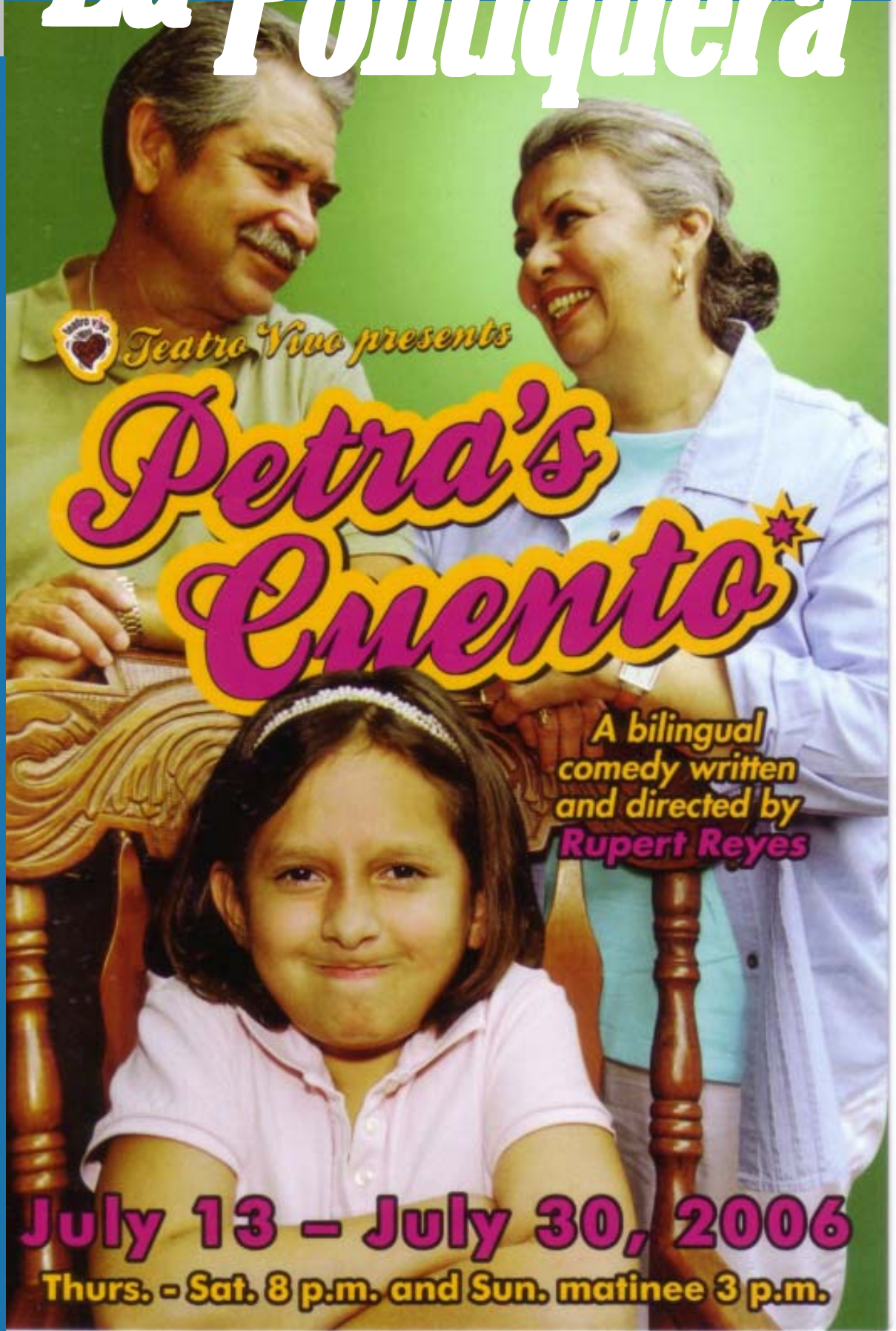
El Periódico Que No Se Queda Callado

Vol # 17 Num. 7

July, 2006

\$2.25

La Politiquera



 *Teatro Vivo presents*

Petra's Euento

A bilingual
comedy written
and directed by
Rupert Reyes

July 13 - July 30, 2006

Thurs. - Sat. 8 p.m. and Sun. matinee 3 p.m.

People in the News



Rosalie Ambrosino named provost at UTSA

Rosalie Ambrosino was selected to be the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs effective April 5, 2006. She has served as vice president for student affairs at the **University of Texas at San Antonio** since 2001. From 1999 to 2001, she was the university's vice provost for undergraduate studies and enrollment.

A social worker with a special interest in social welfare policy and multicultural education, **Ambrosino** directed the **School of Social Work** undergraduate program at the **University of Texas at Austin** prior to joining **UTSA**. She was one of the first 12 faculty members inducted into UT Austin's Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

Ambrosino holds a bachelor's degree in social work from the **University of Minnesota**, an MA in educational administration and multicultural education from **Antioch University**, and a doctorate in social work from **UT**.



Luis Jimenez Passes Away in New Mexico

Luis Jimenez, noted Chicano artist and sculptor was killed in an industrial accident at his studio in **Hondo, New Mexico**. **Jimenez** and two others were moving a large sculptor with a hoist when something came loose and fell pinning his leg to a table. He was rushed to the hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

Stuart Ashman, secretary of the **New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs**, called **Jimenez** "the most important Chicano artist in the United States. His talents as an innovator, great draftsman and social commentator, particularly on social issues of the Mexican American Chicano community, made great contributions to contemporary art in America."

Jimenez was born in **El Paso, Texas** and graduated from **The University of Texas at Austin** in 1964. His works are on display throughout the United States.



Dr. Cárdenas Named 2006 NACCS Scholar

Dr. Gary Keller-Cárdenas was named the **National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies** Scholar of 2006. This association of Chicano academics was founded in 1972 and has been active in bring Chicano Studies into a more prominent place in the university.

Keller-Cardenas is currently a Regent's Professor and member of the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies at the **University of Arizona**. He also is the director of the **Hispanic Research Center** located at **ASU**.

Among **Dr. Keller-Cárdenas's** scholarly and institutional achievements, are over 150 scholarly and creative books, and grant writing that has secured over \$30 million dollars in federal and private funding. He earned his Ph.D. in Hispanic Literature and Linguistics from **Columbia**.



Tapia- Ruano Elected President of Immigration Lawyers Group

Carlina Tapia-Ruano, an attorney from **Chicago, Illinois** was elected President of the **American Immigration Lawyers Association** during their 50th Annual convention in **San Antonio, Texas**. She is the first ever Latina to lead this 10,000 member organization.

An expert in various areas of immigration law including business, consular practice, deportation, employer sanctions, family, and naturalization **Tapia-Ruano** will serve as a leading AILA spokesperson on these issues.

Currently, she is the head of the Chicago law firm of **Tapia-Ruano & Gunn P.C.** and for 25 years has concentrated her practice in family and employment based immigration law and represents clients before the immigration and federal courts.

Tapia-Ruano is a native of **Cuba** who immigrated to the U.S. as a refugee. Prior to entering the United States, her father was an attorney and her mother worked as an administrator in the **Cuban White House**. After entering the U.S., her father worked in a factory and her mother was employed as a domestic. Eventually both of her parents became **Methodist** ministers in the Midwest.

Tapia-Ruano received her BA degree magna cum laud from **Illinois Wesleyan University** and her J.D. from **DePaul College of Law**. She has written extensively on various topics related to immigration law and serves as an adjunct professor of immigration law.

☑ Mar 7 ☑ Apr 11 ☑ Nov 7 DEMOCRAT

MARIA LUISA

ALVARADO

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

PRODUCTION

Editor and Publisher

Alfredo Rodríguez Santos c/s

Associate Editors

Edna Campos Yleana Santos

Telephone and FAX

(512) 912-1077

Publisher's Statement

La Politiqera is a monthly publication of Compadre Communications. The editorial and business address is P.O. Box 19457 Austin, Texas 78744 The telephone number is (512) 912-1077 and the fax number is the same. The views represented here are our own of course. The use, reproduction or distribution of any part of this publication is strongly encouraged, but do call and let us know what it is you are using. If for some reason you do not like what we are printing in this publication, you have two choices; do nothing, in which case we will never know the difference, or, you can sit yourself down and write us a letter. We, of course, prefer the letter.



Welcome to the July, 2006 issue of La Politiqera. It has been a very busy month with lots of breaking stories. Some of these stories you could see coming down the line while others fueron una sorpresa total.

Take for example the resignation of Texas State Representative Vilma Luna from Corpus Christi. According to Vilma she made up her mind that it was time to go over the 4th of July holiday weekend. Ah uh.

Over the last several months she has been taking a lot of heat from different people for being "too close" to Texas Speaker of the House Tom Craddick. When Democratic state representatives took off to Oklahoma during the redistricting fight in 2003, Vilma did not join them. Her appointment as the vice-chair of the powerful appropriations committee by Craddick is said to have been partial payment for her "loyalty."

I recall a reception last year in Austin at the Marriot Hotel for the newly appointed president of the National Council of La Raza, Janet Murguía. When the local políticos in attendance were recognized, Vilma Luna was booed.

Solo uno sabe porque Vilma ha decidido dejar de ser representante estatal. Ella dice es porque quiere pasar más tiempo con su familia. Maybe so. Pero como sabemos todos en la política, never take anything anybody does at face value. De todas maneras, we have printed her exit statement on page # 7. Aver que te parece.

Another story in this issue of La Politiqera is on the passing of Albert Peña, Jr. While I really can't say I knew him, I did know about him from people like Jaime Martinez and Jose Angel Gutierrez. Dr. Gutierrez had interviewed Mr. Peña back in 1996 for a Tejano Voices series that can be found on the internet.

I had read that interview some time back but it was my impression in recent years that many people were not aware of all the sacrifices and contributions of Mr. Peña. Maybe the Dr. Gutierrez's forthcoming book will make us all realize what an important man Albert Peña, Jr. was. We have reprinted excerpts of his obituary on page # 5.

A big congratulations to Rosa Rosales from San Antonio on having been elected president of the League of Latin American Citizens. She has been a tireless worker over the years and despite all la politica that goes with getting elected to anything, her time has indeed come.

The story on page # 7, "There is Nothing Illegal About Wanting to Feed Your Family" comes to us from Watsonville, California. As former resident of this once small city by the ocean, I regularly check the local newspaper for stories of people that I might know.

I did not know the author, Mr. Elias Alonzo, but after reading his story I decided to call him up and ask for permission to reprint it here in Texas. Without reservation he said yes and we spoke for a while about his community activism in Watsonville. It is a very good story and we hope everyone sees the humanity in it.

On page # 8 is a short up date on the Social Justice Summer School being held in Austin, Texas for the walkout students who took part in the pro-immigration marches earlier this year. The students are truly a passionate group and we should look forward to hearing more from them in the future.

Page # 9 is a continuation of a series we started last year profiling faculty members from col-

Editorial



Alfredo R. Santos c/s Editor and Publisher

leges and universities around the country. Too often faculty members do not get the publicity they deserve for the hard work they do. Our small career profile section is an attempt to help shine the light on their work. This month we feature Dr. Rubén Martínez from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

On pages 10 and 11 we bring you a "Commitment Profile" from the Texas Youth Commission. This is the Texas state agency charged with locking up juveniles. As you study the data you will discover that every year Hispanic are the largest group being locked up. It seems like every year the number keeps getting bigger and bigger.

When community based organizations ask you to pay attention to what is going on with young people, I am reminded of the saying, "either we pay now or we will all pay later." I do not believe locking up more juveniles is the answer. What I do believe is that we all have to work harder on the education side of this issue.

Finally, we want to call to your attention the calendar of events. (And last but not least, raúlsalinas has a new book out called raúlsalinas and the Jail Machine. Stop by his book store in Austin and get a copy. He also carries a lot of other books.

By the Numbers

1 Number of Latinos serving as elected officials in Alaska, Kentucky, North Dakota, Missouri, Virginia, South Carolina and Oklahoma

3 Number of Latinos serving as United States Senators

7 Number of Latinos serving as elected officials in Georgia

25 Percentage of Latinos who turned out to vote in 2005 when Antonio Villaraigosa was elected Mayor of Los Angeles

43 Number of States in which Latinos hold elective office

3,743
Number of Latinos serving in elected position in all of Texas in 1996

5,132
Number of Latinos serving in elected positions in all of Texas in 2005

26,618
Number of Latinos who applied to college in Texas in the Fall of 2005

45,060
Number of Latinos in Texas prisons, state jails or substance abuse facilities

134,293
Number of people locked up in the State of Texas

Sources: National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Texas Commission on Youth

Lo Que Estan Diciendo



"My father worked as a trucker and then in a bakery, working 75 hours a week for 75 cents an hour. Mom did not work. She had six kids, all of whom went to school and graduated from college. We went to church. None of us has a criminal record. We are law abiding, we love this country, but if some of the Republican bigots had their way, they would make sure my father went back. They have no compassion. My Dad would be headed back and that's just wrong."

Massey Villarreal, CEO and president of Precision Task Group, Inc., and chairman of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation. In 2000, Villarreal served as national Hispanic vice-chairman of the Bush/Cheney for President Campaign.

"Acquiring a second language takes time. People have to remember this is a language issue, not a racial one. The majority of (limited-English) students are American born citizens aren't going to be sent out of the country anytime soon."

Martha Garcia
Executive Director
Bilingual and English as a Second Language Programs
Austin Independent School District

"In France, it is illegal to collect data on race and ethnicity, and affirmative action is frowned upon. According to unofficial estimates, about 10 percent of France's 61 million residents are of Arab or African descent."

John Ward Anderson
Reporter
Washington Post



a hilarious bilingual comedy
written and directed by **Rupert Reyes**

July 13 - July 30, 2006

Thurs. - Sat. 8 p.m. and Sun. Matinee 3 p.m.

Dougherty Arts Center Theater 1110 Barton Springs Rd.

General Admission - \$15, \$12 Students/Seniors/ACOT

All Thursdays - "pay what you wish night"

For tickets call AUSTIX 474-8497

or buy online at www.austix.com

Bring this card for \$2 off any Sunday matinee.

Long Time Chicano Activist: Albert Peña Jr. Passes Away

The last time I saw **Albert Peña Jr.** was four years ago. I was working on the program layout for the annual **Cesar Chavez** banquet for **Jaime Martinez** and **Judge Peña** was one of the honorees. I believe he was one of four that were being honored at the event. **Jaime** had photos of everyone except **Mr. Peña**.

So I asked **Jaime**, what are we going to do? We searched the internet and couldn't find anything, old or recent. We made calls around town and no one seemed to have a photo of **Albert Peña, Jr.** hanging on their wall either by himself or as part of a group. *¿Que vamos hacer?*

Finally we realized that we had to call **Mr. Peña** up and ask him if we could borrow a photo for the program we were getting ready to sent to the printer. He told to come over to his office and looked around for a good shot we could use. (I don't know why it didn't occur to us to just take a photo of him with the camera.) Anyway, we got a photo and promised to return it in a couple of hours while we went to scan it.

I share this memory with you because that was the last time I saw **Albert Peña, Jr.** I had always heard his name and people always spoke highly of him, but I did not know him personally. I did know that **Dr. Jose Angel Gutierrez** had interviewed him for the *Tejano Voices* series some years ago and that he was working on a book about his life, but that is all I really knew.

It is only now after his passing that I come to learn of all his pioneering work for *La Raza*. It is sad but true, many times we only realize the valuable contributions of people after they are gone. Here is part of his obituary as it appeared in the *San Antonio Express News*.

Just from this short narrative it is clear that **Albert Peña, Jr.** was indeed a man way out in front when it came to social justice. *La Politiquera* and all our friends extend our condolences to the Peña family and look forward to reading the book **Dr. Gutierrez** has been working on.

Albert A. Peña Jr., age 88 went to be with the Lord on July 3, 2006, in his hometown of San Antonio, Texas. He was a WWII Veteran of the U.S. Navy. He served at Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba and served on escort duty to the first allied invasion in North Africa. He was honorably discharged at the wars end in 1945.

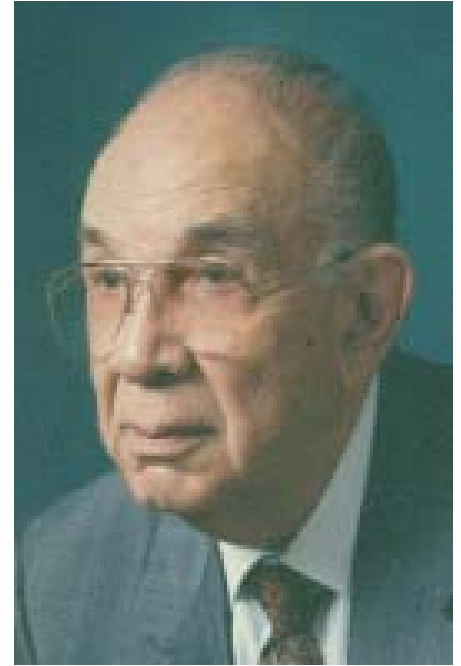
He returned to San Antonio and completed his education at South Texas School of Law in 1950. He joined his father and brother Richard at the Law Firm of Peña, Peña and Peña. After joining the firm he recognized the need for people to have legal counsel to deal with discriminatory practices of the time.

His first case in Hondo, Texas sparked a quest to help those in need. It helped desegregate the school system in Hondo. He began to focus on these types of cases. He also began to become active in the Democratic Party. He took many cases to help under privileged. He then became a Bexar County Commissioner in 1956. In that position he would utilize that platform to speak out over social injustice, poor legislation and inequitable practices of others.

He joined LULAC in its early days and the American G.I. Forum. He also helped form the VIVA Kennedy Clubs which helped to elect President John F. Kennedy. The organization evolved into a political action group for Mexican Americans in South Texas. It was called PASO - Political Association of Spanish speaking Organizations. He also helped form the Mexican American Unity Council known as MAUC and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund known as MALDEF.

He was also part of the formation of Southwest Council of La Raza. He helped organize the SASA boycott committee in 1971 in protest of statements made by then Mayor WW McAllister which were derogatory towards people of Mexican descent in which McAllister stated that Mexicans were not ambitious people. He and other civil rights leaders were arrested for this picketing. The boycott urged all these "Mexicans without ambition" to withdraw their money and many of them did.

He was involved in a nationwide petition drive to free Angela Davis, a college professor who was denied due process of law. She was a professor at UCLA and a professed Black Communist party member. This denied her a right to a fair trial. After civil rights legislation that prohibited discrimination was passed in 1965 Albert was the first to file a discrimination lawsuit in the state of Texas on behalf of a client. Albert and his good friend G J Sutton, a state legislator at the time and Black



east side leader, were the first minorities to enter Joskes Department store in downtown San Antonio to request seating at the Camilia Room, a restaurant known for restriction to minorities.

After a lengthy wait for service their order was finally taken and their food served. They ate their meal and departed. The Joskes Camilia room was never the same as this set a precedent that ended discrimination at this establishment. Another incident involving G J Sutton involved the Democratic convention of 1960 in Los Angeles Ca in which Mr. Sutton was denied access to the convention hall, however, Albert and other delegates challenged the security people and encouraged them to recognize his proper credentials and thus they allowed him access.

He was appointed a Municipal Court Judge in April 1977. Six years later he was appointed as the Presiding Judge of the Municipal Courts in San Antonio. In 1991 allegations of improprieties at the court were made and Judge Peña went to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct and assisted them in the investigation of the allegations. Allegations against him were determined to be unfounded. He retired in 1992 for Municipal Court.

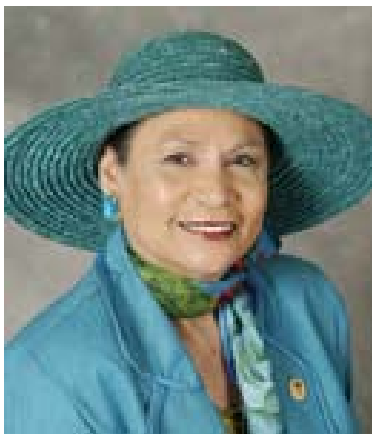
He semi-retired and practiced some law. Awards received since his retirement include 1999 Mexican American Unity Council Lifetime Achievement Award, 2001 Bexar County Democrats Lifetime Achievement Award, 2001 Martin Luther King Jr. Commission Chairman Lifetime Achievement, 2002 Cesar Chavez March Lifetime Achievement Award, ACLU Lifetime Achievement Award.

LULAC ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT ROSA ROSALES

The second woman to win office in LULAC's 77th history

Washington, DC – The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) elects its new LULAC National President Rosa Rosales with over 70% of the vote by the delegates at the 2005 LULAC National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. "I am elated at being elected the new President of LULAC and I am ready to work with all groups to take LULAC to the next level of activism. I want to thank LULAC and all the past Presidents for all the work they have done. I want to thank all of the volunteers because that is what LULAC is all about. What makes LULAC so special is because not only do the volunteers work for free but pay dues," said Rosa Rosales, past Vice President of the Southwest and the newly elected LULAC National President.

Born April 7, 1944, in San Antonio, Texas, Ms. Rosales was among the first Mexican American women to become labor organizers in recent times. Active in LULAC, she was the first woman to hold the



Rosa Rosales

position of State Director of that organization. She received her B.A. in Liberal Arts from the University of Michigan. Rosa was recently on the National LULAC Board of Directors holding the position of National Vice President of the Southwest.

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization in the United States. LULAC advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health, and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 700 LULAC councils nationwide.

Vilma Luna Resigns as Texas State Representative

The Official Statement



Dear Community and Constituents: We live our lives in stages, each new stage bringing us new choices and fresh opportunities. For the last 13 years, I have been privileged to serve as a member of the Texas House of Representatives. But it is time for me to move on to a different stage in my life.

After a great deal of thought, I have decided to withdraw as a candidate for re-election to the Texas House of Representatives and resign effective July 31st. Why? My constituents have seen me grow from a single woman to a married woman to a mother of 2 wonderful boys. My family has been blessed many times over and we've tried to give back. I have served in 7 regular sessions and 7 special sessions. We've attended Democratic Party conventions with the boys in tow. We've been at long meetings where the boys slept quietly through the proceedings. The boys marched with Rico and me at the Cesar Chavez Marcha. Our sons have toddled around the House chamber. We've spent weekends, holidays and even Mother's Day at the State Capital. We've been blessed.

But it is time for my family and I to have more flexibility in our lives. It is in our best interests, and in the best interest of my constituents to make the move to the next stage of my life now. This allows the Election Code procedures to be followed so that the next State Representative from District 33 can be elected in November and serve a full term beginning with the next legislative session. I began my service with the goal of making our area and Texas a better place than when I began. Our region has a deep economic, social, and cultural interdependence, and as a member of the House of Representatives, I have worked to be a voice for the interests of the Coastal Bend and South Texas. I have been fortunate to serve on several committees that allowed me a front row seat on many issues important to our area and all of Texas.

I am particularly proud of my work to improve our children's education and to reward those devoted teachers who spend their lives helping children prepare for the future. When the state budget tightened, I'm proud that I worked tirelessly to find funding for programs that help those most vulnerable in our society. I'm especially proud to have worked to help make my dear friend Irma Rangel's dream of a Pharmacy school in Kingsville a reality. Finally, I've been privileged to work side by side with business, community, and union leaders to help create a strong economy for our Coastal Bend region.

There is still much more to be done. I know that the person who succeeds me will have the support and guidance of a wonderful group of citizens whom I have had the honor to represent. Thank you.



There's nothing illegal about wanting to feed your family

BY ELI ALONZO

He's about 5-feet tall, dark-skinned, with jet black hair. His barrel chest is ideal for the thin air in the high altitude of Oaxaca Mexico and his shoulders and strong arms make him fit for hard labor.

Maybe you've seen him at our Watsonville Plaza following the Sunday Mass at Saint Patrick's Church lying on the grass dreaming - for what else are thoughts if not day dreams - of Esmeralda his wife and their five children in Totontepec.

Octavio arrived in Watsonville in April and, because of the rain and the late strawberry harvest, was immediately out of work. He checked weekly with the ranch foreman, waiting for the earth to dry and yield its fruit.

"This year God sent us water for Easter," he said. *"It's difficult to be without work, I'm in agreement with God's gift of water."*

Octavio makes his way to the strawberry fields of Watsonville every year. In this sixth year, he crossed the border with a group of 20 men, women and children - a two-day desert hike.

On one trip he and fellow sojourners were caught by the U.S. Border Patrol "la migra" they were treated well, given

water, asked to identify the coyote in charge - a question they anticipated and sacrificed, by agreement, a volunteer who gladly spun a ridiculous story. Later a van, drove them to the Otay Mesa border where the migra smiled, wishing them better luck for tomorrow.

Some of the stories are harrowing. Imagine 20 men, women and children walking across the desert like quail in single file, helping one another to march in rhythm and stay together. They leave their homeland, their family, their culture and religion at great peril, transported by a chain of coyotes that begins in the pueblos of Oaxaca.

They descend 10,000 feet, cross three cultures and a national border; in all, a 2,000-mile trek. They cross the border on foot through jagged canyons and barren deserts, enduring the heat of day and cold of night.

They run a gauntlet, taking World War One-like trenches and corridors, caring to avoid ground sensors, Klieg lights,

They run a gauntlet, taking World War One-like trenches and corridors, caring to avoid ground sensors, Klieg lights, helicopter surveillance, four-wheel drive vehicles and armed border patrols equipped with night vision goggles.

But the border patrol treats them kindly in contrast to a band of armed Cholo bandits on horses who announce themselves as "welcoming ambassadors," robbing, raping and maiming.

Imagine 20 men, women and children walking across the desert like quail in single file,

Once across America's southern Maginot line, they maneuver around checkpoints and continue north, staying in a series of safe houses. Finally, the

comparatively easy last leg of the trip north, locked in a van for 10 hours with 12 others.

Once here, they work at menial, low-pay, hard-labor jobs, often cheated by the employer.

Once here, they work at menial, low-pay, hard-labor jobs, often cheated by the employer. Why do they risk and endure so much? This is a complex human tragedy with national and international implications. The undocumented Mexican population is not here to terrorize, plunder and steal, nor do they seek citizenship.

They are victims of a corrupt government that takes advantage of its people instead of working improve conditions for all. Octavio, as many from Mexico, neither reads or writes. He has no ability or desire for American citizenry.

They are here to work, to earn dollars.

At worst, these folks are sojourners - visitors with a country of their own, which they love, flag, poverty and all. A family waits for their return. They are here to work, to earn dollars. They send half their earnings home just so mom and the kids will not starve to death. The more fortunate help harvest our crops in the Pajaro Valley, earning a bonanza of cash compared to wages of maybe \$10 a day in Mexico.

Unable to read and here for only seven months, Octavio is oblivious to the anti-immigration turmoil. Liberal Americans with a social justice frame of mind marched with millions of Mexican-Americans who fear the dreadful "migra" knock at the door, arresting and loading their not-legal parents onto a van bound for the border.

This new generation of Latinos marched in support of President Bush, Republicans and Democrats, men and women who were against what appeared to be racially-motivated legislation with the mindset "build a wall, jail them, deport them, fine and jail those who hire them as well."

America has changed and the flow of undocumented workers will continue, along with our need to keep America's economy moving.

America has changed and the flow of undocumented workers will continue, along with our need to keep America's economy moving. Illegal immigrants will stop filling low-tech, hard-labor jobs only when Mexico, a sovereign nation, cleans up its act, cooperates with our government and we, as a compassionate, understanding neighbor, give a helping hand as part of the solution.

Elias Alonzo is a Watsonville, California resident and community activist. This story was printed with his permission. It first appeared in the Watsonville Register-Pajaronian.

La Politiquera
www.lapolitiquera.com



Social Justice Summer School in Austin, Texas

Dr. Federico Subervi Speaks to Students at Social Justice School

The **Social Justice Summer School** sponsored by **Austin Voices** and a number of community based organizations completed its fifth week of operation on July 6th.

Students participating in the summer school have had the opportunity to see and hear a number of guest speakers including **Dr. Federico Subervi** who came in and did a presentation on the media and imagery. The students were quite surprised to learn how the media works to construct the images we see on television.

Other visitors to the **Social Justice Summer School** have included a number of reporters from both radio and newsprint who have interviewed the students about their activism and what they are learning this summer.

On July 6th, the students were treated to a theatrical presentation by the **Youth Action Network**. The group of approximately 17 students came in and did a series of mini skits on dating violence, stereotypes and peer pressure.

The final week of the **Social Justice Summer School** will include a visit to the **University of Texas School of Social Work, the UT Law**



School and the Center for Mexican American Studies.

In the fall when the students return to their respective campuses, they will continue to participate with **Austin Voices for Education and Youth** in organizing a rally around the issue of High School Redesign. This rally is set for September 9th, 2006 at Saltillo Plaza in East Austin.

Students from the **Social Justice Summer School** and others who are being recruited will also have the opportunity to work a number of action research projects. One in research particular that should prove very interesting is the identification and whereabouts of those students who have dropout of high school in the last four years and the whereabouts

of those who did graduate, but did not continue on to college. Through the use of yearbooks, leads and referrals from friends and family, this project will add a very unique voice to the high school redesign discussions currently taking place in the **Austin Independent School District**.



Among the sponsors that have stepped forward to help with this project are:

American Civil Liberties Union	Taco Cabana
Southwest Key Program, Inc.	Dr. Emilio Zamora
Texas Coalition Advocating Juvenile Justice	
Office of the Police Monitor	
City of Austin	Dr. Angela Valenzuela
<i>Unidos de Austin</i>	<i>La Voz Newspapers</i>

Career Profile

Dr. Rubén Martinez

**Professor of Public Administration
at the University of Texas at San Antonio**

Dr. Rubén Martinez is Professor of Public Administration at the **University of Texas at San Antonio**. He came to **San Antonio** in 2001 from the **University of Southern Colorado** where he taught sociology and served as Associate Provost.

A specialist in social stratification, race and ethnic relations and bioregional sociology, **Dr. Martinez** earned his bachelor's degree from the **University of Southern Colorado** in 1976. He then went on to **Arizona State University** for a masters degree in 1978 and the **University of California at Riverside** where he earned his Ph.D. in sociology in 1984.

From 1997-1998, **Dr. Martinez** served as President of the **Western Social Science Association**. His Presidential Address, "Globalization and the Social Sciences," was published in **The Social Science Journal**. In 1994-1995, he served as an **American Council of Education Fellow**, studying issues in higher education and serving as an intern under **Dr. Robert Shirley**, President of the **University of Southern Colorado**.

In 1993, he and **Professor Adalberto Aguirre, Jr.**, published a book on Chicanos in Higher Education where they argued that while the civil rights struggles of the 1960s were important in shaping the aims of higher education for Chicanos, and the federal government was the source of support programs that facilitated the participation of Chicanos in higher education, these programs also did something else. They reinforced the subordinate status of Chicanos in U.S. society. Chicano students, **Martinez** and **Aguirre**



argued were channeled into two-year colleges, where they became victims of low transfer rates to four-year institutions and high attrition rates. Thus, the number of Chicano students at four-year institutions has been low, even lower at some more prestigious institutions of higher education.

...and began a period of study that would last 11 years ending with his doctorate.

Martinez grew up in the mountains of Northern New Mexico and after high school served in the **U.S. Army**. As he was ending his tour of duty in **Germany** he applied to the university and began a period of study that would last 11 years ending with his doctorate.

When asked recently about his career trajectory thus far he stated that he was amazed by how fast life has gone by. *"It's been a great career thus far and it is not over yet. There is so much more to do in terms of research, writing, and institutional transformation."*

He said that the writers who have influenced him the most have been, the **German** philosophers

such as **Kant** and **Hegel**, but that 19th century thinkers such as **Comte**, **Marx**, **Weber**, and others were equally influential.

From the 20th century he says **Talcott Parsons**, **Jurgen Habermas**, **Anthony Giddens**, **Michael Polanyi**, **David Searle** and **Dorothy Smith** have had the most impact. And with respect to Chicano scholars he includes **Rodolfo Acuña**, **Rudolfo Anaya**, **Tomas Rivera**, and **Helena Maria Viramontes** among his favorites.

Most recently Dr. Martinez worked with a program called Hispanic Leadership Program in Agriculture . . .

Most recently Dr. Martinez worked with a program called **Hispanic Leadership Program in Agriculture and Natural Resources** to increase the number of Hispanics who will work for the **United States Department of Agriculture** and who are familiar with the needs of Latino agricultural communities and the challenges that **USDA** agencies experience in addressing them. Several cohorts of graduate students have com-



B.A. University of Southern Colorado, 1976
M.A. Arizona State University, 1978
Ph.D. University of California, Riverside 1984

pleted the program and have begun working with the **USDA** in **Washington, D.C.** and in **California**.

In addition to all of this work, **Dr. Martinez** just completed a year as interim chairman of the Department of Criminal Justice and is beginning a term as Director of the Center for Policy Studies, which is part of the College of Public Policy. He is currently working with **David Espino, M.D.**, in conducting a study on "Decision Making at the End of Life in Mexican American Elderly." Their data collection will include 300 interviews of participants.

His forthcoming book with **Dr. Aguirre**, *Diversity Challenges for Leadership in High Education*, is expected out late this year. In it they call for institutions of higher education to get serious about meeting the needs of diverse student groups in order to meet the economic and leadership needs of the nation.

This career profile is the sixth in a series sponsored by *La Polítiquera*. Please send in updates of what you are doing in your career and we will work them in using the format above.

The Texas Youth Commission (TYC) is Texas' juvenile corrections agency.

Our Mission

Protection - To protect the public, and control the commission of unlawful acts by youth committed to the agency by confining them under conditions that ensure their basic healthcare and emphasize their positive development, accountability for their conduct and discipline training. (Family Code, Section 51.01(1), (2) and (4) and Human Resources Code, Section 61.101(c));

Productivity - To habilitate youth committed to the agency to become productive and responsible citizens who are prepared for honorable employment through ongoing education and workforce development programs (Human Resources Code, Section 61.034(b) and 61.076(a)(1));

Rehabilitation - To rehabilitate youth committed to the agency and re-establish them in society through a competency-based program of Resocialization (Human Resources Code, Section 61.002, 61.047, 61.071, 61.072, 61.076(a)(1)(2) and 61.0761); and

Prevention - To study problems of juvenile delinquency, focus public attention on special solutions for problems, and assist in developing, strengthening, and coordinating programs aimed at preventing delinquency (Human Resources Code, Section 61.031, 61.036 and 61.081 (c)).

TYC Overview

The youth sent to the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) are the state's most serious or chronically delinquent offenders. In fiscal year 2005 (9/04 - 8/05), 33% of new arrivals had committed violent offenses, the same percentage as in fiscal 2004. Overall, 38% of new arrivals were categorized as high risk offenders.

90% were boys. 10% were girls.
43% were Hispanic. 33% were African-American. 23% were Anglo.

35% admitted at intake that they are gang members.

Median age at commitment was 16.

Median reading and math achievement level was 5th grade (five years behind their peers).

40% were identified as eligible for special education services.

10% of the TYC population were Limited English Proficient.

81% had IQs below the mean score of 100.

39% had a high need for drug treatment.

36% had severe mental health problems.

76% had parents who never married or who divorced or separated.

35% had a history of being abused or neglected.

62% came from low-income homes.

74% came from chaotic environments.

54% had families with histories of criminal behavior.

11% had family members with mental impairments.

49% were in juvenile court on two or more felony-level offenses before being committed to TYC.





Commitment Profile

Fiscal Year

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
TOTALS	2406	2448	2511	2526	2614
ANGLO	635	642	628	561	606
BLACK	822	818	771	794	857
HISPANIC	930	971	1102	1156	1125
OTHER ETHNICITY	19	17	10	15	26
MALE	2161	2237	2248	2261	2354
FEMALE	245	211	263	265	260
U.S. CITIZENSHIP	2311	2327	2346	2353	2457
MEXICAN CITIZENSHIP	82	94	143	143	132
OTHER CITIZENSHIP	13	27	22	30	25
COMMITTED AGE 12 OR LESS	41	35	19	33	37
COMMITTED AGE 13	123	123	127	114	111
COMMITTED AGE 14	353	325	313	311	318
COMMITTED AGE 15	647	636	629	653	659
COMMITTED AGE 16	893	908	975	945	963
COMMITTED AGE 17	342	411	427	453	502
COMMITTED AGE 18	6	10	21	17	24
COMMITTED AGE 19	1				
NOT KNOWN GANG MEMBER	1392	1491	1683	1656	1701
KNOWN GANG MEMBER	1014	957	828	870	913
LAST GRADE					
COMPLETED-4TH OR LESS	7	7	9	10	12
LAST GRADE COMPLETED-5TH	47	52	30	28	39
LAST GRADE COMPLETED-6TH	174	172	136	106	110
LAST GRADE COMPLETED-7TH	417	396	336	280	273
LAST GRADE COMPLETED-8TH	1021	952	1145	1105	1167
LAST GRADE COMPLETED-9TH	567	603	668	794	720
LAST GRADE COMPLETED-10TH OR MORE	164	253	180	190	206
MISSING	9	13	7	13	87
COMMITTED FROM HARRIS	403	401	400	527	580
COMMITTED FROM DALLAS	286	251	286	212	300
COMMITTED FROM BEXAR	247	229	188	226	237
COMMITTED FROM TARRANT	175	164	170	190	153
COMMITTED FROM TRAVIS	82	64	92	76	111
COMMITTED FROM EL PASO	51	33	71	71	62
COMMITTED FROM LUBBOCK	43	65	84	66	48
COMMITTED FROM JEFFERSON	59	36	26	34	37
COMMITTED FROM MCLENNAN	62	76	41	54	36
COMMITTED FROM SMITH	29	31	39	39	35
COMMITTED FROM GALVESTON	36	55	65	49	33
COMMITTED FROM HIDALGO	19	36	41	45	32
COMMITTED FROM BELL	27	38	31	37	31
COMMITTED FROM FORT BEND	28	35	36	38	28
COMMITTED FROM NUECES	29	23	30	44	27
COMMITTED FROM OTHER COUNTIES	830	911	911	818	864



Nopalito PRESS

*Seeking to Capture the Voices,
Pensamientos y Palabras de la
Gente de Southwest Texas*

www.nopalitopress.com

Charlie Jones



Attorney at Law

"Miedo, no tengo!"

(210) 225-5005

Calender of Events

July 14, 2006

Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project Latino Vote 2006 California Banquet

Location: Sheraton Universal Hotel
333 Universal Hollywood Drive
Universal City, California
For more information, please contact
Yvette Rivas at (210) 922-0225

July 15th, 2006

Country Roland Band Appearing in Rio Grande City, Texas.!

Start Time: 9:00 PM
Location @ The K. C. Hall
(1 Block East of the Court House)
Rio Grande City, Texas
For More Information Lisa - 956-735-2444

July 22nd, 2006

Little Joe y La Familia

Ft.Worth,Tx- Billy Bob's Texas

July 27-29

Great Texas Mosquito Festival

Clute Municipal Park; 100 Park View Drive
City of Clute
Dana Pomerence
P.O. Box 997; Clute, TX 77531
(979) 265-8392; (800) 371-2971; Fax (979)
265-8767
buzz[at]SPAMAWAYmosquitosfestival.com
Music: Cajun, Country, Rock, Tejano, Texas
country Activities: Street dance, Athletic
Events: Skating, Biking, Running, Horseshoes,
Washer Pitching, Paintball
The Great Texas Mosquito Festival activities
include live national entertainment acts, a
mosquito calling contest, 5K fun run, a bike
and skate tour, barbecue and fajita cookoffs,
horseshoe and washer tournaments, a
carnival, and a variety of both food and arts
and crafts booths.

July 28th, 2006

The Hometown Boys and the Texas

Wranglers in Austin, Texas. Doors open at
8:00PM. For more information please call (512)
282-1143. H and H Ballroom 4402 Brandt Road
Austin, Texas 78744

July 29th, 2006

Little Joe y La Familia

Lockhart,Tx-St.Mary's Church Festival

August 11-13, 2006

Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project

San Antonio Latino Academy

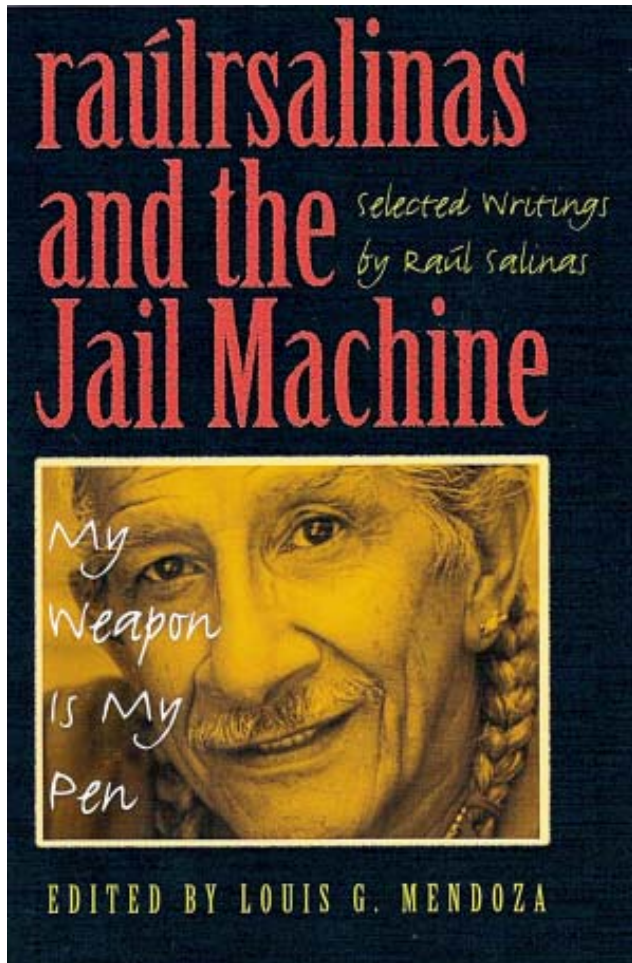
San Antonio, Texas
For more information, please contact
Yvette Rivas at (210) 922-0225

September 14, 2006

Xavier Garza and **René Saldaña** will read from
their works at the Edinburg Public Library as part
of the Texas Latino Voices project. For more
information, contact Gail Bialas at the Texas Center
for the Book at the Dallas Public Library:
gailbialas@dallaslibrary.org or 214-670-7808.

NOW AVAILABLE!

Resistencia Bookstore
1801-A South First St.
Austin, Tejas 512-416-8885



Countrywide PROUDLY PRESENTS

TEJANO MUSIC
NATIONAL
CONVENTION
Vegas
REVUE
2006

Las Vegas
Hilton
July 14-16

Scheduled to Perform:

- Avizo** featuring **Sunny Ozuna, Carlos Guzman, Augustine Ramirez** and **Freddie Martinez**
- Mingo Saldivar** with **Linda Escobar**
- La Fiebre**
- Ruben Ramos & the Mexican Revolution**
- Gary Hobbs**
- Jay Perez**
- David Lee Garza y Los Musicales** with special guest **Emilio**
- La Mafia**

Musical performances are subject to change.