

Hispanic Link weekly report

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Your News Source for 26 Years

MAKING THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Mexican federal lawmakers come out against the Mérida Initiative recently passed by the U.S. Senate so long as it requires Mexico to comply with human rights provisions in order to receive U.S. aid to combat drug violence...**John McCain** launches a 60 second Spanish-language ad that promotes him on the economy airing in Nevada and New Mexico...The Wall Street Journal reports a large JBS Swift & Co. meatpacking plant in Texas whose operations were severely disrupted after an ICE raid that

rounded up hundreds of Latino workers has bounced back because of an "unexpected influx" of Myanmar refugees...Sens. **Barbara Boxer** (D-Calif.) and **Judd Gregg** (R-N.H.) introduce companion legislation to a House bill to exempt immigrant graduates with advanced degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics from annual employer-based visa caps...A Department of Justice report reveals the FBI had more than 327,000 pending name check requests from the USCIS as of March.

Obama Faces Major Task in Mobilizing Hispanic Voters

By Alex Meneses Miyashita

Hispanic leaders and analysts are expressing enthusiasm over the Democratic presidential nomination of Barack Obama but maintain he has yet to win over the Latino vote.

This, they claim, will be critical for him or John McCain to reach the presidency.

Generally, Latino leaders hailed the nomination of the first black presidential candidate of a major party as a historic national milestone.

Obama gained the 2,118 delegates needed to clinch his party's nomination in the Montana and South Dakota primaries June 4. Several super delegates endorsed him that day. His delegate count is 2187.5 to Hillary Clinton's 1927.

"He will need the Hispanic vote to win. He's going to have to work hard for it. One cannot take it for granted," said Andrés Ramírez, vice president for Hispanic programs of the pro-Democrat think tank NDN.

Most Latino support in the primaries went to Clinton.

In California and New York, Latinos backed her by about a 2 to 1 margin.

Analysts stress Hispanics will be critical in November in swing states such as Colorado, Florida, Nevada and New Mexico.

Ramírez credited Obama with showing much initiative in reaching out to Hispanics. He maintained both Democratic candidates set records in Spanish-language advertising expenditures during the primaries.

The NDN hailed as "landmark" a 30-second ad Obama delivered in flawless Spanish during the Puerto Rico primary.

But Los Angeles' *La Opinión*, the country's largest Spanish-language daily, criticized his campaign for not communicating enough with the Spanish-language media. *La Opinión* has endorsed Obama.

Columnist Pilar Marrero wrote May 31, "The Barack Obama presidential campaign's indifference to the Latino press has been a problem since the beginning of the race. The people surrounding the candidate don't seem too aware or concerned about main-

taining communication with the media that informs the Spanish-speaking community."

Obama supporter Juan José Gutiérrez, director of the Los Angeles-based Latino Movement USA, concurred that until now Obama has not mobilized the Latino community as he has done with blacks and youth, proposing, "We have to start pressing right away and make sure we are visible in this campaign."

But he added that with what Latinos know of Obama now, they would not choose Hillary Clinton "the same way they did in the beginning."

Gutiérrez has been a leader in rallying Hispanics and immigrants to press federal officials to pass immigration reform that offers legalization to the undocumented.

He helped organize the massive 2006 pro-immigrant demonstrations in Chicago and



OBAMA

elsewhere.

At a December 2007 meeting with Gutiérrez and several grassroots leaders, Obama promised that if elected, he would push hard for immigration reform in his first year. Gutiérrez pointed out that Obama stated his commitment to tackle the issue before Clinton did.

"No more than 15 of us met with him," Gutiérrez said. "Now it will be necessary for him to fill up a stadium of Latinos."

The meeting convinced Gutiérrez that Obama was the right candidate. He says Obama's goals on a wide range of issues from comprehensive immigration reform to ending the war in Iraq resonate strongly with the community.

"I haven't met a politician in my life who makes me feel that with this person things can get done, that there is sincerity, openness and originality. He's genuine," he said. "It's not easy to find this type of politician, especially at those political levels."

Analyst José de la Isla explained Obama represents the political "change" that the U.S. public was demanding when they gave Democrats the majority in Congress in 2006.

He said the 2006 Latino mobilization was
(continued on page 2)

Supervisor Molina Shares Concerns on L.A. County Redistricting; Proponents Declare They're Not Valid

By Dana Guest

Gloria Molina, the lone Hispanic serving on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, voiced some reservations to Weekly Report in a June 4 interview about the advisability of reshaping the Board's district lines to create a second "Hispanic-majority" seat. A request to do so is now under consideration by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Presently, in a county where nearly 50% of the 10 million residents are Hispanic, the board includes Molina, Yvonne Burke, who is African American, and three white males.

Blacks, who once made up 12.4% of the county's population in 1980, now stand at 9.8%, according to Census Bureau figures.

Responding to Weekly Report questions following her address to an audience of 175 attending a "Latino Leaders" luncheon in Washington, D.C., Molina expressed concern that shifting district lines could eliminate black representation on the board.

"One of the most dangerous things to us would be to exclude the African American
(continued on page 2)

The Inside Stories

PAGE 4: Political Empathy and Political Suicide (José de la Isla)

PAGE 5: Foreclosures Taking Toll on American Dreams (Janet Murguía)

Political Poop

by Patricia Guadalupe



Potential VP Names Float

With Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) suspending her presidential campaign, her name is being floated as a vice presidential candidate, a possibility her backers say the party should take seriously.

Clinton ended her campaign June 7 and urged supporters to back presumptive presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, who secured enough delegates to become the party's nominee against presumptive Republican nominee Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

"She's earned a role in the presidential campaign," Rep. Nydia Velásquez of New York said. "Eighteen million people (voted for her and) say so."

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, himself a former presidential candidate, is also on the short list for veep consideration.

Insulza Eyes Chile Presidency

José Miguel Insulza, president of the Washington-based Organization of American States, could leave his post early to run for president of Chile.

"Everybody in politics wants to be president of his country," the former Chilean foreign affairs minister told The Miami Herald. Insulza was elected head of the 34-member OAS three years ago and has two years remaining in his term. He said he would not make a decision until after local legislative elections in Chile this fall. Polls show slightly less than half have a favor-

able opinion of an Insulza presidency. At the OAS, Insulza has largely had the backing of the United States, particularly for his criticism of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, a thorn in the side of the Bush administration for his fiery anti-Bush stance. Chávez once referred to President Bush as the "devil," a comment Insulza said was "unseemingly" for a Latin American leader.

Alvarez Qualifies for Reelection

Miami-Dade (Fla.) Mayor Carlos Alvarez June 9 formally qualified for reelection. His only declared opponent, former Miami teacher Helen Williams, has not yet qualified. She has until June 17 to do so.

The primary will be held Aug. 26 for the November general election. Alvarez was first elected mayor in 2004, defeating Jimmy Morales, currently a Miami-Dade County commissioner.

Before that, Alvarez served as director of the Miami-Dade Police Department.

Molina Says Expanding Board Membership from 5 to 9 Is 'Good Idea'

(continued from page 1)
community," said Molina.

The board manages an annual budget of \$22 billion, larger than those of about 80% of U.S. states. Each of the five districts contains more than two million residents.

Molina's concern is challenged by Alan Clayton, equal opportunity director for the Los Angeles County Chicano Employees Association, which has filed a voting rights complaint with the Justice Department.

"We enhance the ability of Latinos, but we

do not undercut the ability of African Americans to elect candidates where they currently have electoral power," Clayton responded to Weekly Report.

Supervisorial District 2, now served by Burke, who is retiring this year, has a black voting-age population of 29.5%. Two other African Americans are competing in a November runoff to replace her.

Among those supporting the administrative complaint are Leo Estrada, associate professor of Urban Planning at UCLA, and attorney Armando Durón, who had served back in 1991 on the county board's redistricting committee as an appointee to Molina.

Now a co-counsel in the complaint, he said he was "shocked" by Molina's comments. The new map proposals have carefully avoided reducing black influence in District 2, he said. A pair of demonstration maps proposed by the LACCEA allow for a 30.9% and a 30.5% black voting-age population, according to Clayton.

"Alan Clayton has made a compelling case to show that African Americans are not affected by the proposal presented," Joaquín Avila, a national expert on voting rights and redistricting who filed a 68-page legal brief on behalf of the complaint, told Weekly Report. Clayton and the LACCEA submitted their intervention request to the Department of Justice in February of 2003 and, in spite of repeated status requests, are still waiting for an answer.

Molina called another proposal to ex-

pand the Board of Supervisors to nine members a "good idea because it would allow for better representation of the entire community." So far, the board has resisted it, claiming it would be too costly. Board members like the power they have, Clayton responded. "They don't want to give it up."

Obama Has to Step Up Hispanic Efforts

(continued from page 1)

an expression of this call for change and a major agent that made it happen. He added the Democratic leadership, however, failed to bring about much promised reforms.

"(Obama) is the change people were talking about," he said.

"He was very adroit, sharp in perceiving what the public was saying and the rest of the Democratic Party was not."

Gutiérrez said Obama has offered fresh policy views on a variety of issues, including Latin America, especially as it refers to speaking, "without preconditions," to Cuba.

Republican National Committee spokesperson Hessy Fernández said Obama's willingness to talk to "hostile leaders" while turning his back to "friends" like Colombia through his opposition of a free trade agreement speaks to his "inexperience."

But to Gutiérrez, "It indicates that with Barack Obama there will be a different dynamic of doing politics," but added that as in all politics, "there will be possibilities, but no guarantees."

He said, "The fact that we support Senator Obama doesn't mean we're giving him a blank check, and that once he reaches power he can do whatever because we'll be satisfied history was made."

LULAC, Black Groups Urge Big Cuts in Military Spending

By Alex Meneses Miyashita

The League of United Latin American Citizens joined an alliance with 36 national black organizations in urging presidential candidates to cut "unrestrained" spending on defense and use those funds to benefit communities of color.

In a May 29 joint letter addressed to John McCain, Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, LULAC and the Black Leadership Forum claimed too much funding goes to the Joint Strike Fighter program of the Pentagon.

The groups maintained JSF is the "most expensive defense line item ever" and could cost as much as \$1 trillion. It cited a GAO report that points out the program has gone \$300 billion over budget.

"One trillion dollars being misspent in the JSF could fund universal health care and universal pre-school, while expanding veterans' benefits and solving the widening mortgage crisis with hundreds of billions of dollars left over," stated LULAC executive director Brent Wilkes.



MOLINA

NEWS BYTES FROM ALL OVER

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Governor Mark Sanford signed June 5 legislation that will deny most state benefits to undocumented immigrants and will punish employers who hire unauthorized workers.

Supporters and opponents of the comprehensive law agree it is one of the strictest laws in the nation aimed at cracking down on undocumented immigrants.

The bill also authorizes state law enforcement officers to pursue a federal training program to enforce immigration laws, criminalizes harboring or transporting undocumented immigrants and bars undocumented students to access higher education in the state.

MALDEF, ACLU Hail Court's Decision Preventing Cave Creek from Enforcing Anti-Solicitation Rule

By Virginia Torres

The U.S. District Court in Phoenix issued a preliminary order June 2 stopping the town of Cave Creek, Arizona from enforcing an anti-solicitation rule passed in September 2007 claiming a violation of free speech rights of day laborers who were trying to express their availability to work by standing in public areas.

In late March, the ACLU, the ACLU of Arizona and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) filed a lawsuit against the town of Cave Creek and the town's mayor and deputy mayor on behalf of Hector Lopez, Leopoldo Ibarra and Ismael Ibarra, who are long time day laborers and residents who in the past solicited employment in the area by standing in public places. Now, the three laborers will be

Construction Industry Slump Hits Latinos Hardest

By Alex Meneses Miyashita

The nation's economic slowdown has hit Latinos particular hard as a slump in the construction industry has led to a sharp rise in Hispanic unemployment, concluded a report by the Pew Hispanic Center.

The construction industry has driven job growth for Latinos, especially those born outside of the country, for many years, but over the past year some 250,000 Hispanic construction workers have lost their jobs.

The study, released June 5, notes the Hispanic unemployment rate has jumped from 4.9% in 2006 to 6.5% in the first three

EDMOND, Okla. – A federal judge temporarily blocked a provision to a state law targeting undocumented immigrants claiming it could be unconstitutional.

Judge Robin J. Cauthron enjoined the provision that would penalize employers who fail to adopt a federal electronic employment verification system in response to a lawsuit by business groups against the state claiming use of the program is voluntary under federal law. The provision was set to be enforced in July. Other provisions of the law, including cut of benefits to undocumented immigrants and criminalizing their transporting or harboring, have been in effect since last November.

able to solicit without fear of being cited for violating the order.

"Today's decision should serve as a warning for other state and local municipalities that have considered similar ordinances: passing this type of discriminatory ordinance is impermissible and opens them up to costly litigation. Around the nation, the majority of judges who have reviewed these local anti-solicitation ordinances have put a stop to them," stated Kristina Campbell, MALDEF staff attorney.

Although the town tried to target illegal immigration, the ordinance applied to everyone in the town, regardless of immigration status or nationality. The ACLU argues that all individuals have the right to free speech including peaceably soliciting employment in public areas.

months of this year. The non-Hispanic unemployment rate during the first quarter of 2008 was of 4.7%.

The Latino and non-Latino unemployment rate gap has widened from a historic low of 0.5 percentage points in 2006 to almost two percentage points.

Hispanic immigrants were hit hardest. Their unemployment rate soared to 7.5% in the first three months of 2008, representing the first time in five years that Latino immigrants had a higher unemployment rate than native-born Hispanics.

"Even though the economic slowdown has been particularly hard on immigrant Latinos, we did not find signs that they are leaving the U.S. labor market," said Rakesh Kochhar, the Center's associate director for research and author of the report.

Kochhar added that 70% of foreign-born eligible Latino workers continue being employed or "actively looking for work."

For more information, visit <http://pewhispanic.org>.

ICE Defends the Quality of Medical Care Offered at Immigrant Detention Centers

By Virginia Torres

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Service (ICE) rejected allegations that it is not giving proper medical attention to detained immigrants, but said it could improve some services at a hearing June 4 of a House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee.

The hearing comes on the heels of protests from congressional leaders, civil rights and religious advocates, and former immigrant detainees and their families, who protested instances of inadequate or lack of medical services provided at these centers.



MYERS

"There is still much work to do," testified Julie L. Myers, head of ICE, adding that "Law enforcement officers are not medical professionals."

Gloria Armendáriz, wife of former detainee Isaías Vásquez, testified her husband received improper care for his schizophrenia and was mistreated at the San Antonio GEO Facility and South Texas Detention Complex at Pearsall, Texas, in 2005.

ICE claims it provides a wide range of mental health services to detainees.

But Armendáriz claimed, "Isaías complained that he was having side effects from the medication he received and was fainting."

Vásquez was released from Pearsall May 2006.

ICE maintains that within 12 hours of arrival, all detainees are required to receive a health screening to determine medical, mental or dental care needs followed by a physical examination and health appraisal.

In 2007, 34 percent of detainees screened were diagnosed and treated for preexisting chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension that may have not been detected if it were not for the attention received at detention facilities, according to Myers.

Myers boasted several care programs but stated the agency is looking at improving on areas like suicide prevention. Since 2003, suicides have accounted for 18 percent of 74 deaths of detainees in custody, but there has not been a single suicide in the past 15 months, according to Myers.

Rep. Luis Gutiérrez (D-Ill.) challenged Myers and referred to the medical care at detention facilities as "Royal Royce healthcare." "I should maybe not check into my house, but check into an ICE facility. It appears that it's safer for me," Gutiérrez said while questioning Myers.

QUOTING . . .

"It's transcendent. It means now someone of another race, a latino or a latina, can have serious aspirations to the highest post within the social structure of the U.S." -Juan José Gutiérrez, director, Latino Movement USA, on Obama nomination.

Political Empathy and Political Suicide

Guest Columnist

José de la Isla



HOUSTON—University of California, Berkeley, linguistics professor and progressive guru George Lakoff has an interesting way to explain why we don't get it about immigration.

Lakoff has completed a book with a long title, *The Political Mind: Why You Can't Understand 21st Century American Politics with an 18th Century Mind*. In it, he goes a long way in explaining why this nation's politics became so polarizing and dysfunctional during the past quarter century.

Basically, it has to do with the framework of values that we have in our minds and the words we use to illustrate them.

We met and talked when Lakoff was in this city in late February to address the Progressive Forum. I submitted that the history of the inner-city core was a story about a wave of immigrants who came to live in places that others were abandoning — places that had become slums or nearly so.

In Houston, first men, then whole families, moved into parts of the East End and the second and third wards and downtown. This happened despite many failed efforts and maybe hundreds of millions of urban anti-poverty funds to create and maintain a social infrastructure for livable communities.

Urban pioneers, often immigrants, created neighborhoods that were later "discovered" for their urban potential, right before city living became a growing trend. As they settled in, investments, banks and strip centers returned to the neighborhood landscape.

A NEGATIVE MINDSET TOOK HOLD

In many parts of the country, a mindset took hold that negated immigrant contributions and instead portrayed people who only use up public services, who depleted education resources, populated emergency rooms and were portrayed not as law abiding contributors.

No matter how many studies showed this was not true, the facts didn't matter. They still don't. Lakoff makes the explanation that about 98 percent of thought is not conscious.

That's why facts, unless they have a frame around them, don't

matter. Frames are the worldview going into the words we use. Our morality and politics come from what our brains are doing below the conscious level.

Everyone has mirror neurons that fire up when you do something or see someone doing something, he explained. That's why we can have feelings of fear, anger and happiness when we see it in others. It is how we empathize.

Also, those neurons fire up more when we cooperate, he says. And so we are biologically wired for cooperation.

Now here's the astounding part. Lakoff says that empathy has to be developed and used, or it will atrophy.

"So that means the bleeding heart liberal. . ." I started to say.

Lakoff finished my sentence, "is the true American. The bleeding heart liberal is what the American is. What it means is that you care about other people and you act responsibly on that care."

In his book, Lakoff describes how conservative frames — like "it's your money and the government wants to take it away" and "cut and run" — have become a mindset that can be hard to break. Mostly, these notions run counter to our very nature as empathetic beings. He hypothesizes that before long research will show non-empathetic brains atrophy.

WHY CONSERVATIVES DON'T GET IT

Lakoff helps explain why it is that some conservatives — should we say regressives — don't get it.

Meanwhile, progressives argue with facts. But that 18th century form of reasoning doesn't connect, either.

For instance, the public in most reputable national surveys says it wants immigration reform and a path to legalization. In 2006, Latino voters turned out in record numbers with other U.S. Americans across the board to throw out of office 30 Republican members of the House of Representatives and six members of the Senate, all but one of whom supported HB 4437, which proposed to criminalize undocumented immigrants.

Running as unreformed regressives was those Republicans' first attempt at political suicide.

If they don't watch out, the next Republican attempt could finish the job. If Lakoff is right, these folks need to start thinking a lot more empathetically, with that part of their anatomy that's next to their wallets.

(José de la Isla writes a weekly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service. He is author of The Rise of Hispanic Political Power (Archer Books). E-mail joseisla3@yahoo.com.)

Sin pelos en la lengua

Kay Bárbaro

RATHER BE RIGHT: In spite of all the flaws and faults in the newspaper business these days, I hate to see journalists that Hispanic Link has helped mold leave the profession. I snit when they go back to school for a law degree, take a press job with a member of Congress or flack for a p.r. or advocacy organization, no matter how honorable their new allegiances may be. After half a century, I've viewed journalism vows on a sacred scale alongside marriage vows.

Once a journalist, always a journalist. Till death do us part.

But in **Joe Torres'** case I'm ready to make an exception.

Joe came to Hispanic Link from the Staten Island Advance just over a decade ago as our one-year fellow reporting fellow. He stayed on to become editor of Weekly Report. And after a while, he left us, as have some others, to join the staff of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. He remained some years

there as its deputy director, still engaged in what I considered journalism work. Then a year or two ago, he moved on to Free Press, an organization I'd heard of but really knew little about.

Now Joe spends most of his time lobbying Congress to keep our profession out of the clutches of greedy giants whose interests run more to accumulating wealth and destroying competition than to protecting the First Amendment. When **Juan González** was president of NAHJ a few years back, he and Joe boldly moved the organization onto the battlefield against media monopolies.

On June 7 Joe was in Minneapolis working Free Press's National Conference on Media Reform when, as keynote speaker, former CBS news icon **Dan Rather** shook the rafters with his frontal attack on the dangerous new world of "corporate news."

The next morning my e-mail was full of messages from friends and colleagues quoting from it. Rather than steal some of Rather's best lines, Hispanic Link is putting his full speech on our web site. www.hispaniclink.org for you to read for yourself.

Joe, the ex-newsman, has a new ally in a very important cause. Check it out.

Joe, you're okay. You lead and lots of us will follow.

Home Foreclosures Taking Toll on American Dreams

Guest Columnist

Janet Murguía



Freddy Alvarez does not take no for an answer. When a family of four could no longer afford to make mortgage payments on their home, he insisted that something could be done to save the house from a possible foreclosure. The family had an adjustable rate mortgage (ARM), which means that although the loan was initially fixed at a low rate, it soon adjusted to a much higher one, increasing their monthly payments by almost \$1,000.

Alvarez, a housing counselor at the Cuban American National Council in Miami, Florida, also discovered that the family's lender neglected to account for property taxes for two years, leaving them with a \$10,000 bill.

Alvarez helped the family by negotiating a lower, more affordable fixed interest rate, securing approval of a new repayment plan, and obtaining forbearance on the unpaid property taxes.

While this story ended on a positive note, many families in the coming year will be less fortunate, losing their homes, and in turn, their opportunity to enjoy a better future.

1.8 MILLION FORECLOSURES PREDICTED

Experts predict that there will be 1.8 million home loan foreclosures in 2008. These foreclosures will not only strip families of their homes, but also their financial security. Without a home – the largest investment that most U.S. residents have – many will lose the ability to send their children to college, weather a financial emergency and, ultimately, achieve the American Dream.

Rising foreclosure rates are largely due to unscrupulous practices such as predatory lending, which systematically flawed financial products, setting them up for failure. Latinos are primary targets. Many are enticed into purchasing high-cost loan products with exorbitant interest rates or fees. A recent survey reveals that Latinos are twice as likely as whites to be victims of fraud.

Predatory lending widens the wealth gap between non-Hispanic whites and Latinos. Another recent study found that non-Hispanic

whites are nine times as wealthy as Hispanics. This ratio will increase if timely and relevant information is not made available to Latino families.

Through our work as a funder and developer of housing counseling programs, the National Council of *La Raza* (NCLR) has learned that one-on-one counseling to low-income families is an effective tool for building financial knowledge and sustainable wealth. The NCLR Homeownership Network is comprised of 50 community-based housing counseling providers in 23 states and works with more than 30,000 families annually.

DEMAND FOR COUNSELING INCREASES

The demand for counseling has recently increased exponentially. Our agencies went from receiving one or two calls a week to fielding a dozen daily. However, housing counselors have limited resources and can often find working with families emotionally draining. The average foreclosure client requires about 20 hours of counseling.

Fortunately, as the need for these services has increased, lawmakers have stepped up to meet the demand.

NeighborWorks America, a nonprofit organization created by Congress to support community-based revitalization efforts, received \$180 million in federal funding for foreclosure mitigation counseling. Next year, housing counseling programs will receive \$200 million. NCLR applauds U.S. Senators Patty Murray (D-Wash.), Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), and Bob Casey (D-Pa.) for championing this legislation.

NCLR has increased efforts in response to the growing need for foreclosure counseling by launching the Home Rescue Campaign. This summer, NCLR will host free Home Rescue Fairs. Attendees will receive free legal advice, housing counseling, and loss mitigation services. Participants will also receive information about other resources that are available to prevent or mitigate foreclosure.

Disseminating vital information and making financial counseling available to Latino families are important steps in closing the wealth gap and increasing homeownership among Latinos. With investments by our champions in Congress and initiatives like the NCLR Home Rescue Campaign, highly trained counselors like Freddy Alvarez can continue to make a difference in our communities.

(Janet Murguía, president of the National Council of La Raza, writes a monthly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service. Contact her at opi@nclr.org.)

Some States Begin to Pursue Expanded Dual Enrollment Initiatives

By Patrick Palafox

A program that helps students transition from high school to college is not being offered as much in schools enrolled mostly with students of color, but several states are pursuing efforts to change that, according to a report.

The study was released May 29 by Jobs for the Future called *On Ramp to College: A State Policymaker's Guide to Dual Enrollment*, by Nancy Hoffman, Joel Vargas and Janet Santos.

The dual enrollment program consists of high school students taking college level courses before going into a higher education institution.

The report showed students who enroll in dual enrollment classes are more likely to go to college.

In addition, dual enrollment students

earned 15.1 more credits than non-dual enrollment peers three years after graduating from high school.

There is also evidence that those in the program graduate on average earlier (4.25 years) than non dual enrollment students (4.65 years).

Nearly a dozen states are listed as being "on the cutting edge" of pursuing expanded dual enrollment policies.

In Rhode Island, for example, Hoffman told Weekly Report a study found evidence of "an inverse relationship" between communities of different economic backgrounds. More affluent areas offered more dual enrollment opportunities than their counterparts.

But now the state is pursuing a new plan to expand the number of low-income students to be in dual-enrollment.

Rhode Island Governor Donald Carcieri told Weekly Report he is "intrigued" by the program but said financing remains a challenge.

Other states pushing new dual enrollment initiatives include Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and Utah.

In Texas, high school students can get 12 credit hours paid for by the state if they participate in the program, due to legislation passed last year.

Statistics gathered by the National Center for Education showed more than 57,000 students enrolled in the 2006-07 dual enrollment programs in Texas.

For that state, Latinos made up 34%, Blacks 5%, Asians 3%, and whites 54% of dual enrollment students.

The report is available at www.jff.org.

Young Latino Students Awarded for Health-Conscious Invention Idea

By Kelcey Coffin

The idea of a spray that would make broccoli taste like candy to keep children from getting fat earned a team of Latino fifth and sixth graders from Edinburg, Texas, second place honors in a national science and technology competition.

Out of 4,527 team entries including 14,042 students from the United States and Canada competing at the 16th annual Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision awards program, Lindsay Ozcelbi, Emilio Mendiola, Douglas Deleon and George Vidal won recognition for an invention they call the Taste Bud Modifier System.

It is third time in three years Vidal won an award. As a third-grader in 2006, he brought home a letter asking for parental support for the program. Last year his team won highest honors.

His mother, Karen Lozano, is a volunteer mentor. Moving to Texas from Mexico with a bachelor's degree in 1994, she attended Rice University. Currently teaching as an engineering professor at the University of Texas, Lozano told her son, "No matter what you do in life, engineering and science will help."

Team members explain they considered an invention that would address energy or obesity concerns. "It just came to me," Ozcelbi said he realized after watching an Oprah special on obesity and a vaccine to help treat it. Ozcelbi then pitched the idea of a spray to alter the taste of food from unappealing to enjoyable.

The students were awarded a \$5,000 U.S. Savings Bond.

Immigrant Latino Scientist Honored For His Contributions to the Country

By Kelcey Coffin

Dr. Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa, a physician scientist and an associate professor of neurosurgery, oncology, neuroscience, and cellular and molecular medicine at Johns Hopkins University did not have his success handed to him on a silver platter.

After a failed attempt at climbing a fence to cross the border from Mexico to California and being sent home in 1987, Quiñones returned an hour later to begin his American dream.

As a farm worker in tomato fields with no residence, he slowly worked his way to the top by welding railroads, learning English, receiving his B.A. from UC Berkeley, his M.D. from Harvard, and finally, U.S. citizenship.

Quiñones attained his "dream," he said, by living up to the guiding principles of Determination, Resilience, Excitement, Admiration, and Mentorship (DREAM).

Quiñones was one of five immigrants who received the Fifth Annual National Leadership Award June 3, funded by The Merage Foundation for the American Dream, in Washington, D.C. This award is given to honor the contribution of immigrants to this nation.

"We all have the same potential," Quiñones said, adding that immigrants offer intellect and fortitude to the country.

Accepting the National Leadership Award before 300 people, Quiñones left the room with words from his father, "Don't go where the path leads, but go where there is no path, and leave a trail."

Collecting

LATINO ATHLETES: The May sports issue of Hispanic Magazine featured "The 50 Best Latino Athletes." José Acasuso, who turned pro in 2000, topped the list for his tennis skills.

Veronica Charlyn Corral from Mexico played for the Under-20 Women's National Team. Her kicking leg made the difference of victory or defeat in the Pan American games last July, when Mexico defeated Team USA.

Paul Rodriguez Jr., 23, made the cut being a professional skateboarder. He won the '04 and '05 street competitions at the X-Games and is on Tony Hawk's video games.

Connecting

ENTREPRENEUR AWARD: The Michigan Commission on Spanish Speaking Affairs is looking for nominations for the 2008 Hispanic Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Deadline is Sept. 30.

Nomination requirements: 1. Candidates must demonstrate appreciable economic growth to the Hispanic business and civic community. 2. Have a track record of success that can serve as a model for other Hispanic entrepreneurs. 3. Must demonstrate a history of civic engagement and contribution to the quality of life for Hispanics through community service. www.michigan.gov/cossa.

Calendar

In the Link 20 Years Ago

The Department of Labor reported that the Hispanic unemployment rate dropped from 9.3% in April to 9.0% in May.

ARTEXHIBIT

Chicago, through June 22
The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs exhibits the works of Arnaldo Roche.
Information: <http://egov.cityofchicago.org>
Phone: (312) 744-6630

AYUDA

Washington, D.C. June 12
Ayuda will host its annual gala.
Information: (202) 387-4848

NALEO CONFERENCE

Washington, D.C. June 26-28
The National Association of Latino Elected & Appointed Officials holds its annual conference.

There is no charge for listings. Address items to: Calendar Editor, Hispanic Link Weekly Report, 1420 N St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. (202) 234-0280. Fax: (202) 234-4090. E-mail: carloso@hispaniclink.org.

ence.

Phone: (213) 747-7606

Coming Soon

LULAC CONVENTION

Washington, D.C. July 7-12
The League of United Latin American Citizens holds its national convention.
Phone: (202) 833-6130

TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

Washington, DC July 16
Dialog on Diversity holds a technology conference.
Information: http://www.dialogueondiversity.org/files/calendar_2008.pdf
Phone: (703) 631-0650

NAMME CONVENTION

Chicago, July 22
The National Association of Minority Media Executives holds its annual convention.
Information: <http://www.namme.org/programs/conference/>
Phone: (703) 854-7178

TWO-WAY BILINGUAL IMMERSION

Newport Beach, Calif. Jun. 30-July 3

The California Association for Bilingual Education holds its summer immersion conference.
Information: www.bilingualeducation.org
Phone (616) 814-4441

NCLR CONFERENCE

San Diego, July 12-15
The National Council of La Raza holds its annual conference.
Information: <http://www.nclr.org/section/events/conference/>
Phone: (202) 776-1766

THIS WEEK IN LATINO HISTORY...

Anthony J. Alvarado, the first Puerto Rican appointed as NYC schools chancellor, was born **June 10, 1942**.

Mexican-American leader **Henry Cisneros** was born **June 11, 1947**.

U.S. Rep. **Lucille Roybal-Allard** (D-Calif.) was born **June 12, 1941**.

Artist, poet and composer **Consuelo "Chelo" González** was born **June 13, 1903**.

Spanish-American physicist **Luis W. Alvarez** was born **June 13, 1911**.

Voter registration leader **Willie Velásquez** died **June 14, 1988**.

COVER THE WORLD'S NEWS CAPITAL

The Hispanic Link Journalism Foundation and The Scripps Howard Foundation Are Offering.

A FALL JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIP IN WASHINGTON, D.C., FOR COLLEGE STUDENT

Semester	Duration	Dates	Deadline to Apply
Fall	14 weeks	Sept. 8 – Dec. 12	Postmark June 23, 2008

* Fellowship is open to juniors and first-semester seniors with a demonstrated interest in pursuing a career in print or multimedia journalism.

* Selected fellow will receive a stipend of \$2,500 plus free housing in Northwest Washington near the National Zoo.

* Applicant will be judged on his or her analytical and English-language writing skills and journalistic potential.

* The selected fellow will be placed with the Washington, D.C.-based Hispanic Link News Service, which covers national affairs with an emphasis on their impact on 50 million U.S. Hispanics.

The news service publishes the national Hispanic Link Weekly Report and syndicates opinion, news analysis and feature columns to English- and Spanish-language media.

Mail (Hispanic Link, 1420 'N' St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005) or e-mail (editor@hispaniclink.org), a letter of interest, your résumé and a few writing samples.

Anyone with questions about this or other Hispanic Link training opportunities may check our Web site or call Charlie Ericksen at (202) 234-0280.

KCAU-TV

KCAU-TV, the ABC affiliate in Sioux City, IA, is looking for a News Producer. Our ideal candidate combines strong writing and decision-making skills with the confidence to take charge of our newscasts.

Must be a team player, and be willing to do what it takes to help our team make the next big step. While experience is a plus, we will train and develop the right person. Close date 6/22/08. Rush your tape & resume to: Business Office

KCAU-TV 625

Douglas Street

Sioux City, IA 51101

Email: humanresources@kcautv.com

EOE

New Reads



Explore the latest writings by Latino authors

By Kelcey Coffin

Taking on Giants: Fabián Chávez Jr. and New Mexico Politics, by David Roybal - Political journalist and editorial columnist for The Albuquerque Journal David Roybal, begins his first book, *Taking on Giants: Fabián Chávez Jr. and New Mexico Politics*, with "It did not daunt his spirits, but Fabián Chávez Jr. learned at an early age that even the best-laid plans of mere mortals can be crushed, or at least derailed." Chávez knew that he would have to work with determination to achieve great success.

At twelve years old, still in the midst of the Great Depression, Chávez packed his suitcase and left his family in Santa Fe to accomplish his political aspirations.

After playing a huge role in starting the University of New Mexico Medical School and helping reform the state liquor laws where he fought to end any markup of wholesale prices, he was elected as a Democrat to the House of Representatives in 1951 and in 1955 to the state Senate.

William W. Waters, editorial page editor of The Sante Fe New Mexican remarks, "David Roybal's...approach to the Fabián Chávez saga is one that should make it a living history text — and at the same time a compelling piece of nonfiction... Chávez has been — and remains — a name to be reckoned with. David Roybal, New Mexico's most respected political writer/columnist, has captured the essence of this latter-day example of greatness."

This remarkable biography is told as a compelling story and "... is 'must' reading..." - *Pasatiempo*, Santa Fe.

(University of New Mexico Press; hardcover; \$27.95; 320 pp.)

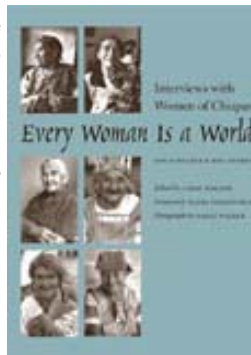
Every Woman Is a World: Interviews with Women of Chiapas, by Gayle Walker and Kiki Suárez, is a culmination of interviews, photographs and stories of various women of Chiapas, Mexico. Interviewing 28 women between 60 and 108, Gayle Walker and Kiki Suárez have created a book that tells their stories and experiences growing up within the mountains and rainforests.

From describing memories of the Mexican Revolution and the Spanish influenza to the social turmoil of the Zapatista uprising, some women are left scarred and distressed while others are more or less unaffected. As the woman with richer families reminisce about their high school days, the women of poverty reveal their heartbreaking stories of hunger, fear, and violence.

Throughout the book, we see the different aspects and views of religion, marriage, work, life, and death. Andrea O'Reilly Herrera, Director of Ethnic Studies, University of Colorado mentions, "This

is a most significant contribution to the growing body of writing that treats Mexican culture and history in general, and testimonial literature in particular.... The authors' intimate connection to their subject matter enhances, as opposed to detracts from, the overall effect of these narratives. The accompanying photographs simultaneously personalize the narratives and encourage the reader to engage with the text in a more empathic manner."

Walker is an artist who lived in Mexico for more than 25 years. Suárez is an artist and psychotherapist who resides in San Cristóbal de las Casas in Chiapas, Mexico. (University of Texas Press; hardcover; \$60.00; 242 pp.)



If you have a recently released book or CD you would like included in New Reads or New Sounds, send a copy to Editor, Hispanic Link, 1420 N St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. (202) 234-0280. E-mail: editor@hispaniclink.org

Arts & Entertainment

By Antonio Mejías-Rentas



family spokesman said. He was born Melchor Gastón Ferrer on Aug. 25, 1917, in Elberon, N.J., the son of a Cuban doctor and a socialite mother. After winning a playwright's award in his sophomore year, Ferrer left Princeton to write a novel in Mexico. Instead, he wrote a children's book, *Tito's Hats*, which was published by Doubleday.

He spent a year as a book editor in New York, then began his acting career as a dancer in Broadway musicals.

He and Hepburn became engaged in 1954 and married that year in Burgenstock, Switzerland. They had a son but the pair divorced in 1968 and Ferrer married his fourth wife, Elizabeth Soukhotine, in 1971. She survives him.

Ferrer was married and divorced three times before Hepburn: to Frances Pilchard (one daughter); to Barbara Tripp (a daughter and son); and a remarriage to Pilchard. In all, he appeared in more than 100 films and made-for-television movies.

ONE LINERS: Puerto Rican actor-turned-astrologer Walter Mercado has recorded a self-help album with musical, *El secreto de los ángeles*, with which he plans a U.S. tour to be titled *Encuentro con los ángeles...* actor Cristián de la Fuente, who tore a tendon in his biceps while performing on **ABC's** *Dancing With the Stars*, was recovering last week from surgery... American Idol runner up David Archuleta, 17, has signed a recording contract with 19 Recordings/Jive and is expected to have a CD out before the end of the year.

'OSCAR WAO' EN ESPAÑOL: Dominican writer Junot Díaz presented the Spanish translation of his Pulitzer prize winning novel last week in Barcelona.

The 40-year-old author of *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* said he was pleased with the translation by Chicago-based Cuban writer Achy Obejas. "She did a good job," he told Spanish news agency EFE, "but there's a price to pay when you translate, something will be lost. I liked it, otherwise I'd be hiding at home".

Titled in Spanish *La maravillosa vida breve de Óscar Wao*, the book was published in Spain by Mondadori. It will be available in the United States, from Vintage *Español*, on Sept. 2.

ACTOR DIES: Mel Ferrer, the Cuban-American star of such classic films as *War and Peace* and *The Sun Also Rises*, died at age 90.

Ferrer, who produced and directed movies starring his wife, Audrey Hepburn, died June 2 at his ranch near Santa Barbara, Calif., a

Media Report

Verónica Macías



DEADLINE EXTENDED: The **National Association of Hispanic Journalists** has extended its deadline to June 12 nominate journalist for the *Ñ* award. Nominate or enter to win in journalists of the year in the following five categories—Leadership, Emerging Journalist, Print, Broadcast and Photojournalist. All submissions must be done online.

The awards will be presented to winners at **Noche de Triunfos** gala held Sept. 12 in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.nahj.org.

UNITY STUDENTS: Ninety-three students have been chosen to participate in UNITY's student projects this year. They will participate in an intensive week-long training program in eight areas of media, including print, radio, television and multi-media.

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE: During the 4th **UNITY: Journalists of Color** convention, presumptive presidential nominees Senator Barack Obama (D-Illinois) and John McCain (R-Arizona) will hold a debate on July 24, to be broadcast live by **CNN**. An estimated 2

million viewers are projected.

OBAMA SPEAKS: Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama will talk on V-me with Pulitzer Prize winner Andrés Oppenheimer June 13 at 10:00 p.m. on Oppenheimer *Presenta*.

The interview will focus on U.S.-Latin America relations, including Cuba, the FARC insurgency in Colombia, trade agreements and immigration.

It is part of V-me's *PARTICIPA* 2008 coverage of the elections.

The company claims V-me reaches more than six million Hispanic homes.

Visit www.VmeTV.com for more information.

Hispanic Link weekly report

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ELECTRONIC SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual (50 issues):

Institutions \$140 Personal \$118

Student \$59 Trial (13 issues) \$40

CLASSIFIEDS: \$1.30 per word. Display ads \$45 per column inch. Placed by Wednesday, ad will run in Weekly Report the following Monday.



Creators of the Taste Bud Modifier System idea (see p 6.)