

La Politiquera

Free
Gratis

Vol # 2 Num 7

El Periódico Que No Se Queda Callado

July, 2004

Bill Cosby Comments Cause Consternation

What did entertainment icon and multimillionaire **Bill Cosby** say recently that has ticked off a number of people in the black community?



Believe it or not, what Brother Bill did was to tell the truth! He criticized lower income blacks and their lack of good parenting practices.

What are "we going spending 500 dollars for a pair of sneakers when we

won't even spend \$200 for Hooked on Phonics?" Why, **Cosby** asked, are black people beating up their women because they can't find jobs that pay more

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Del Rio Native Named President of UT Pan Am

Dr. Blandina Cardenas, otherwise known to her friends as "Bambi," has been selected as the new president of the **University of Texas Pan American**. **Cardenas**, 57, was the Dean of the College of Education and Human Development at the **University of Texas at San Antonio** prior to this good news.

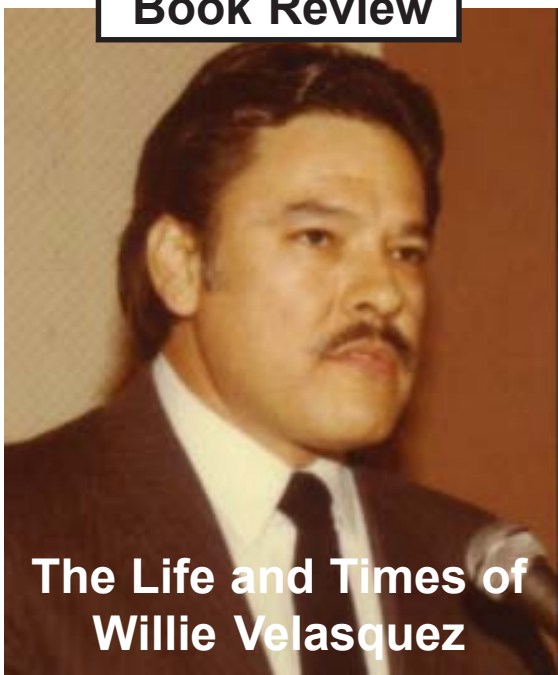


To be sure *la gente de Del Rio, Texas* are happy to see that a hometown girl has risen to such lofty heights within the

Continued on Page # 4

Dr. Blandina Cardenas

Book Review



The Life and Times of Willie Velasquez

Who Made Tony Sanchez a Political Pioneer?



At last month's **Texas Democratic State Convention** in **Houston, Texas** the **San Antonio Express-News** carried the following headline on the front page of the METRO section: "Democrats laud pioneer Latino - **Tony Sanchez** is credited with being the first guy through the door on statewide ballot."

Not true! **Tony Sanchez** is no political pioneer, Why, *deja tu*, he's barely a regular voter *mucho más* political pioneer!

Continued on Page # 10

1976

LOAF OF BREAD
\$.35
GALLON OF GAS
\$.60
GALLON OF MILK
\$2.40

AVERAGE INCOME
\$9,539.00

DOW JONES AVERAGE: 1,000
PRESIDENT: Jimmy Carter
VICE PRESIDENT: Walter Mondale

NEW CAR: \$3,796.00

NEW HOUSE: \$32,200.00

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

www.nopalitopress.com

People in the News



Tony de la Rosa Passes Away

Nos da mucha pena tener que avisar a todos que el gran maestro **Tony de la Rosa** murio el dia 2 de junio en **Corpus Christi, Texas** durante open heart surgery.

A conjunto pioneer who is credited with many innovations in the genre, **de la Rosa's** career spanned more than 50 years. His legion of fans are spread all over the **United States** and Mexico and many conjunto bands played his songs or variations thereof.

Tony de la Rosa was doing music right up until the end. A few weeks before his passing he played at a nephew's party and joined **Linda Escobar** in the studio with a contribution to her latest CD.



Abe Saavedra Named Houston ISD Interim Superintendent

The Houston School Board voted on July 8th, to name **Dr. Abel Saavedra** as the **I n t e r i m** Superintendent. **Dr. Saavedra** will taking over from **Dr. Kaye Stripling** who retires August 31, 2004. **Saavedra**, who came to **HISD** from **Corpus**

Christi was a district superintendent in **HISD** before this appointment.

What will be interesting to watch about **Dr. Saavedra's** appointment is whether it will become permanent or not. **La Raza en Houston** still haven't forgotten the shaft they got with **Rod Paige** 10 years ago.



Dora Alcalá Wins Top Spot in Del Rio Otra Vez

Dora G. Alcalá was sworn in for her second term as Mayor of the City of **Del Rio, Texas**. In 2000, she became the first woman to win the top spot in **Del Rio** in the history of the city.

A career civil servant **Mrs. Alcalá** put in a total of 37 years of service with the **United States Air Force (USAF)**, **Dora** has a Masters Degree in Management from **Webster University**, a Bachelor of Arts degree (Cum Laude) from **Sul Ross State University** in **Alpine, TX**, and an Associate of Arts degree from **Southwest Texas Jr. College** in **Uvalde, TX**.



Santiseban will be at San Anto Cultural Arts

Ray Santisteban has produced and dir-

rected award winning documentaries that have aired in the U.S. and internationally on public television. This year he will be in residence at **San Anto Cultural Arts** working with the oral history video program.

In 1996, he worked as an associate producer on the four part **PBS** series ¡CHICANO!: THE HISTORY OF THE MEXICAN AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

For more information about San Anto Cultural Arts, visit their website at: www.sananto.org or call them at (210) 226-7466.

Amalia Garcia Elected Governor of Zacatecas

Political activist and lawyer **Amalia Garcia** was elected Governor of the Mexican state of **Zacatecas** on July 4th, 2004. Her election marks a first in the history of Mexican electoral politics at the state level in that **Garcia** is a member of the leftist Democratic Revolution Party.

The 52-year-old **Garcia's** closest challenger was **Sen. Jose Bonilla**, a radio station owner representing the **PRI** who had well under 40 percent, according to the exit polls.



The election in **Zacatecas**, which has a large migrant populations in the United States, also includes several U.S. residents who have returned to seek office in their homeland. Keep your eye on **Zacatecas**, there is more coming.



Latina Letters 2004 Latina Letters: A Conference on Latina Literature and Identity July 15-17, 2004 St. Mary's University

With the publication of **Bryce Milligan's** Latina fiction anthology *Daughters of the Fifth Sun* (Putman/Riverhead, 1994), the idea evolved for an academic conference devoted to the themes of Latina literature and identity. Then Literature Director of the **Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center**, **Milligan** joined forces with **Dr. Gwendolyn Díaz**, a Latina Fulbright scholar and Literature Professor at **St. Mary's University** to establish a one of a kind conference co-sponsored by a university and a community arts center. Thus was born **Hijas del Quinto Sol: Studies in Latina Identity**, so named because of the role the book had played in the evolution of the ideas behind the conference. Since then, the conference has convened Latina writers, artists and scholars to discuss issues of literature and identity.

This years theme: Reporting Our Present, Shaping Our Future is open to the public and will include feature screenings by Latina filmmakers and presentations by:

Ana Castillo - Novelist, Poet, Cultural Critic, Artist

Maria Hinojosa - CNN Urban Affairs Correspondent

Alicia Kozemeh - Novelist, Human Rights Activist

Carmen Tafolla - Poet, Scriptwriter, Educational Consultant

and other notable journalists, filmmakers, scholars, writers and performers.

For more information please call (210) 271-3151 or visit the website: latinaletters@guadalupeculturalarts.org

PRODUCTION

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Publisher's Statement

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Are You a Mexican or a Mexican't?

Editorial



**Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor and Publisher**

In the motion picture, *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*, the protagonist, **Johnny Depp** asks the question, "Are you a Mexican or a Mexican't?" To be sure, the phrasing is a great play on words, but even more interesting is the question itself if we stop and examine it as Johnny Depp meant it. Are YOU a Mexican or a Mexican't?

During a United Farm Worker campaign in 1972, in Arizona, a worker kept saying in front of Dolores Huerta, one of the co-founders of the Union, "que no se puede, no se puede. ." It is reported that Dolores got tired of hearing this guy complain and barked back

at him, "¿Como que no se puede? Si se puede! Si se puede!" In this case clearly Dolores was a Mexican and the guy in question was acting like a Mexican't.

But that was 32 years ago, today things are different. Right? Things are different? Chale! Things are not different! (Chale means no in pachuco para los que andan pensando todavia)

Today, todavia we have people running around who DO NOT believe it is possible to improve their communities. There are people today who still believe that they are not worthy of success and the good life. (Too much Catholic incantation?)

And there are Chicanos going to high school who still carry this idea around in their heard that their lives will never be any better than that of their parents. How do ideas like this get into people's heads? I am sorry to report that I do not know.

If I did know what it takes to turn someone's negative attitude around I would share with everyone at the drop of a hat. Pero la verdad es que, no se. So does that make me a Mexican't or a Mexican?

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Yes, I want to subscribe to **La Politiquera**. Please find enclosed a check for \$25.00. I will receive four (4) quarterly issues plus e-mail notifications of breaking news about La Razita en Tejas y otras partes.

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ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE: _____

Cardenas Named New President of UT Pan AM

system of higher education called the **University of Texas**.

The Superintendent of the **San Felipe/Del Rio Independent School District**, **Roberto "Bobby" Fernandez**, offered this observation, *"The people of Del Rio have followed the amazing career of Bambi Cardenas over the years and we are very proud of all her accomplishments. She is indeed a role model and makes us very proud to claim her as an alumni of the Class of 1963."*

Jose Uriegas of **Uvalde** and **Austin** and a friend of **Dr. Cardenas** for many years, stated that, *"She really really deserved this appointment. In all the years that I have known her, she has always been an advocate for access to higher education for all. Me da mucho gusto de ver a "Bambi" en este cargo."*

Dr. Cardenas succeeds **Dr. Miguel Nevarez**, who was the President of **UT Pan Am** and served a total of 32 years with the institution. As the new president of the university **Cardenas** has indicated that she intends to take the university to the next level by expanding the number of doctoral programs, and creating partnerships with financial institutions and others who have a vested interest in higher education.

A graduate of the **University of Texas at Austin**, **Cardenas** taught for a few years before leaving for **Massachusetts** to earn her doctorate in education from the **University of Massachusetts at Amherst** in the 1970s.

Letters to the Editor

To: Mr. Alfredo Rodriguez Santos

RE: La Politiquera, Winter 2004 State Rep Election Coverage

There is no need to sign my name. I am from Eagle Pass and here, if you say what's on your mind (me) my family and I will pay for it. Not pay for it physically, but *"te quemas."*

Anyways, I wanted to know why you didn't write anything negative about Timoteo Garza's election in 2002 and 2004? It was the most negative and corrupt election that I have ever seen in my entire life!!!

I obviously voted for Tracy. He is an honest and righteous man. He has integrity and is very professional. Unlike Timoteo and Isidro, (the # 1 man and brains behind all this) Isidro literally bought his son's 2002 election. Everybody knows that, and I thought you did too. In this 2004 Winter edition of your newspaper, I didn't read anything concerning that. And your logo is: "El Periodico Que No Se Queda Callado" ???

This time Tracy won because Isidro was kicked out of the Kickapoo Indian Casino, where he stole thousands and thousands of \$\$\$. So Isidro didn't have the "hen that lays the golden eggs" anymore. That's why Isidro (the ex-casino mafia godfather) couldn't help his son win this 2004 election. You should know all this, Mr. Santos!

Los fregados fueron los pobres Kickapoo Indians! Isidro + Timoteo los dejaron quebrados a tal punto que tuvimos que hacerles un "food drive." Deberas! Qué sin verguenzas los Garzas. Me da verguena a mi que representaron a la gente Mexicana. Ojala que los gringos no piensan que todos los Mexicanos somos así!

Como dice usted

¡Es todo!



**Outdoor Smoked
Chicken, Beef Fajitas,
y lo que tu quieres.**

**Look for
the smoke**

FREE Toothpicks!

Trine's Super Tacos

La Pryor, Texas

¡Como si estuvieras comiendo en su casa!

By the numbers

537 - the number of votes Al Gore lost to George Bush by in 2000 in the State of Florida

12,365,235 - Number of registered voters in Texas in 2000

6,407,637 - Number of registered voters who turned out to vote in 2000 Presidential Election

2 - That is the number of votes by which Alejandro Perez of La Pryor, Texas won his reelection to the school board in 2004

137,394 - Number of votes Ralph Nader received in Texas in 2000 when he ran for president

4,810 - Number of votes Ralph Nader received in 1996 when he ran for president

58 - Number of votes Henry Cuellar won election by in 2004 in Congressional District 28

17,000 - Average number of people who attend a San Antonio Spurs basketball game.

889 - Number of U.S service men killed in Iraq since July 12, 2004

5,394 - Number of U.S. troops that have been wounded in action in Iraq

Judith A. Canales Named Executive Director of International Hispanic Network

The International Hispanic Network (IHN), named **Judith A. Canales**, a native of **Uvalde, Texas**, as its new executive director.

In this position, **Canales** will direct and oversee the operations of a 400 member strong organization that promotes professional excellence among Hispanic executives and public managers in local government.

"The International Hispanic Network has reached a new level in its organizational development with the naming of Ms. Canales as its first executive director," stated **Frances Gonzalez**, President of the Board of Directors of the **IHN** and the Assistant City Manager of the **City of San Antonio, Texas**. *"The Hispanic community continues to grow not only in the Southwest but in places as far away as Connecticut, North Carolina and Utah. We believe that governmental leadership can benefit from the*



programs and projects our organization has developed for the delivery of effective and efficient public service in these increasingly diverse communities."

Ms. Canales began her local government career as a Procurement Assistant and Intern with the **City of San Antonio, Texas**. She later served as a Management Intern and Equal Opportunity Specialist with the **City of Phoenix, Arizona**. She also served as a public policy fellow with the **National Council of La Raza** and coauthored

the policy report, **The Hispanic Housing Crisis.** **Canales** received a Master of Public Administration from **Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government**, Master of Arts in Urban Studies from **Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas**, Bachelor of Journalism from the **University of Texas at Austin**, and an Associate of Arts degree from **Southwest Texas Junior College, Uvalde, Texas**.

"I am honored to be selected as the new executive director for the IHN," said **Ms. Canales**. *"This is a tremendous opportunity to work with Hispanic local government managers from throughout the United States. I look forward to developing new partnerships with other national Hispanic organizations and educational institutions in order to advance Hispanic professionals in local government management."*

The Samuel Huntington Article

The **Foreign Policy** (FP) magazine cover on the left carries a photo of a man with his hand over his heart and a title of "José Can You See?"

It is this magazine article and the related publications of Harvard professor **Samuel P. Huntington** that have ignited a growing debate about his premise that Hispanics, particularly, Mexican Americans, pose a threat to the United States.

Professor Huntington goes a step further by suggesting that not only do Mexican Americans pose a threat to the United States but that the US is ignoring this threat much to its own peril. Below is a taste of **Huntington**:

It is my hypothesis that the fundamental source of conflict in this new world will not be primarily ideological or primarily economic. The great divisions among humankind and the dominating source of conflict will be cultural. Nation states will remain the most powerful actors in world affairs, but the principal conflicts of global politics will occur between nations and groups of different civilizations.

During the cold war the world was divided into the First, Second and Third Worlds. Those divisions are no longer relevant. It is far more meaningful now to group countries not in terms of their political or economic systems or in terms of their level of economic development but rather in terms of their culture and civilization.

Already, a number of people have taken issue with **Huntington** and have written challenges to his arguments. No matter where one stands in this argument, this unfolding debate is without question one that deserves our undivided attention.



CREO

Hispanic Council for Reform and Educational Options

“The crisis in Latino education will continue unless we put a stop to it.”

Robert B. Aguirre,
Chairman, CREO Board of Trustees



Abby McMahan - 6 years old

Mission Statement

The mission of CREO is to improve educational outcomes for Hispanic children by empowering families through parental choice in education. Our purpose is to be a national voice for the right of Hispanic families to access all educational options and to be an agent for equity and quality education.

CREO Supports the following educational options:

- Traditional public schools
- Charter Schools
- Public magnet schools
- Private/Religious non-profit schools
- Home-schooling
- Public-Private school ventures
- Distance education
- Public schools managed by private sector organizations

Join CREO and make a difference!

Yes, I would like to register to become a member of CREO

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____

email: _____

Please send this form to:
Hispanic Council for Reform and Educational Options
2600 Virginia Avenue, N.W. Suite 408
Washington, D.C. 20037

**For more information
please call:
(202) 625-0889**

Tomorrow begins with our children today.

Applications Invited for Soros Fellowships for New Americans

Deadline: November 1, 2004

The **Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans** (<http://pdsoros.org/>) is an annual fellowship program designed to provide opportunities for new Americans to achieve leadership positions in their chosen fields.

For the purposes of this program, a "new American" is an individual who (1) is a resident alien, i.e., holds a Green Card; or (2) has been naturalized as a U.S. citizen; or (3) is the child of two parents who are both naturalized citizens.

The fellowships provide grants for up to two years of graduate study in the United States. The fellow receives an annual maintenance grant of \$20,000 and a tuition grant of one-half the tuition cost of the U.S. graduate program attended by the fellow. Thirty fellowships will be awarded each year.

A fellow may pursue a graduate degree in any professional field (e.g., engineering, medicine, law, social work, etc.) or scholarly discipline in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and sciences.

The applicant must either have a bachelor's degree or be in her/his final year of undergraduate study. Those who have a bachelor's degree may already be pursuing graduate study and may receive fellowship support to continue that study. Individuals who are in the third, or subsequent, year of study in the same graduate program are not eligible for the competition.

To be eligible, an applicant must not be older than thirty years of age as of November 1, 2004. See the **Soros Fellowships** Web site for complete program information and an application form. RFP Link: <http://pdsoros.org/>

Texas State Representative Rick Noriega Called to Active Duty



Texas State Representative Rick Noriega was called to active duty last month. A member of the reserves **Major Noriega** is the first Texas State Representative to be called up and may be away for as long as one year. **Noriega** is married and has two sons. May God be with **Rick Noriega**.

Mayor Dora Alcalá Fundraiser Set for Friday

July 23rd, 2004

Time: 7:00PM - 10:00PM

**Place Villarreal Room, Del Rio Civic Center
1915 Avenue "F" Del Rio, Texas**

For more information call: Team Alcalá at (830) 734-9030

United Farm Workers Union of America

News From the Field

LUPE, La Union del Pueblo Entero, has 3 service offices in Hidalgo County, Texas—in San Juan, in Pharr, and in Mission. In Texas, call 956 787-2233 or write to them at P.O. Box 188, San Juan, Texas 78589. Offices are also located in Phoenix, Arizona, and in Sunnyside, Washington.

Any individual who becomes a member of **LUPE**, receives a number of services, including Income Tax preparation, immigration services, notary public services, translations and other help in recovering unpaid wages, calls to social security, workers compensation and referral to our list of good attorneys, good doctors, and the **LUPE** center also provide work for those doing community service hours.

Any one can be a member of **LUPE**. When a person pays **LUPE** dues of \$40 for an individual, and \$60 for a husband/wife, you become a member for one year. If you are near one of the offices you receive access to services at a very reasonable rate.

LUPE has thousands of members who participate, direct campaigns for community projects to better the colonias, participate in leadership training, and continue with the vision to develop a Farm Worker movement. Together the members organize to renew the hope and respect for all people.

The Questions we ask are:

Who is going to change your situation?

How many promises have been made to you?

Who is going to protect your rights?

Who is going to better your conditions in your community or colonia?

Who is going to better the education of your children?

The answer is: Who else but all of us organized together working together.

As a **LUPE** member, you also receive access to services that the **AFL CIO** provides, called Union Privilege. One example is Unionsecure. Unionsecure is a service that offers you life, accident and supplemental health insurance needs, which pays \$5,000 for a motor vehicle death, and \$1000 for accidental death insurance, other than motor vehicle.

There are many other kinds of Union Privilege services.

In addition, the Union offers access to IMSS (Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social). IMSS is the Universal Health Plan offered in Mexico. The UFW has access to that plan for any member or their family who lives in Mexico. Services offered at IMSS locations in Mexico include: doctors visits, lab work, x ray, medicine, visits with specialists, dental plan; hospitalization, and others. It covers individuals and families. The annual insurance fee is based on the member's age.

For more information on **LUPE**, please contact Rebecca Flores at (210) 212-7101 or write to

UFW ALF-CIO
1410 Guadalupe Street
San Antonio, Texas 78207



CAMPANIA VEN CON TEN, SOUTH TEXAS

By Rebecca Flores, July 14, 2004

The United Farm Workers, AFL CIO, is working to re integrate, re connect, working people into the democratic process. In the last 20 years, as more and more of us have registered to vote, fewer and fewer of us are voting. For example:

- In the 2002 Governor's election, with 250,000 registered voters in Hidalgo County, only 70,000 persons voted, or 28%. 180,000 voters chose not to vote even in this very heated election between Governor Rick Perry and Tony Sanchez.
- In the 2004 school board elections, in PSJA only 5200 persons voted out of a pool of 44,500, or 11.6%.
- Only 2600 voted in the Donna school board, out of a pool of 13,500, 19.3%.

Our public officials are being elected by a small minority of the voting population, and an even smaller percentage of the total number residents in this county. As I have analyzed voting patterns, the majority of registered voters are "inconsistent voters" –those who never vote. In all probabilities, our UFW members are in this list of inconsistent voters. We have registered them in great numbers, and we have endorsed the candidates. And then the system has broken down.

We believe there are two problems we have to overcome. (1.) People do not know who to vote for. (2.) And they do not know how to vote. My anecdotal surveys have found that when I ask our members why they don't vote, they say this:

- “We don't know who to vote for”
- “We don't know how to vote”
- “We don't know how to use the machine”

Candidates do create name ID by yard signs, bumper stickers, use of tv ads. The newspapers carry greater details on the differences between candidates. But in the RGValley there is no Spanish language newspaper coverage. Detailed information on candidates has not reached the inconsistent voter.

In a training workshop early this year, I passed around sample ballots and instructed voters that to indicate their vote on this ballot they must fill in the circle in front of the name of their candidate of choice. Many of the ballots in this exercise were returned with crosses through the circle, with check marks through the circle. These ballots will not be counted.

In other training sessions on how to use the machines, we have seen voters return the palanca to the upright position, thus wiping out their vote. Our plan is very simple and is based on the kind of organizing that the UFW is known for, the house meeting campaign. Meetings are hosted by our members who invite 10 relatives or neighbors, and thus a committee begins to be formed.

State of Texas Economic Report Card

New Study Provides Comparative Benchmarking across all 50 States on Measures Related to Economic Performance, Business Vitality and Development Capacity

Despite more than a year of heralded economic recovery, many American families are still struggling financially, according to the **Washington D.C. based Corporation for Economic Development's 17th Annual Development Report Card for the States.**

The State of Texas received a mixed report card . . .

The State of Texas received a mixed report card in the study and provided a several unexpected surprises. The box on the right contains the grades for **Texas** in three categories.

The Development Report Card for the States (which can be found online at drc.cfed.org) uses 68 measures to provide a relative, state-by-state assessment of economic

development in three main areas: Performance, Business Vitality, and Development Capacity.

Performance is about how well the state's economy is

As can be seen in the **State of Texas Report Card**, the Performance Measure came in with an "F." In the study, Performance is how well is the state's economy providing opportunities for employment, income, and

an improving quality of life.

With respect to Business Vitality, the capture of this measures centers on how dynamic are the state's small and large businesses. Sub measures such as competitiveness, Initial Public Offerings and job growth are examined. In this category, Texas made an "A."

The third category, Development Capacity, looks at what is the state's capacity for future development. The

sub-indices in this category include, human resources, financial resources and infrastructure resources such as roads, sewage treatment needs and electricity generation.

. . . and lists six affirmative steps that state policy

The complete report can be found on the internet and lists six affirmative steps that state policy makers economic developers can take in build capacity in their respective states.

State of Texas Report Card

PERFORMANCE	F	Employment C Earnings and Job Quality C Equity D Quality of Life F Resource Efficiency D
BUSINESS VITALITY	A	Competitiveness of Existing Bus. A Structural Diversity C Entrepreneurial Energy B
DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY	C	Human Resources C Financial Resources C Infrastructure Resources A Amenity Resources D Innovation Assets C

50 State Ranking	Performance	Bus. Vitality	Dev. Capacity
Alabama	F	B	F
Alaska	D	D	D
Arizona	C	D	C
Arkansas	D	B	D
California	C	A	B
Colorado	B	A	A
Connect.	A	B	A
Delaware	A	C	A
Florida	C	B	C
Georgia	C	B	C
Hawaii	D	F	F
Idaho	C	D	D
Illinois	D	A	B
Indiana	C	C	C
Iowa	B	D	B
Kansas	C	C	B
Kentucky	D	C	F
Louisiana	F	C	D
Maine	B	C	F
Maryland	A	C	A
Mass.	A	A	A
Michigan	C	B	B
Minnesota	A	A	A
Mississippi	F	D	F
Missouri	B	C	C
Montana	C	C	C
Nebraska	B	D	C
Nevada	C	D	D
New Hamp.	A	B	C
New Jersey	B	A	B
New Mexico	D	F	D
New York	C	B	B
North Caro.	D	A	C
North Dako.	C	D	B
Ohio	D	B	B
Oklahoma	D	D	D
Oregon	C	B	A
Pennsylv.	B	A	B
Rhode Isl.	A	C	C
South Car.	C	C	D
South Dako	A	F	C
Tennessee	D	C	C
Texas	F	A	C
Utah	B	B	A
Vermont	A	D	C
Virginia	A	A	A
Wash.	C	C	A
West Virg.	F	F	D
Wisconsin	A	C	C
Wyoming	B	F	C

Frequently Asked Questions about this Report Card

Why doesn't the Report Card just have one grade for each state?

Each of the indexes used to create the report card are like the subjects that one might find on a school report card. If they were added together, they would lose their meaning. It is like a student who is good in English but not in Math. Giving him one grade to for all his school work would not reveal what is going on in each subject area. This is the rationale for separating out the different economic components of this report card.

Who did the original research for this report card? The group is called the Corporation for Enterprise Development and they can be found at:

Corporation for Enterprise Development
 777 North Capitol St. NE Suite 800 Washington, DC 20002
 phone: 202.408.9788 fax: 202.408.9793 website: www.cfed.org

Tony Sanchez Political Pioneer? *Chale!*

The only pioneering **Tony Sanchez** did was spent over \$10 million dollars of his own money on his failed campaign for the Texas Governorship in 2002.

The **San Antonio Express-News** writer who argues that **Sanchez** is a political pioneer is careful with his words, ". . . his status as the first Hispanic gubernatorial nominee from a major political party has opened the door a little wider for young, up and coming Democrats."

You don't need to be a political locksmith to know that the door to political opportunity in Texas has been open for many years.

One only need recall the many campaigns of **Henry B. Gonzalez** beginning with his 1956 run for Texas Governor. In the 1970s, it was **La Raza Unida Party** and **Ramsey Muñiz** run for the Texas Governorship in 1972, that almost cost, **Dolph Briscoe, Jr.** the election. Muñiz polled over 200,000 votes under the banner of **La Raza Unida**.

And then there is **Victor Morales** who won the Democratic nomination for Senator in 1996. *Si quieren hablar de pioneers, entonces, allí que hablar de la pura verdad y no de chingaderas!*

than the minimum wage? Continuing with his criticism, **Cosby** stated, "*You should have thought more of yourself when you were in high school, when you had an opportunity.*"

These and other remarks were initially delivered in May at the **Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and Citizenship Conference** in **Chicago**. Then over the last two weeks, at other functions including television shows, he has continued to question the priorities of lower black Americans.

Bill Cosby's Comments Make Minority Leaders Nervous

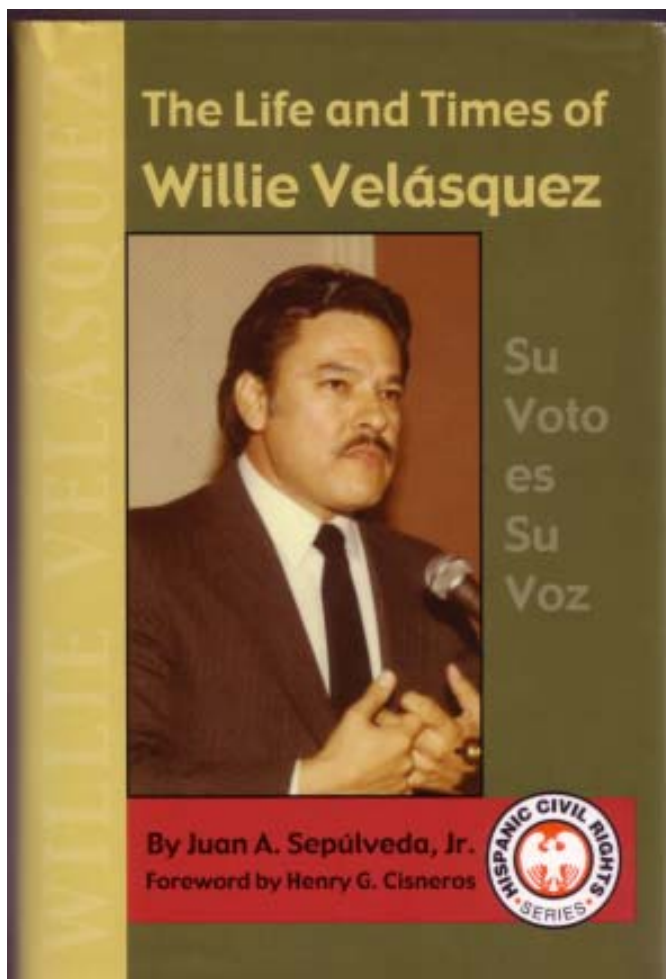
Reaction to his words has been mixed. Some people are offended because they believe **Bill Cosby** is blaming poor people for some of their own problems. Others are saying that it is about time somebody stood up and told the truth - that it is about time that poor people took more responsibility for the things that are going on in their lives.

Among the other points **Bill Cosby** has been making is that poor people have not kept their part of the bargain when it comes

to civil rights issues. **Cosby** said that members of the black community have not done all they could or should when it comes to continuing the fight for equal rights.

This last point is particularly interesting when one examines the Hispanic community asks the same question about parenting priorities. But it can get a bit more complicated in that among poor Hispanics, one must include recent immigrants. This discussion will continue to be sure.

New Book on Willie Velasquez



The new book on the Life and Times of Willie Velasquez deserves a spot on your bookshelf. This long awaited work by **Juan Sepulveda**, author and friend of **Willie** for many years, manages to capture the man and his spirit at many levels. In the book we learn of Willie the dreamer, Willie the pragmatist, Willie the Highspanic and Willie the Chicano. We also learn of the tremendous personal economic pain that **Willie Velasquez** and his family suffered as *El Movimiento* many times took a front seat in the Velasquez household.

The book is also very good in reconstructing the behind the scenes action in the offices of the **Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project** that **Velasquez** started in 1974. Many of us had no idea of all the anguish and turmoil that went into building that organization over the years. **Juan's** reconstruction of the events provides a good peek into the decision making and thinking that resulted in the large increase of registered voters in the Hispanic community over the years.

While the book is a great addition to the literature on the Chicano Movement, it could have been made even better with the voices of **Armando Villarreal**, a long time employee of SVREP, **Bill Calderon**, another committed individual who put in time with the SVREP. I would have even liked to hear Lisa Hernandez's views of how exactly the Houston operation went down in the 1980s. But absent these suggestions, I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn about a man who truly gave of himself because he believed in the mission. Good job Juan!

Harvard announces free tuition for families making less than 40k

If you know of a family earning less than \$40,000 a year with an honor student graduating from high school soon, Harvard University wants to pay the tuition. The prestigious university recently announced that from now on undergraduate students from low-income families can go to Harvard for free...no tuition and no student loans!

To find out more about Harvard offering free tuition for families making less than \$40,000 a year visit Harvard's financial aid web site at: The announcement is on the front page. <http://admission.fas.harvard.edu/FAO/index>. or call the school's financial aid office at (617) 495-1581.

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Book Announcement

A Collection of Short Stories, Interviews and Photos of the People of Uvalde, Texas

RECUERDOS de UVALDE, TEXAS



Alex Barragan on the violin leading a group of *musicos* in a live KVOU radio remote at Lopez Grocery Store in Uvalde, Texas in 1956.

Volume # 1

Alfredo Rodriguez Santos c/s

Nopalito PRESS is please to announce the release of **Recuerdos de Uvalde, Texas - Volume # 1**. This book is the first in a five part series on the history of the people of Uvalde, Texas. This first volume contains the following stories and interviews:

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- An Interview with Josue "George" Garza
- Mis Tiempos en Uvalde by Andrea Zamarripa Theisen
- Remembering JFK - El dia que mataron el presidente
- Los Soldados Que No Regresaron de Vietnam
- The Boy Who Disappeared at the Golf Course
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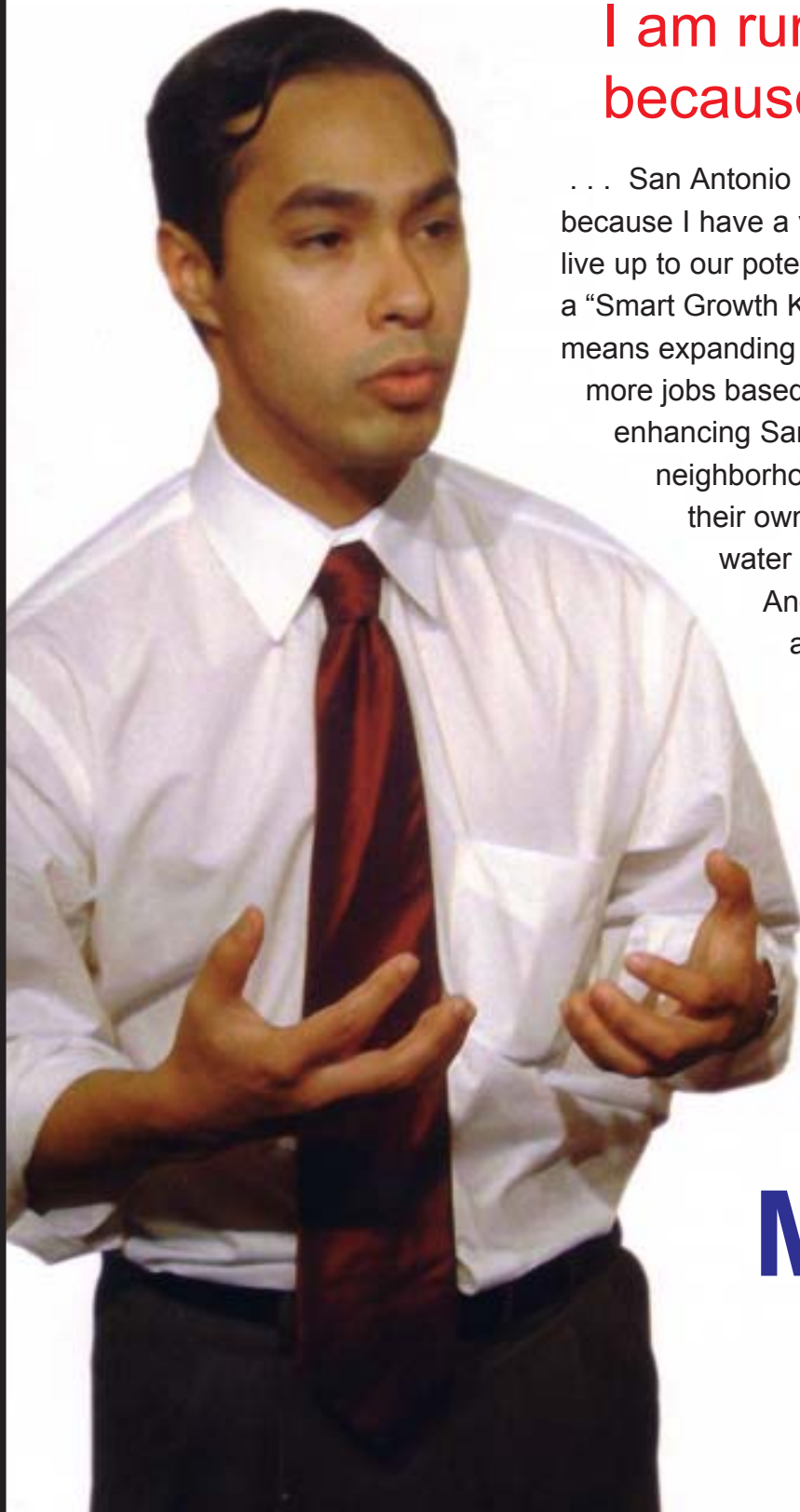
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