

# Hispanic Link weekly report

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Your News Source for 26 Years

## MAKING THE NEWS THIS WEEK

The National Council of *La Raza* elects **Andrea Bazán**, president of the Durham, North Carolina-based Triangle Community Foundation, as chair of its board of directors. She succeeds **Mónica Lozano**, publisher and CEO of *La Opinión*...A federal judge in Lexington, Ky., rules that a landlord involved in a "harboring" trial this week for allegedly renting property to 60 undocumented immigrants can use his lack of knowledge of the law as defense...The New Americans Museum opens in San Diego, one of a handful

of immigration-themed museums in the world...The National Day Laborer Organizing Network holds dozens of volunteer community activities throughout the country as it launches "*Echando Raíces*" campaign to counter anti-immigrant efforts "with acts of kindness and gestures of reconciliation..."Republican presumptive presidential nominee **John McCain** invites Democrat opponent **Barack Obama** to appear together at the National Council of *La Raza's* annual conference in San Diego.

## Latino Federal Lawmakers Promise to Help Barack Obama Win Hispanic Vote

By Alex Meneses Miyashita

Several members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, most of whom had endorsed Hillary Clinton during the primaries, are now promising to help their party's presidential nominee win in the fall.

Barack Obama held the first of a series of meetings with members of the CHC June 17 to strategize ways to reach out to Latino voters. The meeting was held behind closed doors at the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee.

"He wants to reach out and he knows the importance of the Latino vote," CHC chair Joe Baca (Calif.) said.

Political analysts have highlighted the importance the Latino vote will play in swing states such as Colorado, Florida, Nevada and New Mexico.

Many Obama supporters agree he has yet to mobilize Latino voters.

A Zogby International poll conducted June 12-14 showed likely Hispanic voters favored Barack Obama over John McCain 54%-44%. Another poll, by NBC and The Wall Street Journal, showed a much wider margin, 62%-28%.

Clinton obtained the vast majority of the Latino vote in the primaries. Fifteen Latino members of Congress supported her, while just five endorsed Obama.

Close to a dozen members of the CHC, along with some other congressional members, participated in the meeting with Obama. Among them were CHC chair Joe Baca and fellow California representatives Jim Costa and Xavier Becerra.

Also at the meeting were Texas Reps. Rubén Hinojosa, Silvestre Reyes and Charles González, Arizona Rep. Raúl Grijalva

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BACA

## Immigration Expert Makes Case Against Border Enforcement-Based Migration Policy

By Grazia Salvemini

Workplace enforcement, more so than border enforcement, is what's needed to help the United States develop a true comprehensive immigration policy, contends national authority Wayne Cornelius, director of the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at the University of California at San Diego.

Basing his assessment on a four-year UCSD study of immigration patterns from Mexico, Cornelius recommends that the United States provide more legal and better assimilation opportunities, including legalization of most undocumented workers presently residing here, and helping Mexico develop alternatives to immigration through social projects.

He and other experts discussed the report's findings with Hispanic Link News Service and other media during a teleconference this month.

For the survey, a team of students inter-

viewed more than 3,000 Mexican migrants and potential migrants over the past four years. Their written report concluded, "Tens of billions of dollars have been invested in the border enforcement build-up since 1993, with little concern about its efficacy."

The study's summary noted that 4,700 migrants have died in clandestine border crossings since 1995. It found that increasing numbers of those who succeed in crossing are reluctant to return Mexico for family visits because of the rising expenses and turmoil of having to reenter the United States. Many now bring families and put down roots, Cornelius explained, stating, "Border enforcement has clearly accelerated this trend."



CORNELIUS

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## Latino Movie Attendance Increases by 8%, Counter to Overall Decline of Moviegoers

By Anne Wakefield

A study by the Motion Picture Association of America revealed that, despite a declining number of moviegoers and admissions, Latino attendance increased by 8% in 2007 over the year before.

Hispanics were responsible for buying 297 million tickets (up 24%) and 10.8 tickets per person (up 17%) in 2007.

Latinos comprised 18% of all moviegoers in 2007.

On the other hand, non-Hispanic white and black attendance dipped.

Fewer blacks went to the movies in 2007, and they also bought fewer tickets and went to fewer movies each.

The average moviegoer went to an average of 8.5 films that year. Whites went to an average of 7.9 and blacks to 7.8 films.

Hispanic moviegoers continue to see more

movies per person than whites, but whites still represent 65% of all moviegoers, with 909 million admissions.

In general, going to the movies is still the preferred form of entertainment for Latinos in the United States and elsewhere.

Mexico is the fifth largest market for Hollywood.

In spite of the average ticket price being among the cheapest in Latin America at a \$3.51 U.S. dollars, Mexico's box office rev-

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## The Inside Stories

**PAGE 4:** Our Lady of Guadalupe and the girl from 'The Bottoms.'

**PAGE 6:** Summer vacation episode 2: elevator ride, gay pride and blisters.

## Political Poop

by Patricia Guadalupe



### GI Forum Recognized

Texas Democrats Ciro Rodríguez and Solomón Ortiz June 20 introduced House Resolution 1291 "expressing gratitude" for the contributions of the American GI Forum on its 60th anniversary.

"Whereas millions of veterans returning home from World War II looked to the guarantee of educational, medical, housing and other basic benefits provided by the GI Bill; whereas these benefits were denied in

large part to Americans of Mexican descent and other Hispanics throughout the United States; whereas the American GI Forum was founded in 1948 by Army Major Héctor P. García, a physician from Corpus Christi, Texas, in response to such inequities," the bill read, "(Congress) encourages others...to ensure veterans are never again denied the benefits they rightfully deserve."

### War Spending Due Up

The Senate this week may take up war funding legislation that includes a provision to extend federal unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks. Benefits are currently capped at four months. The House passed the bill last week. The White House initially opposed the extension as too costly, but legislators reached a compromise on granting the full funding re-

quest for Iraq and Afghanistan — \$165 billion — in exchange for the unemployment benefits and other domestic spending.

### Miami Pension Debate 'Hijacked'

Miami City Commissioner Angel González says the city's current debate on pensions for employees has been "hijacked" by "leftists." The discussion centers on whether to allow some of the city's more higher-paid employees to switch from a 401(k) retirement plan to the city's pension system.

Commissioner Tomás Regalado has said it would cost too much. This prompted González to say, "I hate to see the politics of the leftists that attack people that work for government...If we wouldn't work for government, we would be under a Hugo Chávez regime, and let me tell you, they're not the best."

## Federal Appeals Judge Says 'No Match' Discrepancies Do Not Equal Lack of Legal Status

By Grazia Salvemini

Thirty-three janitors will be reinstated to their jobs following a federal appeals judge's ruling June 16 that there was no justifiable cause to have terminated them five years ago solely because their Social Security numbers did not match federal database information.

The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco acknowledged, "Though it seems reasonable to suspect some of the fired workers were undocumented," the disparity was not enough to determine whether the employees were undocumented.

The Aramark Facility Services in Los Angeles fired the employees in 2003 upon receiving "No-Match" letters indicating that 48 employees had inconsistent Social Security numbers.

The employees were given three days to clear up any discrepancies or obtain proof that they were applying for a new number. Fifteen employees did, and the other 33 were fired within ten days.

The employees, who were defended by the Service Employees International Union, claimed they were fired without just cause.

The court found that Aramark "has not established constructive knowledge of any immigration violations," and moreover, should have given the 33 employees more time to produce the necessary documentation.

According to the National Immigration Law Center, 70% of the more than 17 million errors in the Social Security Administration database involve U.S.-born citizens.

The federal government is trying to implement a "No Match" rule to prevent the hiring of undocumented workers. A federal judge has blocked the rule from going into effect.

## Arizona E-Verify Law Challenged in Appeals Court

By Patrick Palafox

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco began hearing June 12 arguments by civil rights and business groups protesting a law passed in Arizona that requires all businesses to comply with E-Verify.

The Legal Arizona Workers Act requires businesses to enroll in the E-Verify system, a voluntarily federal program to check the legal status of workers. Any business in the state that violates the law twice will be shut down.

The civil rights groups fighting against the law are the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of Arizona and the National Immigration Law Center. The business coalition was comprised of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Federation of Independent Business among others.

Omar Jadwat, a staff attorney with the

ACLU, argued that regulating immigration is a federal responsibility and that this law "invites chaos and confusion" to U.S. citizens, Latinos and legal workers. He expressed astonishment that the state would pass a law that threatens to shut down businesses given the economy's "precarious" condition.

Jadwat told Weekly Report that the Social Security Administration has opposed the expansion of the project because according to it, the E-Verify program encourages identity theft.

He said workers using a working number and name can get around E-Verify, which he added raises privacy concerns.

According to the Department of Homeland Security Web site, E-Verify is a voluntary program that links the DHS and Social Security Administration databases.

Employers access the validity of new hires' social security numbers from their I-9 forms and use the free service to check the new hires' immigration status.

## Latinas Absent at Meeting with Obama

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and New Jersey Rep. Albio Sires.

Baca, who was initially a Clinton supporter, said, "It's time that we move on. We don't want eight more years of what we've had and the only way we can do that is if we're all unified."

"This is a message to say blacks, Hispanics, women, working families and others need to come together."



LINDA SANCHEZ

California Rep. Linda Sánchez was the only Latina member of Congress at the meeting, and the only female Hispanic lawmaker who had endorsed Obama in the

primaries.

An article in CQ states, "It appears that the Latina lawmakers are less than enthusiastic about meeting with Obama in conjunction with the male-dominated CHC."

It quotes Rep. Loretta Sánchez (Calif.) stating on the floor the day of the meeting, "I said, 'He can come over and see me.'"

CHC members mentioned scheduling conflicts explaining their absence. The office of Rep. Hilda Solís (Calif.) confirmed the congresswoman was returning from California that day.

### JOSÉ DE LA ISLA

Fresh commentaries by our syndicated weekly columnist can always be found on our web site: [www.hispaniclink.org](http://www.hispaniclink.org)

## Fence Challenge Turned Down

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The U.S. Supreme Court rejected June 23 a challenge presented by environmental groups Defenders of Wildlife and the Sierra Club against the Department of Homeland Security's decision to waive environmental laws to build a fence on the U.S.-Mexico border in Arizona.

The DHS was given congressional authority to waive these laws to construct border fencing in 2005.

## Spouse Rule Eased

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision June 16 that will allow certain green-card eligible immigrants, such as those married to a U.S. citizen, to stay in the country while their applications are processed without losing their eligibility. Prior to the decision, eligible immigrants would no longer be entitled to a green card if they stayed in the country longer than authorized, and would lose eligibility once they

left the country as well.

Beth Werlin, an attorney with the American Immigration Law Foundation, reacted, "The government should have reached this conclusion years ago rather than fighting through the courts."

## EU Sets Deportation Rules

**STRASBOURG, France** — European Union lawmakers approved June 18 strict guidelines regarding the expulsion of undocumented immigrants.

The new rules, opposed by human rights advocates and some lawmakers, direct that these migrants can be detained for 18 months before being deported and face a reentry ban of five years.

Identified undocumented immigrants will be given a 30-day period to leave voluntarily and if detained will be provided with basic rights.

The EU estimates there are some eight million undocumented immigrants in the

27-member bloc.

## Faith Leaders Defend Migrants

**PHOENIX, Ariz.** — Twenty-one faith leaders of 16 churches and organizations urged their state elected officials June 16 to work toward immigration solutions that respect human rights and do not create fear within communities.

In a letter to Gov. Janet Napolitano and lawmakers, they stated:

"We must restore the rule of law in this country, but we must also look with compassion upon the immigrants who are here, working in our restaurants, fixing our homes and caring for our children."

Faith leaders in Florida also raised the issue with their elected officials.

## Mexico Is Now Fifth Largest

### Market for Hollywood Films

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enues last year were \$175.07 million.

The revenues in Brazil, the second largest market, were almost half of that, with \$87.91 million, according to the MPAA.

In recognition of these facts, filmmakers and producers are looking to find ways to reach the growing Latino audience.

Here are some examples:

Chicano producer Moctezuma Esparza has created a 14-theatre megaplex in Salinas, Calif., Maya Cinemas, and intends to extend to other locations with a strong Latino presence.

Maya Cinemas offers first-run Hollywood movies and Spanish language films.

Esparza is one of the early investors of *Sí TV*, a year-old English-language cable network for Latinos that reaches 10 million people.

It targets an audience between 18 and 34 with programs like Esparza's "Circumsized Cinema," in which Mexican films are re-dubbed in English with new storylines.

Internet company Terra Networks has developed a movie studio quality film project known as Terra Shorts.

It is finishing production on four 10-minute shorts by top Latino talents, filmed in different locations in Mexico, Colombia, Argentina and Brazil.

Renowned names such as Guillermo Arriaga, Gastón Pauls and Angie Cepeda, among others, are collaborating in this project.

The report, "Movie Attendance Study," is available at [www.mpa.org](http://www.mpa.org).

## Experts Favor Workplace over Border Focus

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Though the number of hours the Border Patrol spends patrolling the U.S. land boundary with Mexico has increased, Cornelius said apprehensions have been falling since the second half of 2006.

He attributes this not just to more border enforcement, but to reduced circulatory trips, the increased use of *coyotes* (people smugglers), more crossings through designated ports, and the U.S. recession.

That many undocumented Mexican migrants no longer return home frequently for family reunions or traditional community celebrations creates a serious economic void, Cornelius says.

The report calculates:

- One out of five migrants enters the United States through designated crossing stations, the preferred mode of entry as it reduces physical risk.

- While many try to cross in the San Diego sector, fewer than half are apprehended, with 92%-98% eventually succeeding on subsequent tries.

- Three out of five migrants now rely on the

use of *coyotes*.

Cornelius says the use of *coyotes* "virtually guarantees success." However, their fees, which past studies showed averaging \$978 in 1995, have doubled and tripled since then. During the UCSD study period, they averaged \$2,100.

Cornelius adds that the tens of thousands of *coyotes* work in a "decentralized industry." Many operate on referrals from previous customers, family and friends.

They are often paid upon successful delivery. Therefore, it is in the *coyote's* interest that his customers reach the country safely.

Joining Cornelius in assessing U.S. immigration enforcement strategies, Kevin Appleby, director of the Office of Immigration and Refugee Policy with the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops, called U.S. responses to the dilemma "a dark period in immigration history."

Migrant families are coming to avoid separation, he emphasized, saying family unity must be considered in weighing new legislation. "Economic development is the Church's answer to a border wall," he says.

Immigration analyst Tamar Jacoby said the UCSD research findings show that border enforcement as we've been doing it doesn't work. She also recommends more vigorous workplace enforcement, stating that a "lesson for policy is realism could really help."

The study, "Controlling Unauthorized Immigration from Mexico: The Failure of 'Prevention through Deterrence' and the Need for Comprehensive Immigration Reform," is at [www.immigrationpolicy.org](http://www.immigrationpolicy.org).

## QUOTING . . .

**"Employers will simply avoid hiring people they think are immigrants rather than run the risk of losing their business licenses."**

-Kristina Campbell, MALDEF staff attorney, on the *Legal Arizona Workers Act* (see p. 2).



**ESPARZA**

# Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Girl from 'The Bottoms'

**Guest Columnist**



**Tim Chávez**

for this nation still comes from Mexico.

## OUR LADY SHAPED JUAN DIEGO'S MISSION

Two of the sisters had three children and two had four. Together, the four form a model for the new wave of Hispanic immigrant women. Family needs came first.

Once their children were old enough, two of the sisters headed into professional careers. Vita, the first of her family to graduate from high school, became a medical office administrator at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Rita became a librarian for the Alamogordo School District in New Mexico. They brought extra income into the family to send their children to college.

Paulina and María had dropped out of high school to support their younger sisters and brothers. That still happens in Latino families. The Latina dropout rate is highest in this nation. We must convince parents to keep their daughters in high school — a miracle we'll be working on in the coming months at Our Lady's in Nashville.

In December 1531, in her only appearance in this hemisphere, Our Lady of Guadalupe told an Aztec Indian named Juan Diego to build a church to recognize her love for the suffering indigenous people. They had just survived three years of butchery from the Spanish conquest. The hilltop where she appeared was a wasteland five miles north of Mexico City.

## IN THE END, GOOD WILL PREVAIL

The four sisters from Topeka would tell you that if not for the

protection of the Holy Mother, they could not have survived the bigotry and poverty of their childhoods. These women are our martyrs. That's why we adore them so, why churches dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe exist across this country. Her presence assures us that good ultimately will prevail.

A memorial to the four sisters will be established inside Our Lady's of Nashville as a place of inspiration for Hispanic women and teens. In gratitude to the Holy Mother, another \$7,000 is being donated in Vita's name to Our Lady's to address its debt. Still, the church will have to take out a loan from the diocese, with monthly payments burdening the working-poor congregation.

Her white high school classmates didn't expect much from a Mexican girl from "The Bottoms." But she raised a family, had a long professional career, sent her children to college and into teaching careers in step with her beloved husband, Natalio, and encouraged her youngest child — that's me — into a writing career.

Vita was very political and blunt. Honest, humorous, inspirational and giving to the end, she left everyone feeling special. In her new beginning, our loss is heaven's gain. Four extraordinary sisters, under protection of Our Lady of Guadalupe, have made it home.

*(Tim Chávez is a contributing columnist with Hispanic Link News Service. He publishes a political blog at [www.politicalsalsa.com](http://www.politicalsalsa.com). Contact him at [timchavez787@yahoo.com](mailto:timchavez787@yahoo.com) to contribute to Our Lady's in Nashville.)*



VITA HERNÁNDEZ CHÁVEZ

**"Am I not here, I who am your mother? Are you not in my shadow, under my protection? Am I not the fountain of your joy? Are you not in the fold of my mantle, in my crossed arms? Is there anything else you need?"**

— *Our Lady of Guadalupe, speaking to Juan Diego in 1531*

One month ago, Vita Hernández Chávez sent a check for \$3,000 to benefit a Nashville church she would never see. The place of worship, however, was named for someone who had always been a central part of her life and those of her three sisters — and the Mexican people for almost five centuries.

Vita was married in Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Topeka, Kan., in a *barrio* called "The Bottoms." It was located next to the John Morrell meatpacking plant and the maintenance yard for the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. In her neighborhood lived the hardest workers who received the lowest wages.

The church was a refuge of respect and protection from a mainstream society that denigrated the Hispanic presence needed to feed Topeka's and the nation's prosperity. That same history is being repeated in present-day Nashville, this time under the scourge of the heinous 287(g) deportation program.

## CHURCH WAS IN DANGER OF CLOSING

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Nashville opened last fall as a new refuge for the mushrooming Hispanic population from the oppression levied by local politicians seeking re-election.

A month ago, Our Lady's was in danger of closing. The debt amassed to open the church and a depressed economy that stifled expected donations put Our Lady's on the fiscal edge with an approaching June 30 deadline.

So from her bed, Vita Chávez got involved. Her gift and her story spurred an incredible response. Two churches in an adjacent, politically conservative county contributed \$125,000. The nuns at the local Dominican campus gave \$500. And a six-year-old named Elizabeth gave everything — \$7 from her piggybank, money she had saved from the tooth fairy and tasks like cleaning the family car. Elizabeth gave because it was something God would like, and she wanted her friend from school to still have a place to go to church.

Miracles continue to happen. The latest came in the early morning hours of June 7. In her sleep, Vita Hernández Chávez passed from this world to the next, reunited with her sisters Rita, Paulina and María and their mother Luz Olmos Hernández, who died in 1960. The eulogy at Vita's funeral invoked the following truth: *much good*

**Sin pelos en la lengua**



**Kay Bárbaro**

This month the Newseum opened its "G-Men and Journalists" exhibit, ballyhooing the addition with a full-page ad in the Washington Post.

It chose to feature among models of this nation's ten most notorious bad guys the likes of **Machine Gun Kelly, John Dillinger, Bruno Hauptmann** and **Timothy McVey**. Even **Patty Hearst**.

Again, we were bypassed. No recognition of the machete murderer of 25 *campesinos* **Juan Corona**, of Hollywood night stalker **Richard Ramírez**, or of our own Robin Hood, **Joaquín Murrieta**.

On second thought, thank you, Newseum people.

**TEN LEAST WANTED:** Last March, as the Freedom Forum's Newseum prepared to open on Capitol Mall, Latino activist **Jim Carr** was given an advance tour. In a Weekly Report commentary afterwards, he complained about the Newseum's failure to recognize adequately the Hispanic contribution to U.S. media.

# An Elevator Ride, Gay Pride and Some Blisters

(Ten journalism students from colleges and universities throughout the country are participating in Hispanic Link's summer "Washington Experience" program. Each week through July, they will share their experiences with Weekly Report readers. Today they join in celebrations and realizations, and share some advice. Section editor: Kelcey Coffin)

## EPISODE TWO

### Heels on 'The Hill'

**PEARL BROOKS,**  
Syracuse University

In Washington, D.C., one tries to keep up with corporate fashion, especially when heading for a meeting on "The Hill."

What isn't so obvious is that walking in heels around this city hurts! What feels good on your feet in the morning probably won't be feeling as good as the day winds down.



**BROOKS**

Today one of my colleagues wore a pair of new heels to a conference at the Capitol building, and by the time we started back home, she was getting looks from every corner as she limped along.

It was a slow walk home. To all heel-wearers out there, carry a spare pair of comfortable shoes in your bag to work. Otherwise, you'll be facing the stare.

### My front-row seat

**DANA GUEST,**  
University of Tampa

Washington is a place of history and therefore, a place of historical buildings. From the Treasury Department to the Smithsonian Castle, D.C. is home to an architectural array of early American life. As beautiful and imposing as these buildings are, they can be a hindrance for those wanting to explore them from a wheelchair.



**GUEST**

Firsthand, I discovered entrances, elevators, ramps and other staples that make buildings accessible in locations that were often inconvenient.

For instance, at the Old Post Office, the "wheelchair-accessible" entrance isn't anywhere near the front of the building. Down one side and around the back, it "helpfully" places the wheelchair visitor one level lower than everyone else in your pack of traveling tourists.

However, as I began my ascent in the glass

enclosed elevator to see the best view in D.C., I had to appreciate the strides taken by the government to comply with ADA code. As I sat looking out over the city I recognized that not so long ago this experience wouldn't have even been possible for those in wheelchairs.

Historical buildings in D.C. have a place in how this great nation was shaped, and as annoying as it is sometimes, I can't say I mind going out of my way a little if it will preserve the integrity of these landmarks.

By the way, the view from the Old Post Office took my breath away. On all sides were physical representations of the dreams our forefathers had for this great nation, and I saw it all from a sitting position.

### My day was pretty gay

**PATRICK PALAFOX,**  
University of Texas at El Paso



### The Washington Experience

The reason rainbow flags are flying through the air is because it is Gay Pride Month. The "Pride Parade" here started around Dupont Circle and went through the heart of the gay side of town. Dudes holding hands with dudes and ladies hand-in-hand squeeze a little tighter this time of year because of the Stonewall Riots in New York that took place June 28, 1969. According to Wikipedia, eight cops arrived with a warrant claiming there were illegal sales of alcohol and began throwing patrons into cop cars. Gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered warriors responded with a force of their own.

Here in Washington, it rained on the parade, but it's been so hot here lately that people, especially me, welcomed the cool air and loud music. There were gay bears, gay Christians, gay Latinos and some guys that looked like they were from Sparta. Seriously, this guy had a 12-pack.



**PALAFOX**

How do these guys

get in shape like that? I read Men's Health, but I guess I don't follow all the rules. Gayness doesn't really bother me like it used to. I know myself well enough to be able to mingle and not feel weird.

Later that night I went to a gay bar so overall my weekend was pretty gay. I think I've written that word a lot, but I'm not counting.

### Band-Aids and music

**LINDSEY RODRÍGUEZ,**  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

A warm summer day with a soft ocean breeze is how I imagine a summer vacation — a cold strawberry smoothie with fruit accessories and an umbrella. I pretend only bathing suits and sun hats are allowed.

While my summer "vacation" had been filled with interesting people and tropical weather, it hasn't been what I would call a vacation, but rather an experience.

Each day I put new Band-Aids on my blisters and prepare to walk. And walk. My long walks aren't on the beach, but on the brick, stone and cement sidewalks of Washington. Most often, my walks are in circles because despite my excellent map reading abilities, I will undoubtedly get lost.

While days are long and nights are short, I have only two months to make an impression. And in the two weeks that I have been here for my "vacation," my experience has overshadowed any pain or obstacle I have had to overcome.

Last week, I was in the Capitol building where senators and representatives work and democracy happens each day. I walk in to get my official press pass, and I am as



**RODRIGUEZ**

awestruck as the tourists. But, I get to go places the tourists don't. Did you know that under the Capitol is a subway so persons can travel to other nearby buildings? I didn't. And now I have ridden on it.

Washington is known as an expensive city to live in, but I have been pleasantly surprised at how much is free. The Smithsonian museums are free, the National Archives (which houses the Constitution of the United States!) is free and even entertainment is free. Yesterday, I brought my lunch to work to save a little cash. I found myself sitting at the foot of a beautiful fountain, listening to a choir sing gospel and patriotic songs with the Capitol building as a backdrop. I turned to a fellow reporting intern as said, "I think that fireworks are going to go off."

I feel so lucky that these experiences are my summer "vacation."

## Most 'Hispanic' States Fail to Protect Consumers Against Insurance Biases

By Dana Guest

Most heavily Latino populated states do not protect their residents against health insurance companies that cover only the healthiest consumers, excluding everyone else, according to a 50-state report released by Families USA.

California, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, New York and Florida do not prohibit this practice, known as "cherry-picking." New Jersey is one of only five states nationwide where this is outlawed.

"The individual health insurance market is still the wild, wild west for America's healthcare consumers," said Ron Pollack, Executive Director of Families USA, June 12 in Washington D.C.

The American Cancer Society is trying to address the issues cancer patients are facing while dealing with insurance providers.

The individual insurance market regularly fails people with a history of cancer," warned Daniel Smith, president of the ACS.

This is of major concern for Latinos, according to an ACS study updated in 2008. Overall, it found, fewer than one in two Hispanic men and one in three Hispanic women will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States, accounting for 20% of all Hispanic deaths.

"People without access to care face devastating consequences. ACS studies show the uninsured are more likely than those with private insurance to be diagnosed with cancer at its advanced stages, when the disease is more lethal and more expensive to treat," Smith said..

To combat insurance abuses, the ACS has implemented a Health Insurance Assistance Service for cancer patients in danger of losing their coverage. Cancer patients have access to specialists who will work to address their health insurance needs.

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said states should unite to hold insurers accountable for denying coverage unfairly, especially where life-saving treatment is necessary.

For more on the ACS Health Insurance Assistance Service: 1-800-ACS-2345. For more on Families USA, visit [www.familiesusa.org](http://www.familiesusa.org).

## Obama, McCain Speak at NALEO Conference

Democratic and Republican presumptive presidential nominees Barack Obama and John McCain will speak at the 25th annual conference of the National Association of Latino Appointed and Elected Officials June 28.

The conference, in Washington, D.C., begins June 25. A thousand Latino public officials are expected to participate. For more information, visit [www.naleo.org](http://www.naleo.org).

## McCain Speaks at LULAC Luncheon

Republican presidential candidate Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.) will be the keynote speaker at the diversity luncheon during the 79th annual League of United Latin American Citizens national convention July 8. The event is at the Washington Hilton in Washington D.C.

For more information or to register for the convention, visit <http://www.lulac.org/convention.html>.

## Racial Justice Conference Registration Opens

The Applied Research Center has opened registration for its 2008 Facing Race national conference to be held in Oakland, Calif., Nov. 13-15. Participants from across the country will outline a vision for racial justice. Panels and workshops will cover topics such as: immigration, child welfare, education, criminal justice and economic development. Sherman Alexie, 2007 National Book Award winner, is the feature speaker. To register for this event visit [www.arc.org/facingrace](http://www.arc.org/facingrace).

## Hispanic Space Contributions Recognized

Hispanic contributions to the advancement of space exploration will be recognized during a landmark television series celebrating NASA's 50th anniversary on Discovery *en Español*. Hispanics who have made or are making important contributions to space exploration will be featured on "NASA *en Español*."

Dr. Franklin Chang Díaz, the first Hispanic to go into space, will be a featured commentator on each episode. The special series kicks off Sunday, June 29 at 9 p.m. (ET/PT) with two consecutive episodes each night. The episodes run Sundays through July 13.

## Calendar

### In the Link 20 Years Ago

Sharing *Imagen* awards at the organization's fourth annual gala in Beverly Hills were the 1988 films *La Bamba*, *The Milagro Beanfield War* and *Stand and Deliver*.

### NALEO CONFERENCE

Washington, D.C. June 25-28  
The National Association of Latino Elected & Appointed Officials holds its annual conference.  
Phone: (213) 747-7606

### TWO-WAY BILINGUAL IMMERSION

Newport Beach, Calif. June 30-July 3  
The California Association for Bilingual Education holds its summer immersion conference.

## Coming Soon

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](mailto:carloso@hispaniclink.org).

Phone (616) 814-4441

### LULAC CONVENTION

Washington, D.C. July 7-12  
The League of United Latin American Citizens holds its national convention.

Phone: (202) 833-6130

### 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

### TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

Washington, DC July 16  
Dialogue on Diversity holds a technology conference.

Information: [http://www.dialogueondiversity.org/files/calendar\\_2008.pdf](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

### NAHN CONFERENCE

Boston, July 15-18  
The National Association of Hispanic Nurses holds its annual conference.

Information: <http://thehispanicnurses.org/>

Phone: (202) 387-2477

### UNITY CONFERENCE

Chicago, July 23-27

The Asian American Journalists Association, the National Association of Black Journalists, the Native American Journalists Association and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists will gather for a joint convention.

Information: [www.unityjournalists.org](http://www.unityjournalists.org)

Phone: (703) 854-3585

### THIS WEEK IN LATINO HISTORY...

The first Puerto Rican mayor of Miami, **Maurice Ferrer**, was born **June 23, 1935**.

Actor/producer **Luis Valdez** was born **June 26, 1940**.

Puerto Rican bounty hunter and pirate **Roberto Cofresí** was born **June 27, 1741**.

Mexican-American writer **Francisco Jiménez** was born **June 29, 1943**.

## 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 COLLEGES STUDENT

| Semester | Duration | Dates             | Deadline to Apply      |
|----------|----------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Fall     | 14 weeks | Sept. 8 – Dec. 12 | Postmark June 30, 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, Iowa, is looking for a News Producer / Photojournalist.

We need someone who is not only a great writer, but someone who can take charge of our weekend newscasts.

Must be eager to learn, have a great attitude, and be a team player.

Ability to report, write, shoot and edit a must. Bilingual a plus.

Please send your tape & résumé to:

Human Resources  
KCAU-TV  
625 Douglas Street  
Sioux City, IA 51101  
EOE

Please discuss this position with your supervisor before applying.

## New Reads



Explore the latest writings by Latino authors

By Lindsey Rodríguez

**Confidence is Queen: The Four Keys to Ultimate Beauty Through Positive Thinking**, by *Susie Castillo* – Former Miss USA, MTV VJ, face of Neutrogena and one of *People en Español's* "25 Most Beautiful People," has developed the four keys to jump-start confidence in a revealing and inspirational book which pinpoints the areas of life needed to address to build confidence.

At the age of six, Castillo's father left her and her mother, leaving her to feel discouraged and insecure.

It was her resilient mother who taught Castillo the power of positive thinking.

Castillo's optimistic attitude eventually led to the fulfillment of her biggest dream – winning the Miss USA crown.

Positive thinking is now a way of life for Castillo. She was able to pinpoint the areas of life where confidence is needed the most and the four keys to unleashing inner beauty for every girl, which are:

- n Identify and effectively develop spiritually
- n Discover and embrace relationships
- n Take control of one's health and body image
- n Believe in one's dreams and make them a reality.

Also included are Castillo's most prized beauty secrets, exercises for positive thinking and techniques for staying cool under pressure.

(Penguin Group; hardcover; \$22.95; 240 pp.)

**Why the Humanities Matter: A Commonsense Approach**, by *Frederick Luis Aldama* – A Professor of English and Comparative Studies at Ohio State University, Aldama delves into essential questions regarding whether the humanities can remain politically and aca-

demically relevant amid this twenty-first-century uncertainty.

Why the Humanities Matter offers a guided tour of the modern condition, calling upon thinkers in a variety of disciplines to affirm essential concepts such as truth, goodness and beauty.

In addition, Aldama offers a lens of "new humanism," and provides a liberating examination of the current cultural repercussions of assertions by such revolutionary theorists as Said, Foucault, Lacan, and Derrida, as well as Latin Americanists such as Sommer and Mignolo.

Emphasizing pedagogy and popular culture with equal verve, and writing in colloquial yet multifaceted prose, Aldama presents an enlightening way to explore what "culture" actually does — who generates it and how it shapes our identities — and the role of academia in sustaining it.

Timothy Brennan, professor, Departments of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, and English, University of Minnesota, said:

"This is one of the most versatile, colloquially written, and philosophically astute readings of the American politics of race and the university that one can find anywhere.

In the name of a 'new humanism' based on struggle, Aldama draws (at times humorously) on his experiences as a teacher to give a persuasive account of the self based (of all things) on neuroscience and evolutionary biology. An exciting book."

(University of Texas Press, hardcover with dust jacket, \$50.00, 400 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



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Antonio Mejías-Rentas, entertainment editor with *La Opinión* in Los Angeles, the nation's largest Spanish-language daily, originated Weekly Report's Arts & Entertainment column with our premier edition in September 1983. He came to Hispanic Link that year on a 12-month fellowship sponsored by the Gannett Foundation. In his premier report, he revealed:

■ Ricky, Johnie, Charlie, Ray and Miguel — who mixed together made *Menudo* — premiered on an ABC Saturday morning cartoon show singing in English and Spanish.

■ In a test run in El Paso, *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez*, starring Eddie Almos, had the second-highest grossing weekend for any film shown there that summer, \$10,056 in two days.

■ E.T. finally could call home in Spanish as Mexico's Churubusco Studios released a dubbed version of the hit movie.

■ Norman Lear was developing a sit-com starring Paul Rodríguez. There was no mention of stoners Cheech and Chong in that

edition, but today Antonio — on vacation in his native Puerto Rico this week — did send us a lengthy interview with Marín discussing Cheech's plan to introduce Chicano art and artists to the inhabitants of Europe. That will have to wait till next week. Too long.

Marín's incredible Chicano art collection has been touring the United States for five years. But, as always, Antonio covers more **Antonio: Does your involvement with the collection and the traveling show leave you much time for your acting?**

*Cheech:* I just finished a bunch of movies: *The Perfect Game*, which comes out in August, and *Beverly Hills Chihuahua*, where Paul [Rodríguez] and I do voices. We're the best thing in the movie.

**Better than Plácido Domingo?**

Easily. We're funny together... I sing harmony better than I can sing lead. I can sing lead, don't get me wrong.

**The Perfect Game is based on a true story, about a Mexican little league team that won the championship, right?**

Yes, 1957, from Monterrey, Mexico... I play the priest. I was in Little League when it happened, 12... They looked just like me, on average 35 pounds and six inches smaller than the other team. Ángel Macías pitched a perfect game. He could pitch right or left-handed (*Shifting back to Chicano art*) Artists are the antennas of any culture, the ones that get out first. I want to present the most positive aspect of the inevitability of change. This country was founded on immigration. It still is... just a different color.

*No matter where his career has taken him, Antonio has faithfully continued to keep us Weekly Report readers informed.*

## Media Report

Verónica Macías



**POLICE BRUTALITY:** The U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit reinstated June 18 a lawsuit alleging excessive force used by FBI agents against reporters in San Juan, Puerto Rico, that had been dismissed by a lower court.

The case involves the claims of several

journalists that they were attacked and intimidated without provocation by FBI agents in February 2006 when the reporters sought comment after the agents exited an apartment following a search.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico threw out the case but the appellate court maintained that it would constitute a violation of the reporters' Fourth Amendment rights if they can prove they were "without provocation, pushed, punched, hit by metal batons, and pepper sprayed in the face by federal agents."

The journalists are being represented by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The Reporters' Committee for Freedom of the Press has filed an amicus brief in support of the reporters.

"This decision makes clear the FBI cannot exert excessive force and intimidation every time it wants to avoid public scrutiny," said Catherine Crump, staff attorney with the ACLU First Amendment Working Group and one of five ACLU attorneys representing the plaintiffs.

"By reinstating our lawsuit, the appeals court will let us continue fighting for the principle that reporters should be able to approach law enforcement officers without fear of harassment," Crump stated

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Members of the Hispanic Congressional Caucus with Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama following meeting June 17. (See story on page 1.)