

# Latino

A Bilingual Publication



# Times

in the Central Valley

## Where Do Latinos Go Now?

NAM Marcelo Ballve - No one has bragging rights over the Latino vote, not yet. And after the massive immigrant rights marches of 2006, the old token "tamale politics" won't work — if they ever did.

With Sen. Barack Obama emerging as the probable opponent to Republican Sen. John McCain, the Latino media and blogosphere have been abuzz with speculation on how the two might fare head-to-head.

Obama did poorly among Latinos against Sen. Hillary Clinton (On Super Tuesday, Latinos voted for Clinton by a 2-to-1 margin). The conventional wisdom has been that he is woefully vulnerable in this demographic. But McCain is not necessarily ideally positioned, according to Los Angeles political columnist Pilar Marrero.

"Both candidates come to the competition with certain disadvantages.... No one can say they have this vote in their pocket," she writes in *La Opinión*, the nation's largest Spanish-language newspaper.

Latinos are certainly attracted to McCain's "independence, his convictions, his courage and his moderate stance on issues," writes Ruben Navarrete Jr., a syndicated columnist with the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. Not to mention "his heroic suffering as a prisoner of war."

It remains to be seen, though, how McCain comes down on the immigration question, which he has waffled on since co-sponsoring failed immigration reform legislation in 2006. In the primaries, desperate to avoid being outflanked to the right, he reneged on his once-clear support for comprehensive reform. Speaking in Arizona on May 5 (the "Cinco de Mayo" festivities), McCain tried out what seems to be a new angle: blue-collar Latinos, he said, are harmed by the inflow of undocumented immigrants, and should be sympathetic toward securing the border before demanding an integral solution.

Marrero of *La Opinión* concludes: If this divide-and-conquer approach is McCain's Latino strategy, "I wish him luck."

For his part, although buoyed by the endorsement of New Mexico's Latino governor Bill Richardson, Obama has been fighting a perception he did too little, too late in reaching out to Latino voters.

On the *Hispanic Trending* blog, which carried an online interview with Obama, among the first questions was: "Why did your campaign take so long to proactively reach out to Hispanics?" Obama skirted the question, providing a laundry list of his Latino outreach efforts. But the point was made.



Obama



McCain

In Obama's own bailiwick of South Chicago, blogger and journalist Gregory Tejada spelled out this frustration. Obama's "focus on gaining African-American votes and that of the youth of America have created the perception amongst Hispanic people that Obama doesn't care about their situation."

Obama can point to some victories: he won the Latino vote in the Iowa, Virginia and Illinois primaries. The Mexican-American vote has proven most difficult for him, even in his home state of Illinois, but there is still no clear evidence that this trend

wouldn't shift in a general election. Gallup polling published May 1 showed Obama with a 57 percent to 33 percent advantage over McCain among Latinos, suggesting that with Clinton out of the way, Obama would recoup at least some Mexican-American votes.

He should hope he does, because Mexican Americans are crucial in three battleground states that President George W. Bush carried by a margin of 5 percent or less in 2004: New Mexico, Colorado, and Nevada. Latinos could potentially swing

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## ¿Ahora a quién apoyaran los Latinos?

Nadie ha reclamado el voto latino, no por ahora. Después de las numerosas marchas del 2006 en las cuales se exigían respeto a los derechos de los inmigrantes la vieja regla de la "política del tamal" no va a trabajar — si es que alguna vez trabajó. Casi se da por hecho que el senador Obama será el contrincante del senador republicano John McCain, en la blogosfera y los medios de comunicación latinos se da rienda suelta a la especulación de "cómo estos se medirán en la carrera por la presidencia." Obama, recibió poco apoyo latino en comparación con la senadora Hillary Clinton (en el súper martes electoral los latinos votaron en proporción de 2 a 1 a favor de Clinton).

El sentido común indica que la posición de Obama es vulnerable con este grupo. "Pero eso no quiere decir que McCain está en mejores condiciones." Comenta Pilar Marrero, quien escribe sobre política en el periódico *La Opinión de Los Ángeles*.

"Ambos candidatos entraron en la competencia con ciertas desventajas. Ninguno de los dos puede decir que cuenta con el voto hispano" escribió en *La Opinión*, el periódico en español más grande del país. "Los Latinos se sienten atraídos por la independencia de McCain, sus convicciones, su valentía y su opinión moderada en asuntos de importancia" escribe Ruben Navarrete Jr., columnista sindicado del *San Diego*

*Tribune*. Eso sin mencionar "su heroico sufrimiento como prisionero de guerra"

Estará por verse como McCain, asume una posición en inmigración, algo que ve con buenos ojos ya que el fue uno de los que apoyaron la fallida reforma migratoria del 2006. En la elecciones primarias, desesperado por no perder el apoyo de la "derecha" prácticamente renegó del claro apoyo que le dio. En su discurso del 5 de Mayo intentó un nuevo ángulo y comentó que "los latinos de clase media también se ven afectados por el flujo de inmigrantes indocumentados y que apoyaría el aseguramiento de la frontera antes de buscar una solución integral."

Marrero de *La Opinión* concluye "si el divide y vencerás es la estrategia de McCain "le deseo buena suerte." Por su parte Obama, contento por el endorso de Bill Richardson Gobernador de Nuevo Mexico, ha venido peleando con la percepción de que "hizo muy poco y muy tarde" en hacer contacto con el voto latino. En el blog *Hispanic Trending* se realizó una entrevista a Obama y la primer pregunta fue: ¿Porqué su campaña tardó tanto en contactar el voto Hispano? Obama contestó la pregunta con una lista de acciones-justificaciones que se habían hecho para estar en contacto. Sin embargo el punto del

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## Hard Times Hit Blacks, Latinos First and Worst

Nisa Muhammad - (FinalCall.com)  
The economic slowdown, rising debt, gas and food prices, loss of jobs, and mounting foreclosures have hurt families across the board, but according to a new report Black and Latino families are "hit first and hit worst."

"Since 2000 the economy has slowed its growth," Tim Westrich, a research associate at the Center for American Progress told *The Final Call*. "Wages for

minorities have gone down, health care rates have gone up and minorities have a higher percentage of high cost mortgages.

"This is an historic trend that needs a more robust public policy response to address the needs and concerns like unemployment insurance."

The 1990s were fruitful for both Blacks and Latinos, both groups made gains across several economic indicators

and narrowed the economic gap with Whites.

These gains have either slowed or been reversed since 2000.

According to the report by the Center for American Progress, median family income for Latinos declined by an average of 0.5 percent per year from 2000 to 2006, after rising an average of 1.5 percent per year in the 1990s.

From 1990 to 2000, Hispanic

median income rose from \$33,394 to \$38,834 (in 2006 dollars), an annualized average growth rate of 1.5 percent. Yet from 2000 to 2006, their median income decreased from \$38,834 to \$37,781.

White median income also decreased during this time, but only by an annualized average rate of 0.3 percent.

Blacks median income declined

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**Publisher & CEO**  
 Andrew Ysiano

**Vice President**  
 Judy Quintana  
 Co-Editor

**Marco Moreno**  
 Co-Editor

**Contributing Writers**  
 Rhashad Pittman  
 Carolyn Goossen  
 Dr L.G. MD  
 Thomas Paige D.C.  
 Nisa Mohammad  
 Marcelo Ballve  
 News USA

**Design & Layout**  
 209Design • Jim Oliver

**Director of Marketing**  
 Mary Ann Gomez

**Marketing/Advertising**  
 Andrew Ysiano  
 Judy Quintana  
 Marco Moreno  
 Kirstie Boyle  
 (209) 469-2407  
 ads@latinotimes.org

**Photographer**  
 Angelina Lozano

**Distribution**  
 Bill Repinski  
 Michelle Allen  
 www.latinotimes.org



Andrew Ysiano • CEO



Judy Quintana • VP & Co-Editor



Marco Moreno • Co-Editor



Kirstie Boyle • Account Executive

# The Latino Times welcomes new photographer Angelina Lozano

Angelina Lozano has enjoyed capturing memories on film and in photographs for over 20 years. Angelina's delight in photography originated from her father, a professional photographer for the US Department of Justice, who taught her how to develop black and white film. Her attention to detail and focus on high quality images has generated a close working relationship with Professional Film Processing Labs for over 17 years.

Angelina has photographed thousands of events that were featured in news stories, business brochures and family albums throughout California. Angelina leveraged her innate visual talents while working at COX Cable as a

Producer. Her amazing ability to showcase the heart of her subjects has secured awards in several photography contests.

She finds great joy in capturing priceless moments in time for families, business professionals, and news media. "I enjoy creating a precious gift of special memories that will be shared for generations," says Angelina.

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# Three Generations Later, the Mike Torres Band is still a Family Affair

By Rhashad Pittman

(STOCKTON) -- When Mike Torres Jr. would perform as a boy alongside his brother and sister as part of the Mike Torres Band, his father and founder of the band, Mike Torres Sr., would look on with pride and just smile.

Now, a generation later, Mike junior is doing the same as he watches his own son and nephew continue what has become a family tradition for three generations.

"I'm back there playing my keyboard and my son's singing, and I'm like man, that's my boy," said Mike junior in a recent interview "It's a beautiful thing."

The Mike Torres Band (MTB) has been performing throughout the Stockton area and across the country in English and Spanish for nearly four decades. Based in Lathrop, the group has developed a reputation for producing "Music for All Tastes," including cumbias, salsa, merengue, top 40, old school, country, jazz, big band and classic rock.

The nine-piece band is considered one of the premiere Latino musical acts in California. Over the years the group has opened for a variety of popular acts, including War, Pete Escobedo, the Gap Band, Teena Marie, and hip-hop artists Kid Frost and Mel-Low Man Ace.

Mike Torres Sr., 72, started the band in 1970 after growing up singing and playing guitar and later performing at local nightclubs with a small band. The family has gone from performing at weddings and private parties on the weekends to making the internationally broadcast television program the Johnny Canales Show.

Mike junior (Keyboards, Bass, Ac-

ordion, Vocals, Guitar, Percussion, Musical Director/Arranger), Marty (Drums/Business Manager), youngest daughter Christina (Timbales, Keyboards, Vocals, MTB Promotions) and nephew and former member Joey Torres joined the band as children as young as six years old. It was a way of bringing the family closer together, Mike senior said.

"Music is just part of our lives and will be in our families forever," Mike junior said.

Today, the band's family tradition continues with Mike Torres III (Trumpet, Guitar, Vocals), the 19-year-old grandson of Mike Torres Sr., and Stephen Torres-Esquer (Saxophone, Vocals), who is also 19 and the grandson of the elder Mike. The other band members include Neil Sanchez (Bass), Richard Juarez (Congas), Steve Russo (Alternate Trumpet) and Tony Marvelli (Alternate Trumpet).

Behind the scenes, Mike McKiever serves as the band's sound engineer while seventeen-year-old Angelo Torres-Esquer, another grandson of Mike senior, handles the band's lighting during performances.

So far the group has released five CDs: Only the Beginning, Vamonos Recio, A La Brava, Entre Familia and Cumbias Calientes, Vol. I. Mike junior said the band has two more unreleased albums that are being shopped around to record companies. The band also has a MySpace page and Web site (miketorresband.com).

Mike Torres Band at the Asparagus Festival



Mike III, who started playing in the band when he was 11, said the family has been performing together nearly every weekend since he joined the group

eight years ago.

"To look to your side and see your grandpa and your father and your aunt" while performing, he said, "there's no feeling like it."

## Tres generaciones y la banda de Mike Torres sigue siendo un asunto Familiar

By Rhashad Pittman

Stockton -- Cuando Mike Torres Jr., era un niño y tocaba junto a su hermano y hermana como integrante de la "Banda de Mike Torres," su padre y fundador del grupo Mike Torres Sr., los volteaba a ver con orgullo y solo sonreía. De regreso al presente y una generación después Mike Jr., hace lo mismo cuando ve a su hijo y su sobrino continuando con lo que se ha vuelto una tradición familiar de tres generaciones. "Ahí me encuentro tocando el teclado y mi hijo cantando, en ese momento lleno de orgullo solo pienso "ese

es mi hijo," dice Mike Jr., durante una entrevista. "Eso una cosa maravillosa" Por casi cuatro décadas la Banda de Mike Torres (MTB), ha realizado presentaciones en el área de Stockton y en todo el país en inglés y en español. Radicados en Lathrop, el grupo ha desarrollado una reputación de "crear música para todos los gustos," los ritmos incluyen cumbias, salsa, merengue, top 40, antigüitas, country, jazz, big band y rock clásico. La banda que consta de nueve integrantes es considerada uno de los grupos premier de

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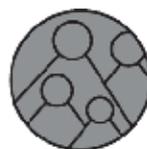


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# Where?

*continued from Front Page*

all of these states, as well as Florida, where the right-leaning Cuban American vote has been diversified by second- and third-generation voters and new arrivals from Puerto Rico and Central America.

Latino voters will only make up an estimated 9 percent of the total electorate in November, but their importance, like that of independents, lies in their ability to change their minds. While falling short of a true swing vote, it is a fast-shifting electorate. In 2004, Bush, positioned as a wartime president, won 40 percent of the Latino vote. By 2006, after the failure of immigra-

tion reform torpedoed by Republicans' anti-immigrant wing, things had changed. Only 30 percent of Latinos voted for Republican candidates in 2006.

The difference between the results, only two years apart, shows how much is at stake in 2008. What's certain is that Latinos will be building blocks in any victory, so it's important for candidates not to be tempted to use immigration as a wedge issue, argues Janet Murguía of advocacy organization National Council of La Raza. Although Latinos overall are more concerned about the economy and the war, their sensitivities on immigration

are raw, especially since hate crimes and apparently punitive federal raids against immigrants are on the rise. After the mass marches of 2006, the safeguarding of immigrants – undocumented or not – became a civil rights issue in these communities.

Another post-2006 lesson: The old token campaign gestures won't work. It's not enough to eat some ethnic food, mumble words in bad Spanish, and pose for photos with Latino community leaders.

"I think the time has passed for tamale politics," Eliseo Medina, executive vice president of the Service Employees International Union, was quoted as saying in Congressional Quarterly. "People have become much more attuned to what candidates do, not just what they say," he added.

That's certainly the case with California superdelegate Steven Ybarra, who on May 9 went public with an unconventional ultimatum: he would choose between Obama and Clinton – depending on who gave him \$20 million to register Latinos, a voter drive he said could mean the difference between victory and defeat and also make up for years of under-funded similar efforts. Underlying Ybarra's demand was his frustration – common among Latinos – that there's little substance in efforts to court them.

"I am going to ask the candidate where is our place at the table," he wrote in March on Latino political Web site Hispanicvista.com. "Because we are tired of just cooking, cleaning up, and getting blamed when the party goes bad."

# Latinos?

*continúa en pág. 1*

asunto es que se había hecho muy poco.

En el propio territorio de Obama en el Sur de Chicago, el periodista y bloguero Gregory Tejeda, dio a conocer esta frustración. Obama, se enfocó en ganar el voto de los jóvenes afroamericanos y ha creado la percepción entre los hispanos que a él "no le importa su situación." Obama puede mencionar que ha ganado el voto hispano en las primarias de Iowa, Virginia e Illinois. El voto de los mexico-americanos ha probado ser más difícil para él, aún en su propio estado pero no hay evidencia clara que esta tendencia no cambiara en la elección general.

En una encuesta publicada por Gallup el 1º de mayo muestra que entre los Latinos, Obama tiene un 57% de ventaja contra un 33% de McCain, se piensa que con Clinton fuera de la competencia Obama puede ganar algunos de esos votos. Eso es lo que me-

nos puede esperar porque los mexico-americanos son cruciales en por lo menos tres estados en los cuales el presidente George W. Bush, ganó por un margen de 5% ó menos en el 2004 estos son: Nuevo Mexico, Colorado y Nevada. Los Latinos pueden influir en cambiar estos estados tanto como en Florida donde el voto de derecha de los cubanos americanos ha sido diversificado por la segunda y tercera generación de electores y los nuevos inmigrantes de Puerto Rico y América Central.

El voto Latino solo representara un 9% del total de votos en Noviembre, pero su importancia, al igual que el de los independientes residen en su habilidad de cambiar su decisión final. Los electores del llamado "voto cambiante fijo" son pocos. Ahora es un electorado que cambia rápidamente de opinión. En 2004, posicionado como el presidente de "la Guerra" Bush, ganó el

40% del voto latino. Para el 2006 después de la fallida reforma migratoria "torpedeada" por el ala de derecha las cosas han cambiado. Solo un 30% de Latinos votaron por candidatos republicanos en 2006.

La diferencia de los resultados en solo dos años es una muestra cuanto está en juego para el 2008. "Lo cierto es que cualquiera que se lleve la victoria los Latinos saldrán ganando" por eso es que es muy importante que los candidatos no usen el asunto de inmigración como contrapeso comenta Janet Murguía del Consejo Nacional de La Raza (NCLR). A pesar de que los Latinos están más preocupados por la economía y la guerra también tienen una alta sensibilidad por el asunto de inmigración, especialmente por los crímenes de odio y las redadas que con mensaje de "venganza" van en aumento. Después de las marchas del 2006 la seguridad de los inmigrantes documentados o indocumentados se ha vuelto un asunto de derechos civiles en estas comunidades.

Otra lección del 2006: Los actos tradicionales no van a funcionar. No es suficiente comer platillos mexicanos, pronunciar malamente algunas palabras en español y fotografiarse con líderes comunitarios hispanos. "Creo que el tiempo ha pasado para la llamada "política del tamal" comentó Eliseo Medina, vicepresidente ejecutivo de la Unión Internacional de Empleados. "La gente está más atenta a lo que hacen los candidatos no solo a lo que hablan",

Esto es ciertamente el caso del súper delegado de California, Steven Ybarra, cuando hizo público en forma no muy convencional un ultimátum: el votaría por Obama ó por Clinton y esto dependerá quien ofrezca 20 millones de dólares para registrar latinos. Estos votos pueden hacer la diferencia entre la victoria y la derrota y también es otra forma de reponer años de descuido en esto. En realidad lo que se intento dar a conocer es la frustración – común entre latinos de que los esfuerzos por integrarlos nunca han sido verdaderos.

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# Torres

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California y ha actuado abriendo las presentaciones con grupo como: War, Pete Escovedo, Gap Band, Teena Marie y los cantantes de hip-hop Kid Frost y Mellow Man Ace.

Mike Torres Sr., de 72 años formó el grupo en 1970, después de crecer cantando y tocando la guitarra y actuando en nighth clubs locales con una banda musical pequeña. La familia ha ido de tocar en bodas y fiestas privadas los fines de semana hasta aparecer en el internacionalmente reconocido show de Johnny Canales. Mike junior (órgano, bajista, acordeón, vocalista, guitarra, percusionista Director Musical/Arreglista), Marty (tambores/Gerente), su hija más joven Christina (timbales, teclados, vocalista y promotora para MTB), su sobrino Joey Torres y ex miembro quien se unió a la banda de seis años de edad.

¿Qué forma de tener a la familia unida Mike Sr. comenta!

“La música es parte de nuestra vida y estará en nuestras familias para siempre,” Mike junior afirma.

En el presente la tradición familiar continúa con sus nietos Mike Torres III (trompeta, guitarra, vocalista), de 19 años de edad, Stephen Torres-Esquer también de 19 años (saxophone y vocalista). Los otros miembros de la banda son Neil Sanchez (bajo), Richard Juarez (congas), Steve Russo (segunda trompeta) y Toni Marvelli (segunda trompeta). Detrás de las escenas, Mike Torres-Esquer, otro nieto de Mike Sr., es el encargado de la iluminación durante las presentaciones.

Hasta ahora el grupo ha grabado 5 CD's: Only the Begining, Vamonos Recio, A la brava, Entre Familia y Cumbias Calientes, VOL I, Mike Jr., comenta que tienen dos álbum más que no han salido al mercado y que se están trabajando con compañías disqueras. La banda tiene su página en My Space y su

website (miketorresband.com).

Mike III quien empezó a tocar en la banda cuando tenía 11 años de edad, dice ha tocado con la banda casi todos los fines de semana desde que se unió al grupo hace ocho

años.

“Cuando volteas hacia un lado y ves a tu abuelo a tu padre y tu tía” mientras tocas, “no hay sentimiento que iguale eso.”

# Hard Times

continued from Front Page

by an average of 1.3 percent per year from 2000 to 2006, after having risen by an average of 2.2 percent per year in the 1990s. From 1990 to 2000, Blacks median income rose dramatically from \$27,929 to \$34,735 (in 2006 dollars).

But this number declined from \$34,735 in 2000 to \$32,132 in 2006.

In 2006, White median income was \$52,423, which is 1.6 times greater than Black median income in that year.

“Incomes have been declining since 2000. Blacks and Latinos have had a hard time recovering from the 2001

recession,” said Roderick Harrison, founding director of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies' Data-Bank, an online clearinghouse of data on Blacks and other ethnic populations.

“With jobs lost such as those in construction, it's very likely to hit Blacks and Latinos more heavily than others. Families and neighborhoods are suffering with the increase in foreclosures. Employment problems will cause more mortgage problems as cutbacks occur.”

According to the report, Hispanics and Blacks continued to lag behind in

health insurance coverage. The percentage of Hispanics without health insurance increased by an average of 0.3 percent per year from 2000 to 2006, after holding steady during the 1990s. Only 10.8 percent of Whites were not covered in 2006.

The percent of Blacks not covered by health insurance increased by an average of 0.3 percent per year from 2000 to 2006, after having decreased significantly in the 1990s.

Less than one-third of Hispanics participated in an employer-sponsored retirement plan in 2006, compared to over half of Whites. Only 43.8 percent

of Blacks participated in an employer-sponsored retirement plan in 2006, compared to 55.0 percent of whites.

When it came to percentages of Blacks and Whites participating in an employer-sponsored retirement plan, 55 percent of Whites participating in 2006, or roughly 20 percent more than the percentage of Blacks participating.

“Blacks and Latinos have never really recovered from the 2001 recession. These people have been in recession since the 21st century. These economic problems will knock people further into the hole before conditions change,” Mr. Harrison told The Final Call.

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# Local Small Business Honored at Formal State Recognition Celebration

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Sacramento, CA – A crowd of 500 business leaders, legislators, corporate partners, and small business dignitaries applauded as “Repo Home Tour”/ Approved Financial & Real Estate Center, was honored as “California Small Business of the Year” for District 26, Cesar Dias received this special recognition from local legislator Assemblyman, Greg Aghazarian to applaud a single district-based small business for exemplifying the contributions of the California’s 3.7 million small business owners to the California Economy.

The award was announced on May 28th at the annual California Small Business Day in Sacramento, and “Repo Home Tour” joined small businesses of the year identified in each of the 80 state legislative districts. Scores of legislators joined in chorus to salute the spirit of entrepreneurship among California’s small business owners and operators throughout the day-long event.

We were humbled to have been selected for

this award and it is a tribute to our employees, customers and community,” said Dias.

”This is a special event when government, businesses, associations and community come together to honor the small business contributions of innovation, job creation and economic growth to the State of California,” said Betty Jo Toccoli, President of the California Small Business Association, on behalf of the two-dozen small business organizations hosting the event.

Small businesses serve as the primary economic engine that drives the state’s economy. Over one-half of Californians employed in the private sector work for a small business. The state’s small firms produce more new jobs, more innovations, and more patents, than any other size company in California or any other state in the nation.

*Cesar Dias with Assemblyman Greg Aghazarian*



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# Lifestyle Updates: Cosmetic Surgery By Dr. Chi



Peter L. Chi MD, FRCS(c) has 10 years of experience in cosmetic surgery and cosmetic skin rejuvenation. He is a fellow member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery. He is certified by the American Society of Aesthetic Breast Surgery and the American Society of Liposuction.

Breast augmentation is one of the most frequently performed surgeries in my practice. It gives patients a great sense of confidence and personal self-esteem. Before undergoing breast augmentation, patients should consider the following key points: what size implants should I have, from which approach is the implant placed (i.e.: through the axilla, the areola, inframammary, or through the belly

button); should the implant be placed above the muscle or below the muscle. Do I need a lift. Should I consider silicone implant as opposed to saline implants and of course the risks and

complication of breast augmentation. These questions should be addressed by the end of your consultation with the surgeon. You can obtain a detailed explanation of the above from my website : [www.beautyrenewed.com](http://www.beautyrenewed.com) or [www.chiplasticsurgery.com](http://www.chiplasticsurgery.com). I will briefly mention two of the issues in below.

The size of breast implants is measured in cc's. You can approximate which size of implant that would suit you at home by using a water filled Zip locked bag and place the water bag beneath the bra. Then wear a leotard or a sweater over the water-filled bra. Roughly for every two cups of water used is equivalent to approximately 250 cc size implant. Ultimately, the taller you are, the wider the shoulders and the chest, the larger your breast should be in order to look proportional to the rest of your body.

There are 3 possible layers where

the implant can be placed, below the breast tissue, below the pectoralis muscle and a less mentioned layer is below the "Fascia." Fascia is a layer of a thin but tough tissue that is lying underneath the breast tissue, but above the muscle. The general impression is that implants placed under the muscle is always better, because this causes less rippling, less incidence of capsular contraction around the implant (making the implant feel hard unnatural and distort the look of the breast), and it looks more natural. This may be true; however, this is not suitable if you have bulky appearing pectoralis muscle or if you do a lot of weight training. By placing the implant under the muscle this might cause the implant to shift and cause the upper portion of your breast to look excessively full. To avoid this problem the implant needs to be placed over the muscle and under the "Fascia".

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# Latino Students and Parents enjoy First Private Graduation at Pacific

By Rhashad Pittman

(STOCKTON) -- Parents of Latino Students who graduated from University of the Pacific last month enjoyed their own private little ceremony with their sons and daughters.

On May 16, Pacific held its first graduation ceremony for Latino students, during which the speakers spoke both in Spanish and English. The ceremony was led by Inés Ruiz-Huston, who serves as Pacific's Hispanic Community Outreach Coordinator. The first annual Latino Celebration of Graduation was part of the university's recent efforts to reach out to the Latino community and boost enrollment of Latino students.

"We needed a bilingual ceremony so that some of the parents can appreciate it," said Ruiz-Huston, who mentioned both languages were used in case some parents were more fluent in Spanish than English.

Twenty students participated in the intimate ceremony, which featured keynote speaker San Joaquin County Judge Jose Alva, who graduated from Pacific in 1970. Overall, 117 Latino students graduated from Pacific in May. Of the Latinos who graduated last month, 15 of them received their doctorates – either in education, pharmacy or physical therapy - and 13 students earned their



master's degrees.

One of the students who graduated was Mariana Garcia,

a 27-year-old graduate student from Santa Rosa. She finished with a master's degree in education, with an emphasis in curriculum and instruction. She said the Latino graduation was just as much for the students as it was for the local Latino community.

Garcia said it was good for others who would like go to college to see that "it can happen, you can do it and even your own peers will celebrate you."

Latinos make up 10 percent of the

more than 6,200 students who attend Pacific. The University has more than 4,600 students on its Stockton campus, while the rest attend its law school in Sacramento or dental school in San Francisco.

The ceremony came a day before the university's campus-wide commencement ceremony and as the university prepares to offer two new programs in the fall that are geared toward the bilingual and Latino student population.

Pacific's new Inter-American Professionals Certificate Program will be a joint program between the School of International Studies and other academic programs on campus that allow

students to demonstrate competence in using Spanish and English in their field of study. The University will also have a bilingual, multicultural housing unit scheduled to open in the fall where students will only be allowed to speak Spanish.

The university's new Hispanic Community Outreach program will focus on ensuring Latino students are prepared for college and supported while at Pacific, as well as provide a forum for community leaders to address issues that affect the local Latino community. Also, a Pacific Latino alumni club is starting up and will meet for the first time this summer.

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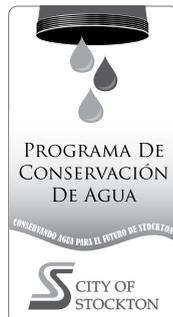
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# Organization Helps Gang Members get rid of Old Tattoos for New Life



By Rhashad Pittman  
(STOCKTON) – After years of fighting and scars and tattoos to show for it, former gang members who are trying to turn their lives around now have help.

The Charterhouse Center for Families is now offering to pay for the removal of gang-affiliated tattoos for those who are striving to better their lives and enter the workforce. The Stockton nonprofit organization helps disadvantaged families and individuals for more than twenty years but just recently started offering its gang-tattoo removal program.

The program, called UnMarked for Life (UML), was established in February with a \$25,000 grant from the city of Stockton. It is aimed at 13 to 18-year-olds who meet certain requirements and display a desire to start a new life in a positive direction. The goal is to help eliminate barriers that prevent individuals from becoming productive

members of the community.

So far, four teenagers have qualified and participated in the program.

The removal of the visible tattoos means “these kids can get out there and get a job and have a successful future,” said Dani Jeitz, who manages the program. “It’s like they’re given a second chance.”

Although there is no charge to receive the tattoo removal service, the participants have to earn it. They must complete 40 hours of community service, a self-improvement program, an educational improvement program, and be referred by an established partner agency.

Established in 1986, the Charterhouse Center was formed to address the needs of local Southeast Asian refugee women. Today the organization provides a number of services to the local refugee and immigrant population as well as others, including health, educational and employment services.

## Jóvenes se deshacen de Tatuajes

See Tattoo page 15

Por Rhashad Pittman

Stockton – Después de años de peleas, cicatrices y tatuajes que reflejan un estilo de vida, jóvenes que han decidido dejar las pandillas, que aspiran a mejorar sus vidas y entrar al mercado de trabajo ahora tienen quien los ayude. “The Charterhouse Center for Families” ha ofrecido pagar por los costos de remoción de tatuajes que los identifican con alguna pandilla. Esta

organización no lucrativa de la ciudad de Stockton ha ayudado a familias en desventaja y personas en lo individual por más de veinte años y recientemente inició con este programa. El programa llamado Unmarked for Life (UML), algo así como “Sin Marcas para la Vida” fue establecido en febrero con una donación de \$25,000.00 por parte de la ciudad de Stockton. En el programa se da

preferencia a jóvenes de 13 a 18 años que reúnen ciertos requisitos y que demuestran deseos de darle una nueva dirección a su vida. La meta es ayudar a eliminar barreras que prevengan a estas personas el convertirse en miembros productivos de la comunidad. Hasta ahora cuatro adolescentes han calificado en este programa.

La remoción de los tatuajes tiene un significado “estos jóvenes pueden

salir de la situación en que se encuentran, obtener un trabajo y tener futuro exitoso,” comenta Dani Jeitz, quien maneja este programa, “Es como darles una segunda oportunidad.” A pesar de que la remoción de esos tatuajes no les cuesta nada, los participantes tienen que ganárselo completando 40 horas de servicio a la comunidad, participar en un pro-

Tatuajes continúa en pág. 15

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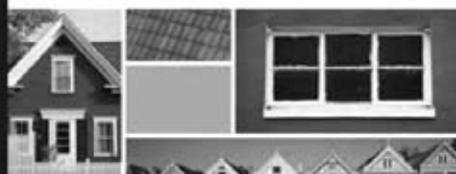
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# ARE YOU DOING EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO STAY HEALTHY?

by Thomas Paige D.C. - As I was reading some recent literature on health care, I came across some astounding statistics. Sure, most people are aware of the "more public" economical crises such as the real estate market and rising gas prices. Our health care system in the United States is in the same sort of trouble, yet we don't hear much about it.

In 2007, 2 TRILLION dollars was spent on health care. By 2015, that number is expected to double to 4 TRILLION dollars. Yes, those are huge numbers but that is not even the worst of it. 70% of all health care costs are for the treatment of preventable conditions...conditions that could be avoided by a simple change in our lifestyle. This is where regular chiroprac-

tic care can help. Most people view chiropractic care as a treatment for injuries such as back pain, neck pain, headaches, etc. But why not prevent these conditions from occurring? As a chiropractor, I am the first one to tell you that chiropractic adjustments do help with these things. But there is so much more to chiropractic. By relieving interference in your nervous system, your body is able to function at its peak potential.

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# School Matters: Poll Reveals High Hopes Among Californians

NAM - Carolyn Goossen

## Immigrant Latinos' High Expectations For Public High Schools

In the poll released by Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) last week, the majority of Latino respondents said that they see college preparation as the main purpose of public school. A much smaller percentage of Blacks and Asians, 30%, and whites, 20%, see college that way. Fifty three percent of foreign-born residents also see college preparation as the ultimate goal of public schooling, versus 27% of American-born residents.

"A lot of immigrant families come here with the hope of getting a better future for their kids, so they believe that as long as their kids work hard, they will succeed," says Luis Sanchez, a long time community organizer in East L.A., and currently the Chief of Staff to the Los Angeles Unified School District Board President, Monica Sanchez.

But there may be huge gulf between parent's expectations and the reality of their children's schools. "It's great [Latino parents] have these high expectations, but the schools aren't preparing [these] kids to graduate and go to college," says John Affeldt, staff attorney with Public Advocates, a non-profit law firm that does litigation on educational equity issues. "Only 10% of Latinos are graduating and going on to college, so the system is clearly not meeting their expectations."

Latino parents are more engaged at the elementary school level, where "you don't see the problems of safety and drop out," says Sanchez. "The perception there is that our kids are doing well- although the reality is different."

Sanchez also says that Latinos always emphasize the importance of college because of the cultural understanding that many Latino immigrants bring with them

about the role of high school.

In Mexico, high school is called "preparatoria," which translates into preparatory school. "There is an understanding in Mexico that you are preparing for the next level", stresses Sanchez. "And then when [people] come here, to the richest country in the world, [they assume] that the purpose of high school here is also to go to college."

Even with their high expectations, however, Latino respondents are very aware that schools in low-income areas usually have less resources.

"You don't have to convince them how bad the schools are. They already see that we need to invest more money in our schools, but they also see that schools allow them more opportunity," says Sanchez.

## Poll Shows Huge Concern and Support for Students Not Passing the Exit Exam

Latinos are not alone in wanting to better finance low-income schools.

Even in a recession, when the California state government is facing a budget crisis, the majority of Californians want to target more resources to low-income and English learner students struggling to pass the state's mandatory high school exit exam, reveals the 2008 PPIC Survey.

The California High School Exit Exam, became a graduation requirement for the first time in 2006. Since then, White and Asian American students have passed the exam at much higher rates than African American and Latino students.

A breakdown of those who passed (or failed) is telling.

According to research collected by Professor John Rogers at UCLA, overall graduation rates fell from 71% in 2005 to 67% in 2006, largely due to the exam. Of the total 21,072 students who did not

graduate across the state due to the exam requirements, nearly 16,000 of them were Latino and African American students.

Looking at the numbers, it's no surprise that within the African American and Latino community, people are concerned. But despite doing better on the exam, significant numbers of Asian and White respondents (42% each) are very concerned as well. Of the foreign born respondents, nearly eighty percent support this idea of extra support, as do 60% of American-born respondents.

Just over half of white respondents and strong majorities of African American, Latino and Asian respondents say that students who haven't passed the exam should get access to smaller math and English classes taught by fully credentialed teachers, until they pass the test.

John Affeldt, staff attorney with Public Advocates, argues that if students had these kinds of resources in the first place, then they wouldn't be failing the exit exam in such high numbers at all.

"The question I'd like them to ask is 'should students be required to pass the exit exam if they haven't had the curriculum and instruction from qualified teachers needed to pass the exam? I think people in large numbers would say no, not yet.'"

Affeldt says that the willingness of so many respondents to put resources towards young people in their effort to pass the exam shows that Californians recognize that we need to "give kids the resources they need to pass the exam."

## More Latino Voters = Good News For Schools

Low-income schools may start getting these important resources again when more Latinos vote in California.

The mainly white electorate allowed fi-

nancial support for the schools to dwindle over the years as the system strove to educate "other people's children," the children of immigrants, say critics.

"For many white California residents with kids in private schools, public school represents the system for African and Latino kids, who aren't see as college going kids," says Sanchez.

There is a perception that investing in public schools doesn't benefit them, because they don't send their kids into the public system.

This may change as immigrants become citizens and learn how to make their vote work for public education.

In the 2008 PPIC Survey on education, 80% of Latinos said they would support local bond measures to pay for school construction projects, as did 71% of Blacks, 57% of Whites, and 54% of Asians.

If California's ethnic communities continue to vote in larger numbers, the poll implies, there would be more public support and funding for public education. The growth in the numbers of Latino voters in particular could have real impact.

"This strong level of support among the growing group of Latino voters could be influential in the future success of local school construction ballot measures which require a 55 percent vote to pass," says Balassere.

Sanchez believes that the Latino voter impact could be even more profound. "This group of [voters] will be more willing to revise Prop 13," he says, referring to the California law, which reduced property taxes, leading to a smaller pot of money available to the public school system. "If we could revisit Prop 13, this would mean smaller class sizes and more teacher training—things that were cut out of schools 15 years ago."



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# Tattoo

*continued from page 12*

Charterhouse Center has partnered with Heritage Skin and Laser, which provides the laser treatments. The program is funded through the first year. The organization is seeking additional grants and donors to keep the program going. It is also accepting donations.

"We're hoping to get more funding to keep this program going," Jeitz said. "The reality is it needs to be around for a while."

By having gang-affiliated tattoos removed from their body, the teenagers are also removing a potential threat, Jeitz said.

"They can walk down the street and feel safe," she said. "They've gone from being deep in the gangs to getting out, which is hard enough."

For more information about the program, contact Charterhouse Center for Families at (209) 476-1106.

# Tatuajes

*continúa en pág 12*

grama de superación personal y un programa de mejoramiento educativo el último requisito es ser referido por una agencia asociada.

Establecida en 1986, "Charter House Center" fue creada para ayudar a mujeres asiáticas refugiadas que vivían en la ciudad. Hoy, la organización provee un buen número de servicios a los refugiados locales y la población inmigrante así como a otras personas los servicios incluyen salud, educación y ayuda en la búsqueda de empleo.

Charterhouse Center trabaja en forma conjunta con Heritage Skin

and Laser, quien provee los tratamientos de rayos laser para eliminar los tatuajes. El programa cuenta con fondos económicos para su primer año de operación. La organización está a la búsqueda de apoyos económicos y donadores para continuar con el programa. También acepta donaciones. "Estamos con la esperanza de tener más fondos para conservar este programa," comenta Jeitz. "La realidad es que se necesita mantener este programa por un buen tiempo." Además con la remoción de tatuajes de pandillas, los adolescentes están removiendo una amenaza potencial, dice Jeitz.

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# Car Care Tips for Road Trips

(NewsUSA) - Many Americans take long road trips to visit family, see sites or simply satisfy their wanderlust. Looking back on an epic journey and laughing is one thing, but painful travel memories involving problems at the roadside are quite another.

Before heading out on any tour of America, drivers should make sure their vehicles are road-ready. AAA has these tips for people planning long drives:

- **Keep Your Car Hydrated.** Fluids such as motor oil, transmission fluid, engine coolant, brake fluid and windshield washer fluid are vital to proper vehicle operation and safe driving. All fluids should be topped off and in good condition before departure.

- **See the Roads Clearly.** Long trips often mean nighttime driving. Drivers need to ensure their headlights, taillights, brake lights and turn signals function properly. In rainy weather, good wiper blades are essential to clear vision.

- **Check for Wear and Tear.** Drivers should look for any vehicle components that seem worn or damaged. Battery cables should be securely attached, and terminals should be corrosion-free.

Radiator and heater hoses should show no visible signs of wear, soft spots or bulges, and there should be no coolant leakage around hose connections or the water pump. Engine



drive belts, checked with the engine off and cool, should have proper tension. Any belt that is cracked, glazed or frayed should be replaced.

- **Keep on Rolling.** No car is safe without good tires. Drivers need to check their tires regularly and keep them inflated -; including the spare -; to the pressures recommended by the vehicle manufacturer. To prolong tire life, owners should rotate their tires at the mileage intervals specified in the owner's manual.

- **Consult an Expert.** While some motorists are comfortable with performing vehicle checks and inspections themselves, many more would be better served by having a trained technician look over their vehicle before an extended road trip.

If you need assistance locating a qualified technician in your area, visit the Automotive page of AAA.com to locate a AAA Approved Auto Repair shop in your area. Approved Auto Repair shops are certified by AAA to meet and maintain high professional standards.



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By Juan Gomez

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