

La Nueva

# RAZA

News and Information From Around Aztlan

Summer 2008

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An Interview with Almas Intocables.....page 5

## Positive Representation in Education

**¡No to SB 1108!**  
Taking Away our Children's Identity. Harming our Students' Success



**Inside:** Under Representation of Mexican Americans in Colleges and Universities Threaten the Future Well-Being of Texas / in memory of raulsalinas / ¡Peligra el maíz mexicano! / palabras pesadas / Who Am I? / An Interview with Almas Intocables / Victory! – Holly Power Plant Closed! / Patzin: Hot and Cold in Traditional Mexican Medicine / The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine / Why Isn't the Repealing of the Taft-Hartley Act part of the Presidential Debate? / Arizona legislation will outlaw MEChA and Mexican-American studies / Are Immigration Authorities Going After School Children Now? / **Look inside for more...**



## La Nueva Raza News Magazine

The primary purpose of **La Nueva Raza** is to address all aspects of Chicano and Latino affairs. Through its articles, commentaries, editorials, and other writings, **La Nueva Raza** encourages discussion, dialogue, and debate over the issues, events, politics, culture, and conditions relevant to this community. **La Nueva Raza** embraces advocacy journalism, and subsequently publishes articles that focus on social justice, empowerment, community building, human rights, culture, and educational development of the Chicano/Latino community at the local, state, and national levels. The purpose of **La Nueva Raza** is to convey an independent and progressive discourse and to offer solutions for the challenges facing this community. **La Nueva Raza** is committed to expressing the voice of the people through its analysis, reporting, interviews, and other coverage.

**La Nueva Raza** also sponsors symposiums, leadership institutes, public discussions, summits, and other events relating to the Mexican and Latino experience in the U.S. It is through these events that **La Nueva Raza** promotes leadership development, cultural and political awareness, and a more active, informed, and empowered community.

Individuals interested in submitting articles and other written works for publication or in purchasing advertising space can contact **La Nueva Raza** at:

**Email:**  
editor@lanuevaraza.org

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# Under Representation of Mexican Americans in Colleges and Universities Threaten the Future Well-Being of Texas

## Mexican American Full-time Faculty and Upper-Level Administrators Grossly Lacking within the Houston Community College and Area Colleges

By Lorenzo Cano

In the summer of 2007 Juan Garcia applied for the position of Vice-President of Student Support Services at the College of the Mainland located in Texas City just a few miles from the City of Houston off Interstate Highway 45 South. Garcia, Vice-President of Student Development at Tarrant County College's south campus in Fort Worth, was recommended by the college's search committee and the President of the College, Dr. Homer Hayes. In spite of this, the Board of Trustees of the College of the Mainland seemed inclined to hire another applicant from New York. The refusal by the Board of Trustees to accept the recommendation from the search committee would have been understandable if Garcia had been significantly less qualified than the other applicant, Sandra Holst, Dean of Student Services and enrollment management from a community college in the state of New York. The fact is that Garcia was equally if not more qualified than the individual "preferred" by the Board of Trustees. Many on the search committee, made up of various racial, ethnic, and gender groups, felt that the Board of Trustees was predisposed and set to hiring Sandra Holst, regardless of who she would be competing against for the position. Many from the college, as well as from the broader community, felt that the Board of Trustees discriminated against Garcia based on his ethnicity. The Board, some said, were not interested in hiring a Mexican American, regardless of his/her qualifications. The four members on the board of trustees rejecting the recommendation by the search committee and the President denied any wrong-doing.

According to members of the Gulf Coast Chapter of the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE) this is just one of many instances when Mexican Americans have been overlooked for important full-time higher-level administrative posts within institutions of higher learning in the Houston area as well as throughout the state. In another instance, the University of Houston's political science department hired an individual of Mexican descent after having no Mexican Americans on tenure track (a faculty member having a life-long contract with a university) for over 22 years. Only after the director of the political science department was pressured to seriously practice affirmative action was a highly qualified candidate hired. The chair of the department had complained that it wasn't like "there were Mexican Americans standing on every street corner with a doctorate in political science". After 22 years one would have thought that the chair of the department would have been more supportive, particularly when he admitted that the majority of the faculty of his department "were probably not concerned about increasing the diversity of the faculty with someone of Mexican descent."

### How bad is the current under representation of Chicanos in higher administrative posts as well as in full-time faculty positions?

In a 2005 study, using statistics from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the University of Texas at Austin had 1,494 tenured faculty members. Of these, 59 or **3 percent** were classified as Hispanic. The University of Houston (main campus) had 677 tenured faculty members. 33 or **4.9 percent** were classified as Hispanic. The University of Houston downtown campus had 103 tenured faculty members. Of these 5 or **4.9 percent** were classified as Hispanic. Texas A & M had 1,209 tenured faculty members and out of these 41 or **3.4 percent** were Hispanics. If only Mexican Americans were counted the percentages and numbers would be even less.

**Community Colleges** are not much better. According to the Houston Community College publication, *2006 - 07 Facts at a Glance*, Hispanics made up only **10 percent** of full-time faculty. 57 percent of the full-time faculty members were classified as "White" and 23.1 percent were listed as African Americans. Yet 27.1 percent of the students

were listed as Hispanics followed by African Americans (25.8) and Whites (21.4). Asians and Pacific Islanders made up 11.3 percent. The Central Campus of the San Jacinto Community College District in the Houston area had 530 faculty members but only 39 or **7.4 percent** were listed as Hispanic. Almost 28 percent of the students there were classified as Hispanic. It is estimated that Latino (Hispanic) students will continue to increase their percentage of the overall student population at the Houston Community College as well as other nearby community colleges well into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Mexican American faculty and executive level administrators are not projected to increase simultaneously with the growth of Mexican American students.

### These numbers are pathetic when one realizes that the state of Texas is over 35 percent Mexican American (and other Latinos).

Some of these discrepancies can be explained by the presence of a significant number of immigrants in the Latino community that entered the U.S. with relatively low levels of formal education. However, the lack of concern for affirmative action practices, poor public education among individuals of Mexican descent, the increasing cost of higher education, and the continued practice of **academic colonialism** in higher education are to blame. Included in this is the lack of a real concrete plan for increasing the numbers of Mexican American faculty and higher level administrators (and other highly trained professionals) within higher education in Texas.

### Academic Colonialism?

Academic colonialism with respect to Chicanos is defined as "the dominant members of a society (Anglos) severely excluding and/or restricting Mexican Americans access to the status-conferring institutions (colleges and universities), and facilitating the mobilization of bias against the excluded population" [Decolonizing the Interpretation of the Chicano Political Experience (1975) by Charles Ornelas, Carlos Brazil Ramirez and Fernando V. Padilla]. Clearly Mexican Americans have improved their status in higher education within the past 35 years. Nonetheless, the low numbers and percentages of Mexican Americans (and other Latinos) as full-time and/or tenure track faculty are quite revealing about institutional racism and xenophobia within academe. The same can be said of Mexican Americans in higher level administrative positions. Almost forty years after the apex of the *Chicano Movement* Mexican Americans in major state universities and community colleges continue to be severely under represented as seen by the figures presented above. And although there is a growing concern over this by non-Mexican Americans, such as sympathetic Anglos, Asian Americans and African Americans, the situation does not seem to be getting better. In fact, many believe that Mexican Americans have hit a snag in hiring practices throughout much of the state of Texas. In the book, *The Leaning Ivory Tower* (1995), editors Raymond V. Padilla and Rudolfo Chavez argue that the increase in Chicano professors and higher level administrators "have been greatly undermined by ... actual exclusion perpetrated by institutions and individuals who consciously or unconsciously fear the loss of **white privilege**." The figures above lend credence to the continuation of this phenomenon.

Interestingly, in the case of Juan Garcia, one Anglo and three African Americans on the Board of Trustees voted against the recommendation by the search committee and the President of the college. Three Anglos voted in favor of Juan Garcia (there are no Mexican American on the Board). Critics accused four of the seven members on the board of planning to hire an African American, regardless of the qualifications of other candidates for the position. According to individuals familiar with this case, Garcia, unknowingly, was thrown into the political shenanigans of the three African Americans (and one White member) on the Board of Trustees. Whether true or not, it is clear that increasing the number of Mexican Americans in higher

(Continued on page 9)



# In Memory of raulrsalinas

## A Dedication to raulrsalinas

by Erika Gonzalez

About your Presence and Survival  
pa' raulsalinas

Who will be left to tell of what happened to us  
Grandfather?  
Who will be left to tell of what happened to us  
Grandmother?

Among those who survive, there will be poets to  
recount that which happened to us.

Among those survivors, a cockroach poet was born –  
en el Pinto – del maíz that grew among cemented  
floors and walls – that died each day only to be re-  
born – turtle coming out of shell – tough outer skin  
protecting revolutionary insides - surviving to tell the  
stories of a prisoner who broke penitentiary walls  
with words – shone sunlight through keyholes and  
opened doors for la pura verdad – to heal barrio cries  
and broken spirits.

Died and reborn out of mother earth's womb as a  
Native to these Americas – with trenzas indigenas y  
brown listón, red bandana, y tatuajes con coded  
messages for the world to decipher.

And in a dream of word offerings, a young Xicanita  
asks, "Who will be left to tell of what happened to  
us? When our trees are being cut, our homes de-  
stroyed, our families displaced, our people locked up  
or dead – our earth in retaliation to the contamina-  
tion. Who will be left?"

And in total resistance and Pura Dignidad, "Es la  
palabra que no nos pueden quitar," me dice. La his-  
toria – the story that cannot be burned, the story that  
cannot be locked up – the story that cannot be shack-  
led – the story that cannot be rephrased or stolen –  
When a survivor emerges and reaches out his hand to  
little Xicanitas like me – to la Resistencia y la Poesia  
de las calles y la comunidad – eso es sobrevivir. That  
is real survival and a gift of life. To tell, to change, to  
heal, to recount what happened in our struggles y  
siempre pasar la palabra – y siempre pasar la palabra  
today – today – today – tell your story to survive and  
know you have the power to change the way the  
story ends con Resistencia y Plena Dignidad.

Raul Salinas was a poet, activist, teacher, and wise  
elder in our Austin community and the rest of Turtle  
Island. His loss is felt throughout many people's  
lives because he inspired and taught others the power  
of poetry and of being politically active to help im-  
prove our world.

Raul first opened Resistencia Bookstore in 1983.  
Throughout the years, the bookstore has been a home  
for artists from all over the world. It is the people's  
bookstore - a sacred space for sharing, reflecting,  
and strategizing.

The bookstore and Raul's wife are in need of finan-  
cial support. Below is an email from Calaca Press  
which authored Raul's books and CD's. Please spread  
the word and help support Resistencia Bookstore and  
Raul's Wife.

For more information about Raul Salinas, please  
visit [www.raulrsalinas.com](http://www.raulrsalinas.com)

Siempre en lucha,  
**Erika Gonzalez**

## Help Support Raul's Wife and Resistencia Bookstore/ Red Salmon Arts

Calacamig@s-

Many have asked us if there is anything they can do  
to help support the memory of Raul R. Salinas. As a  
matter of fact there is.

We recognize that some people have funds to donate  
while others (namely community artists and authors)  
do not have funds yet want to help in whatever way  
possible.

So, there are two ways you can help.

If you are able to donate funds we ask that you send  
a check (or even cash money) to Raul's wife, Lila  
Salinas. Many knew that Raul had been sick with  
cancer for a while yet many do not know that his  
wife Lila is ill as well with breast cancer. With fun-  
eral costs as well as expenses from her own illness  
Lila could use any extra funds people are willing to  
send her way.

Please send donations to her via Resistencia Book-  
store:

Lila Salinas  
1801-A S. First St.  
Austin, TX 78704

Raul's protege Rene Valdez at Resistencia will make  
sure the donations reach her.

Now, for those artists and authors who don't have  
funds to send yet want to contribute in some way,  
here is how.

With Raul no longer around to help keep the doors  
of Resistencia Bookstore and Red Salmon Arts open  
I'm sure they could use any help offered. In these  
trying times of war and anti-Mexican sentiment  
places like Resistencia must be kept going at all  
costs. It is absolutely necessary to keep the space  
open. Many of you have artwork, books, CD's,  
Tshirts, jewelry, artesanía and other items. Please,  
with the memory of Raul's passing fresh in our  
minds, donate some merchandise to Resistencia.  
Send them a print, an original piece, books, chap-  
books, CD, Tshirts or any other cultural items you  
feel Resistencia can sell to keep their doors open for  
our community. It may be hard to part with \$100,  
\$50, even \$20 but it is a lot easier to part with some-  
thing you created knowing it is going to a good  
cause.

You can send items to:

Resistencia Bookstore  
Red Salmon Arts  
1801-A S. First St.  
Austin TX, 78704

Thank you.

Desde Calacalandia,  
**Brent E. Beltrán**  
Calaca Press

**Picture credits:** <http://www.laprensa-sandiego.org/archieve/november15-02/poet.htm>

## ¡Peligra el maíz mexicano!

### ¡Peligra el maíz mexicano!

Nuevamente, las autoridades intentan infringir la Ley de Bioseguridad de Organismos Genéticamente Modificados (LBOGM) con tal de allanarle el camino a las corporaciones comercializadoras de transgénicos para sembrar y comercializar maíz transgénico en México, centro de origen y diversidad del maíz, uno de los granos más importantes para la seguridad alimentaria del planeta.

En esta ocasión, la Comisión Federal de Mejora Regulatoria (Cofemer) presentó para consulta el anteproyecto del Régimen de Protección Especial al Maíz establecido en la Ley de Bioseguridad. Este anteproyecto es insuficiente para una efectiva protección de México en su calidad de centro de origen y diversidad genética del maíz.

¡Ayúdanos a proteger nuestro patrimonio natural!

Escríbele al titular de la Cofemer y exíguele un verdadero régimen de protección especial del maíz.  
No olvides poner la fecha, firmar al final y confirmar tu correo electrónico cuando lo recibas para que sea enviado.

Visita: <http://www.greenpeace.org/mexico/participa-como-ciberactivista/peligra-el-ma-z-mexicano>



## Jesus 'Chuy' Negrete 2008 U.S. TOUR



Celebrating 30 years as a professional musician and lecturer, Jesus "Chuy" Negrete is embarking on a national tour from the spring through the fall months of 2008.

Nationally recognized as an enthralling entertainer and scholar, Negrete has been hailed as "the Chicano Woody Guthrie" by oral historian and radio host Studs Terkel. Negrete has been weaving together songs, *corridos*, poetry and oral histories in English and Spanish to present, with his guitar and harmonica, a compelling retelling of Mexican and Mexican-American history from pre-Columbian times to the present. Negrete reveals and interprets the culture and experience of Latinos and others through music. His lyrical compositions address the need to pass on historical truths through storytelling and performing arts.

The founder and director of the Mexican Cultural Institute, Negrete has performed, lectured and taught in numerous universities across the nation, including a long-term commitment to the University of Houston. He also presents concerts and talks in venues ranging from schools and libraries to rallies and conventions, from prisons to senior centers. Negrete has made numerous radio and television appearances as well as several films, including *The Aztlan Chronicles*. In many cases, he has reached out to populations ignored by the dominant culture. Negrete is a featured presenter for Speak-Out! ([www.speakoutnow.org](http://www.speakoutnow.org)), the country's only national non-profit organization that promotes progressive speakers and artists on campuses and in communities.

Negrete is also an expert in multicultural education, holding degrees from the University of Illinois at Chicago and Chicago State University. His specialties in educational anthropology and ethnomusicology have led to research projects on the Mexican-U.S. border economy and among railroad workers and Chicano at-risk youth. Negrete also holds an honorary degree from the University of California at Berkeley, in recognition of his donation to the university library system of research on historic *corridos* (Mexican running-verse ballads). As a Smithsonian Institution Fellow, Negrete researched and developed multimedia programs on "Images of Mexican Labor" and "Mexican Women and Their Music." More recently, as a Bannerman Fellow, he spent a sabbatical, in part researching non-Spanish-speaking indigenous immigrants from Mexico.

To discuss the development and scheduling of a program or for further information on the 2008 U.S. Tour, please contact Chuy Negrete directly at (773) 764-6110 or [chuynegrete@yahoo.com](mailto:chuynegrete@yahoo.com).

# POESIA DEL PUEBLO

## SIN TÍTULO

escrito por las poetas insurgentes

<p>palabras pesadas de mi memoria peligrosa es todo lo que tengo para combatir el systema opresiva</p> <p>palabras pesadas de mi memoria peligrosa tenemos que sembrar en la tierra en nuestro hogar para libertad de la comunidad</p> <p>palabras pesadas de mi memoria peligrosa son las flores que quiero holer en las milpas que producen esas chispas de inspiracion y esperanza que se transforman en una alabanza</p> <p>palabras pesadas de mi memoria peligrosa queiro ser florecer para aliviar la sed que siento en mi esófago para una vida justa y digna el manifesto ya fue delcarado de parte de las raices rebeldes que corren en mis venas acompañando nos en trecenas en nuestras antiguas ceremonias cantamos y nacen flores danzamos y nacen flores corremos y nacen flores sudamos y nacen flores</p> <p>hablando sembrando flores caminando sembrando flores preguntando caminando preguntando y pensando</p>	<p>en las palabras pesadas de mi memoria peligrosa que describen esos tiempos malos palabras pesadas de mi memoria peligrosa que hablan de hechos en contra de mi ser y mi comunidad que llevo conmigo por las calles y los pasillos de la academia cuales tengo en mis dedos cuando escribo cuales detengo bien adentro de mi corazon lleno de fuego</p> <p>cuidado porque te quemo con la llama insurgente del esclavo libertado</p> <p>palabras pesadas de mi memoria peligrosa les enseñan como quedar atento a los abusos del systema</p> <p>por eso somos escrupulosos con el fuego de nuestras palabras nuestras armas</p> <p>memorias peligrosas se esconden</p>	<p>encima del pueblo esperando que se revelen</p> <p>esperando a ese momento de impacto como explosivos a destruir la fundacion de falsedades mentiras intencionales que nos roban de memoria ancestral que nos roban de memoria comunal que nos roban de memoria personal</p> <p>recuerda mi gente recuerda las palabras pesadas de las abuelas recuerda mi gente recuerda las palabras pesadas de los abuelos que dejaron con la gente para poder defender las próximas generaciones de estas enfermedades de la sociedad la politica y la economía europea conquistadora cuyos leyes y legislacion se imponen con un peso insoportable sobre nuestras cabezas debilitando nuestras formas de ser pensamientos culturas comunidades y familias recuerden bien, mi gente</p>	<p>que el mundo en que viven es uno de esclavitud mental y fisical creado con mentiras y con esconder esas palabras pesadas memorias peligrosas que hablan de algo mas llenos de conceptos peligrosos de unidad, paz, y igualdad de un mundo muy otro uno de armonía con madre naturaleza donde viene nuestra sabiduría</p> <p>nuestras palabras peligrosas son medicina para las enfermedades aqui te damos el antídoto prepara la tierra en tu mente para poder plantar esta semilla medicinal te cura del mal gobierno te cura del mal espíritu te cura del mal systema y te llena</p> <p>el alma de fortaleza y poder</p> <p>WEBSITE: myspace.com/poetasinsurgentes</p>
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## poetas insurgentes

seek poetry and art for  
upcoming xican@ anthology

*"It is my sincere belief that the strongest part of our community is among the visual and performing artists, who are keeping the movement alive."*

*Sometimes There Is No Other Side:  
Chicanos and the Myth of Equality  
by Rodolfo F. Acuña*

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This is a call out to the entire Xican@ art community of all ages and backgrounds for the submission of poetry and visual art pieces. We are looking for work that will be medicine for our community and give strength to our people. Currently we are working on an anthology that contains a compilation of poetry and visual art.

We are interested in sowing the seeds of beauty in the gardens of our peoples. Help us water these seeds with your energy & will so that they may bloom into beautiful flowers. Please send us movimiento poetry & art so that we may give sustenance to our community through these flowers.

**Please submit poetry and artworks to:**  
[poetasinsurgentes@riseup.net](mailto:poetasinsurgentes@riseup.net)

Everywhere that you find Xican@s you will find flores that are specific to that community since they are sown in that particular environment through resistance. Let's begin the process of gathering our beautiful flowers so that we can all partake of their sweet fragrance; so they may give us strength to keep resisting the wasichu toxins that kill our peoples; so that our youth may know that they're part of a strong & beautiful people; so that our community can be proud of their identity and not succumb to pressures that tell them to lose their culture.

We are original inhabitants of this land; we are Nican Tlakah, indigenous people from this continent. Our stories for too long have been called the counter narrative to a Western master narrative. Well this is a lie. As indigenous peoples our stories, our history, is the master narrative. Our antepasados bodies are buried all throughout these lands and they have filtered into the soil. We literally are the dirt here, it is made of us, and we are of it. This is the connection we have to the land that roots us to this earth. The wasichu has only been here for 516 years & counting. They've managed to make us believe that history on this continent starts in 1492 but this is not so. They could not burn our beautiful cantos, danzas y ceremonias. Our history has been embedded in them and we still have them. This is our base, this is our strength. The time has come to build from this base a resistance for freedom. The resistance has always been here but we're in a plateau as a community. The Xican@ movement is still here, with us, today. It is up to us, the youth, to pick up the threads of resistance that have been laid down before us.

We need to weave a quilt of resistance that will provide protection for our babies from the thunderstorm of society. Through poetry and visual art we can spark this process. We're proposing **flores para el pueblo** as a way to do exactly this. A beginning point to build a movement from the bottom up and to the left. Please spread the word to the four corners of the world, so that Xican@s far & wide may know that the time is now.

Let's gather our beautiful flowers and share them with our people, with the future generations that are yet to come. Let's work this land so we may give a milpa to our babies filled with these flowers that they can take care of and add to.

**Please submit poetry and artworks to:**  
[poetasinsurgentes@riseup.net](mailto:poetasinsurgentes@riseup.net)

**Check us out on myspace at:**  
<http://www.myspace.com/poetasinsurgentes>

## WHO AM I?

By: Madelein Santibañez

<p>Who am I?</p> <p>Mestiza? Maybe Half-breed? No Anglo? Hell No!!</p> <p>I speak Tex-Mex. I eat tortillas. I live with the fear of my parents' deportation...</p> <p><i>La migra!!! Ruuumnn!!</i></p> <p>I am not from Mexico, I am from Aztlan.</p> <p>I am lost within this gringo society, which drowns me deeper into confusion and desperation.</p>	<p>But they will not win.</p> <p>We must fight against their racial hatred. We must win this struggle for our barrio, our hood, our Aztlan.</p> <p>My roots have come out.</p> <p>But I've always known I am everyone. I am Xicana, Mexicana, I am my parents, I am Aztlan.</p> <p>I am the Xicana striving to get out.</p> <p><i>You're a failure!</i></p> <p>I am the migrant looking for the American dream.</p> <p><i>You're a wetback!</i></p>	<p>I like the traditional Mexican food.</p> <p><i>You're a Beaner!</i></p> <p>I've tried to fit in to this American ideal but I'll always be a dirty Mexican?</p> <p>No!</p> <p>That's what you think!</p> <p>But I will endure.</p> <p>I might be poor in money but I will always have my pride and my community behind me.</p> <p>I am Xicana, Mexicana. I am Aztlan!</p>
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## an interview with **ALMAS INTOCABLES**



**By: Iris Rodriguez**  
Photos courtesy of Almas Intocables

*Dicen que no hay baile sin movimiento, y que no hay movimiento sin música. Estamos dedicando un segmento de cada edición de La Nueva Raza para la música y los artes que inspira y que carga nuestros pasos en la marcha de justicia para la comunidad al tiempo de sus tambores.*

*Les queremos presentar Almas Intocables, un grupo xicano-indígena quienes cultivan un aire de resistencia, orgullo, y conciencia con sus mezclas de ritmo y poesía.*

*Les pedimos que soporten estas artistas, tanto como los otros quienes promueven nuestra causa comunal de justicia y igualdad con su arte. La música, poesía, y otras formas de expresión artísticas forma parte de nuestro movimiento comunal tanto como las marchas, las protestas, y otras formas de lucha en contra al mal gobierno.*

**Name:** Almas Intocables  
**Website:** www.myspace.com/uneey  
**Genre:** Hip hop with a splash of jazz, rock, soul and indigenous rebellion.  
**Formed:** Summer of '04  
**City:** Mexico City to Los Angeles to Houston and everything in between. The southwest region of Turtle Island, Anahuak (the currently occupied lands of the Americas)

**Members:** Lady Binx - vocals/trumpet  
Jehuniko - vocals  
Ikuestion - MPC 2000 XL  
DJ Reverence - turntables  
MPC, DJ Fade - turntables  
Members of Ars Poetria from Los Angeles jam live shows with us when we are in Los Angeles all together.

**Any special background for the band members:**  
The members of Almas Intocables have opened for Sub Commandante Marcos, Amiri Barraka, De La Soul, Dres of Blacksheep, KRS-One, the Coup, H.R. of Bad Brains, Medusa, Raekwon, Mack 10, Kemo The Blaxican (formerly of Delinquent Habits), Supernatural, Killah Priest (Wu Tang), Lupe Fiasco, C Rayz Wallz, Blackfire, Chino XL, Zoe, Ghost Face Killah/Wu Tang, Sen Dog, Mellow Man Ace and have performed in front of Pam Africa, Mario Africa, Dolores Huerta, Marshall

Allen, Tyrone Davis (of the legendary Sun Ra Arkestra) and George Clinton. Together, we have performed in Mexico, Costa Rica, Europe and the South West United States.

**How did the band come together?**

Jehuniko met Ikuestion through the streets by an alien and soon formed alliances. Binx was there one day when Jehuniko met up with Ikuestion on the mothership. They made peanuut butter sandwiches and the rest is ourstory. The first track, "4 Destinos", was recorded in less than an hour and was released on the Fourth Cycle Clothing Compilation. Cold Hardinero graced us with our next beat and we recorded "Read 'em their rights, we have no rights". After that, the alliance was strong and balanced so we decided to put out an album together. We all had our own different music projects going on so it has been an eclectic mix of our different influences and experiences.

**Why did you choose the genre?**

We were born into it- somos callejeros. We all had been rhymin' for quite sometime, so it was natural. Binx laced down different vocal techniques and styles, Jehuniko's rhymin' is unique and high energy, Ikuestion's got that Dangerous Spanglish so, it all fit well together -we're like a musical taco with a side of limonada.

**Influences?**

Ikuestion: Life, Sounds of pain and happiness.  
Jehuniko: Black Sabbath  
Lady Binx: Ancestral connections, my children and the need for change in this world.

**I've noticed your songs are politicized...why?**

We are products of colonization and assimilation, so we combat that mentality with thought provoking and challenging issues within our music. We hope to awaken consciousness within our people because the hour has come that we are directly under the gun.



**What messages are you trying to get out in your music?**

We understand that music has been a healing process for those inflicted with adversities today and yesterday. We recognize that we are not a broken people but rather the sleeping giant of a rich and dormant spirit of rebellion. Once we recognize this within ourselves, our lives will have a very unique and purposeful meaning. No longer will we feel jaded and attacked as a group but rather can become the resilient people that we truly are.

**How do you hope/think that your music contributes to society/the community/musical genres?**

Sometimes we help people "escape from the pain, fly away", other times we are trying to inform people with a message of hope and resistance. We feel it helps to give it in small doses either way- We do it as a release for our own mental sanities and this music ain't for everybody...we know it- and they know it but we do it for the sake of the power of good music. Our goal is to shed light on our gente's current position. The movement is so much bigger than all of us, so it is important that we all play our roles accordingly and unified with the front lines of our collective struggles.

**What is the overall goal for the band and y'all's music?**

We will see what time unfolds- We are making feel good music with a purpose of healing battered souls.

We are making music that will last, so our goal is to get it out for others to appreciate and utilize as a peaceful form of weaponry against mental slavery.

**How have audiences/fans responded to your music?**

It's more than the music, it's about the energy that we bring together - some really raw lyrics and lots of passion for what we do. We represent different roles that people can relate to. So, people feel us. They comment on how refreshing it is to see the balance of male and feminine energy in hip hop.

**Upcoming dates/venues?**

Almas Intocable's Debut CD was released on Xipe Totec/Primavera on March 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be in Houston, Austin & San Antonio with Boca Floja and DJ Ethos on the War of Movement intro Tejas tour, with other special guests.

Lady Binx is throwing a monthly called, the Underground Merger, in Houston. It's a monthly gathering of the local minds, souls and spirits of Houston. Everyone is welcome and artists of all genres are encouraged to participate and there is only one rule to performances. Your lyrics can't diss on women. Since hip hop is male dominated- it will be interesting to see the outcome of such experiments within our community.

**Band motto/special sayings?**

Todos Somos Almas Intocables.

**Are there any special rituals you do before a show?**

Drop off the kids @ the babysitter, Freestylin' a lil to get the energy going, then we sip a lil and smoke a lil. (you can catch Ikuestion doing reps of jumpin jacks or push ups backstage)

**If so, why?**

It's all about the focus, Daniel San.

**CD Releases:**

Jehuniko's -La Pura Vida available in stores.  
Ikuestion's Dangerous Spanglish available online.  
Almas Intocables Debut available Spring 2008.

**You can contact ALAS INTOCABLES at:**

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P.O. Box 572729  
Houston, Tejas 77257

## Victory! Holly Power Plant Closed!



**By Susana Almanza**  
People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources (PODER)  
[www.poder-texas.org](http://www.poder-texas.org)  
Austin, Tx

The Holly Power Plant, located in the East Austin community, was built by the City of Austin in the late 1950s and early 1960's. The area was already developed with single family homes. Ninety percent (90%) of the residents that live near the Holly Power Plant are Latinos. Metz Elementary School, with 474 students, is located less than three blocks from the power plant. The Metz Recreation Center is located within 10 feet of the Holly Power Plant.

The Holly Power Plant is a monstrous industrial structure, standing 15 stories tall and occupies the bulk of the 22 acre plant site where Holly Street meets Town Lake. The neighborhood residents were never notified that a large power plant was to be constructed in their community.

For more than 40 years, residents have lived next to this power plant which operates 24 hours, exposing them to disturbing monotonous noise pollution, harmful air emissions, and high electromagnetic fields

(EMFs) levels.

In the 70's residents had began to complain about the Holly Power Plant but were ignored by City officials. In the early 90's PODER began to work with members of El Concilio and other residents and helped form the Holly Power Plant Closure Committee (HPPCC). Residents selected their representative to the Closure Committee and the dialogue between neighborhood associations and groups was established. The Closure Committee then invited elected officials and health officials to attend the community meetings in the community.

PODER then organized a door-to-door health survey in 1993 and 2004. The health survey included 110 households. These households consisted of a total of 392 persons - 265 adults and 127 children. Illnesses range from cancer to learning disabilities. 6.6 percent of the people interviewed had cancer. The most alarming finding was four cases of children with Lymphoma. In two census blocks we found three cases of Latinas with Breast Cancer. 9% of the children had learning disabilities and 12% had hearing problems. These findings helped to bridge a discussion with the State Health Department, City Health Department, County Health Department and the

HPPCC.

With health and environmental data, the HPPCC began to pressure the Austin City Council to close the Holly Power Plant. The Austin City Council began to shift its opinion on closing the Holly Power Plant in 1998. In 1998 the City Council agreed to close the Holly Power Plant by 2005 then change the date to 2009. The community got organized and elected one of PODER's Board members, Raul Alvarez to the Austin City Council in 2000. Councilman Raul Alvarez worked with the community and pressured the other city council members to agree to close the Holly Power Plant by September 2007. The Holly Power Plant took its last breath on September 30, 2007. A victory closure celebration was held at the Holly Power Plant site on October 1, 2007.

The City of Austin has put together a Holly Power Plant Decommission Committee with members from the HPPCC. The Decommission Committee will look at future development for the site and cleanup of the old site.

Visit [www.poder-texas.org](http://www.poder-texas.org) for more info.



## DEATH OF A small TOWN: Mission, Texas Struggle Finally Making It To The Big Screen



**DEATH OF A small TOWN** chronicles the devastating social, legal, and environmental issues surrounding the Helena Chemical Plant in Mission, Texas, which was finally demolished in February of 2008. Converge Entertainment was on location last month for 23 days to capture every stage of demolition of this historical landmark, often referred to as a tomb stone by area residents.

Laura Perez who also co-wrote and co-produced **Harvest of Redemption** (also shot in the Rio Grande Valley) is directing the film. She is a native of Mission. The issue is not just one that I am passionate about, but I am eager to

provide a voice for these people who have been silenced for too long, says Perez. Jackie Zepeda, Producer (originally from San Juan) adds, This injustice is so tragic, we were drawn to the cause and know what a powerful instrument film can be. We hope this film will help spread awareness not just across the nation, but the world.

The 4 minute trailer will provide a glimpse of what the feature film will entail. Converge Entertainment has merely begun the lengthy process of production, but hopes that sharing the trailer will unite area residents that have been affected by the plant and encourage them to stand in solidarity,

says Nicole Zepeda, Associate Producer (originally from San Juan). The Helena Chemical Plant in Mission, Texas housed over 20 chemical companies from 1950-1972 which produced 18 pesticides and chemicals - 8 of which were named part of "The Dirty Dozen" by the United Nations, targeting them as the "world's most dangerous chemicals." According to the UN, these chemicals "are among the most dangerous of all man-made products or wastes, causing death, disease and birth defects among humans and animals" and were singled out for "urgent action." Although the plant designated a Superfund and was put on EPA's national priority list in 1980, it was not

until 28 years later that the site was actually demolished.

You can read more about the issue on an official website that an activist group has put together at [www.Mission-Texas.com](http://www.Mission-Texas.com)

**Laura Perez | Producer**  
**Alma Libre Films**  
[www.almalibrefilms.com](http://www.almalibrefilms.com)  
[www.lauraperez.com](http://www.lauraperez.com)

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** LNR has been involved in the Mission struggle since 2004 and has past articles by Iris Rodriguez (Mission Texas Coalition, La Nueva Raza) available upon request.

## Patzin: Hot and Cold in Mexican Traditional Medicine

By **Patrisia Gonzales**

Patzin (Nahuatl for Respectworthy Medicine): a monthly feature on Indigenous medicine

Mexican Traditional Medicine (MTM) is often organized around an Indigenous system of diagnosis based on the balance of hot and cold states in the body. This duality reflects Indigenous cosmologies that are founded in ever-balancing conditions created by the dynamics of hot and cold, sweet and sour, male and female, acid and alkaline, wet and dry, and the interactions among the four elements of air, fire, earth and water.

This is also reflected in spiritual and medicinal teachings based on relationships that are masculine-feminine, solar-lunar, earth-sky, Earth-Moon, Earth-Venus. These conditions function to create balance through the tension and interaction of contrasting states of life that are

not dualistic but rather affects the whole system of the body and being.

Foods, elements, acts and illnesses have hot and cold properties. Sex, pregnancy and childbirth are hot. Sometimes children may need a limpia because they may get sick from receiving the heat of a couple who has recently had relations. Postpartum is considered cold, and therefore requires warming teas, vapors, herbs and foods. Like the period after birth, menstruation, menopause and miscarriage or termination of a pregnancy bring on cold states in the body, requiring warm foods and protection of the uterus, womb area and lower back. Walking barefoot allows for cold to enter the body through the feet and lower limbs, creating coldness, such as leg cramps and painful periods. Getting aire or airs in the back or other parts of the body that are vulnerable to aire also is part of the hot-cold paradigm.

Limpias or purification rites are administered based on whether a person needs cooling or hot elements. Some curanderos say that susto (fright, trauma or soul wound) is a cold illness, while others say it is hot. (This variation reflects the dynamic understanding that different peoples arrive at, particularly in Indigenous botany that does not seek to systematize knowledge for a general audience.) When susto leaves the body, the person can also go into a deep cold condition. Nahua curandera Doña Modesta says that extremely cold states actually bring on hot symptoms. For instance, hot flashes occur as a woman is going into a cold state of life during the Change. She may be more prone to back aches. Another example is the common cold which is of a cold nature but may become hot as a fever transpires. People sweat to "cool down" the fever and sweat out the microbes. Cold conditions are often treated

with herbs, massage, and the temezkal or Mexican adobe ceremonial sweatbath. However, cold can "mature" to the point that it is difficult to transform into a balanced state.

Certain foods and herbs are hot, cold or neutral or fresco, as Nahua partera Doña Filo terms it. Sometimes hot and cold herbs are combined to create a neutral or fresh pomade for a pregnant woman who does not need to be heated up but may need the relief that a hot herb can bring to sore muscles. Often hot is used to treat a cold condition but like treating like is also used, such as a fresh jalapeno that is used to treat a burn (Though I do not recommend you try this unless you know the proper application). Certain acts are hot and therefore we should refrain from quickly cooling down. For instance, after you garden or do massage, your hands are hot and should not get wet. After you have sex, you should not immediately step

barefoot onto a cold floor and take a shower. Allow your body's temperature to recalibrate. You can also cook based on the hot-cold principle. My family makes hot enchiladas and adds shredded lettuce to cool it down. During the summer, we eat lettuce, cucumbers, celery, parsley, all cooling foods that are grown during the peak of the summer heat. But in Texas, caldo is quite popular during the summer. Like chile, the hot soup allows us to sweat and, therefore, cool down. The list of foods placed in the hot-cold categories is too numerous to list. I suggest you ask your grandparents for their own hot-cold categories. Lo frio y lo caliente are dynamic processes of life.

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**BOOK REVIEW:**

### The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine

By **Ilan Pappé**

By **Jim Miles**  
[PalestineChronicle.com](http://PalestineChronicle.com)

*The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine. Ilan Pappé. Oneworld Publications, Oxford, England, 2006.*

Ilan Pappé's work *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine* places him in the forefront of the recent burst of excellent information that critically examines and condemns the Jewish-Zionist actions to eliminate not only the people of Palestine but also to eliminate their history culturally and geographically. Following on his previous well researched and readily accessible work *A History of Modern Palestine*, his latest work, focuses on the concept generated from the very earliest Zionist thought in the Nineteenth century, making the 'cleansing' of Palestinian territories a necessity for the survival of the Jewish state.

It is a history made personal. Pappé does not just recount the series of events, and the sequence they occurred in but makes the story become real through the views of Israeli individuals and the views of individual Palestinians. Israel has hidden its war criminals well, out in the open, blatant, the clear majority of their political leaders having served in the military in one capacity or another to facilitate the 'cleansing' of their desired

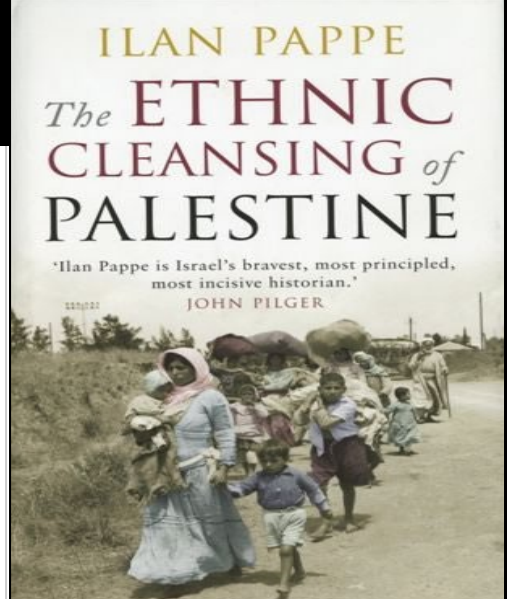
state. Using archival references from various Israeli sources as well as the personal diaries of those involved, in particular David Ben-Gurion, a personal encounter with the perpetrators of the genocide is created. That encounter displays a strong-willed double standard that accepted no interference with the ultimate goal of Eretz Israel for Jews only.

It is a history made personal on the Palestinian side, with stories in photos and anecdotes from the dispossessed population, stories of their life style before their evictions or murder and stories of the cultural geography of the many towns and villages that have been erased from both the physical and cultural geography of the larger area. The Jewish account is the false front expressed through the media, the story of a rugged band of individuals bringing greenness and fruition to a barren and desert land. It denies fully the pastoral and passive lifestyle of the Palestinian people who lived in many towns and villages surrounded with productive croplands and orchards. It denies the increasing wealth and modernization of the area that followed the conclusion of the Second World War, with many 'modern' civic infrastructures being brought forward to the Palestinian people. It denies the cultural achievements of the area, the particular forms of landholding and agriculture that

developed and were sustainable under varying conditions.

Ethnic cleansing is defined clearly and simply as "the expulsion by force in order to homogenize the ethnically mixed population of a particular region or territory." This definition is widely accepted across many incidents outside of Palestine and as such is recognized as well as a crime against humanity. Pappé writes "with a deep conviction" that this crime should "become rooted in our memory and consciousness" while at the same time being "excluded from the list of alleged crimes." [italics in original] What the world has been presented with creates a "deep chasm between reality and representation", an attempted forced amnesia about the actions taken by Jewish forces against the Palestinian population.

Prior to the 'war of independence' many factors had already played into the hands of the Jewish minority. The main feature was the British tacit and complicit support for the creation of the new Jewish state, not surprisingly as the Balfour Declaration had set the stage many years previously. Militarily, the British assisted with the training of the Haganah, the 'defense' force of the Jewish community both within Palestine and by providing valuable experience during the Second World War. During the 1936 revolt, "the British



had already destroyed the Palestinian leadership and its defense capabilities." During the first moments of the war, the British stood aside and allowed the Jewish forces to begin the ethnic cleansing, in some instances assisting actively in the process.

The UN played into the Jewish plan as well, with its lopsided proposed partitioning of Palestine giving the larger Palestinian population the minor portion of the land. From the Palestinian perspec-

(Continued on page 8)



# Why Isn't the Repealing of the Taft-Hartley Act part of the Presidential Debate?

By Lorenzo Cano

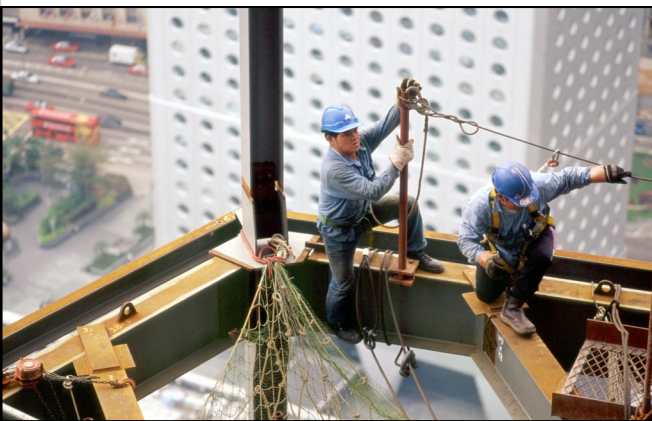
**(Houston, Texas)** – The Taft-Hartley Act has been federal law since 1947 and was passed despite a veto by then President Harry S. Truman who described the proposed law at that time as a “slave-labor” bill. Taft-Hartley (also called the Wagner Act) includes numerous amendments that prohibit the power of workers to organize effectively. Critics of the law have indicated that it infringes on the democratic and human rights of workers. It is considered a law intended to empower large corporate interests over the interests of workers and labor unions. Taft-Hartley is such an impediment for workers it is interesting that the repeal of this law has not been part of the Presidential debates up to now. One would think that this issue would be a major part of the Presidential debates and more prominent among the various political pundits and in the blogs covering the Presidential campaigns.

The Taft-Hartley Act has numerous anti-worker provisions described as “prohibited actions” or “unfair labor practices”. It is said that those that define the rules of the game win at the end. Taft-Hartley is a good example of this, although it goes against American workers. The following are a few examples:

### Prohibits secondary boycotts.

A secondary boycott is when workers go on strike and ask other union members throughout the country to help them by not shopping in stores that may sell the products that are made by the striking workers. For example, the workers of a blue jean clothing plant may ask consumers not to shop at a Wal-Mart where these very same clothing items are sold. According to workers this should not be prohibited by law in that it is part of the democratic process; It takes away a valuable tool for workers to more

affectively put pressure on abusive corporations. Before the passing of Taft-Hartley secondary boycotts were one of the most powerful ways for workers to negotiate, organize, and have a level playing field in the power relations with wealthy corporations.



Workers like these need to see the repeal of the Taft-Hartly Act.

### “Authorized states to enact so-called “right-to-work laws”.

Despite the name given to these laws, they inhibit the ability to build effective unions by creating a free-rider problem—workers can enjoy the benefits of union membership in a workplace without actually joining the union or paying union dues. Right-to-work laws increase employer leverage to resist unions and vastly decrease union membership, thus dramatically diminishing unions’ bargaining power.” (The Voice News, August 2, 2002

**Permits employers to petition for a union certification election** which undermines the ability of employees and labor unions to control the time and date of an election. It is important for workers and their unions to decide when to call for an election rather than the corporation that they work for.

### Expressly excluded supervisors from coverage under the act.

This allowed employers to fire supervisors engaging in pro union activities or those not supporting the corporation’s stance.

With the Taft-Hartley Act it is much easier for employers to fire workers illegally, particularly during labor organizing drives. The violation of the rights of workers can improve tremendously with the repeal of Taft-Hartley. President Truman was right when he vetoed this act in 1947. The future President of the United States must speak out as did Truman and bring an end to over 60 years of anti-worker legislation. This is more important now as we see workers entering low-wage service sector jobs and simultaneously losing purchasing power in the United States.

The Democratic Party should also place this issue on the agenda and work to eliminate it as part of the broader agenda of reform and change. Only 10 percent of non-governmental employees are union members. With the widening gap in incomes and wealth in the United States it would behoove many workers in the private sector to support elected officials in favor of eliminating the Taft-Hartley Act. The major question is will the Democratic Party, its candidates, and the Democratically controlled Congress have the will to speak out for the working men and women of this country or will they continue to look the other way in light of the thousands of dollars they too receive from the large corporate lobbyists.

## Murder and Cover-Up in Mexico: How the Cover-Up of Brad Will's Murder Smoothed Mega-Oil Play in Mexico

By John Ross

**Mexico City.** Flash back to October 27th, 2006. U.S. Indymedia photojournalist Brad Will is splayed out on a sidewalk in Oaxaca Mexico, mortally wounded by the pistoleros of rogue governor Ulisis Ruiz during tumultuous street battles in that southern city. His killers have never been prosecuted.

Now fast forward to this past January 10. Manlio Fabio Beltrones, the unctuous leader of the once-ruling (71 years) PRI party faction in the Mexican Senate, announces to a gaggle of reporters that the PRI is prepared to back President Felipe Calderon and his right-wing PAN in passing an "energy reform" package that would permit transnational corporations to generate 49 per cent of the nation's electricity and open PEMEX, the state petroleum monopoly expropriated from its Anglo-American owners in 1938 and nationalized by President Lazaro Cardenas, to such oil titans as Exxon, British Petroleum, and

Shell. Beltrones' personal preference to initiate the proposed "association of private capitals": Petrobras, the Brazilian national oil company which opened itself to private investment back in 1997 and which has extensive experience in deep water drilling.

**What is the connection between these two apparently unconnected events, the reader has a right to know.** Just this: the cover-up of Brad Wills' death smoothed the way for the PRI-PAN partnership to privatize PEMEX.

Although his killers were plainly identified as plain-clothes police on Ulisis's payroll, Wills' inconvenient death was ignored by then-president Vicente Fox despite demands by human rights and journalist protection organizations for a full investigation of the killing, one of 26 perpetrated by Ruiz's death squads between August and October of 2006. Fox's successor, Felipe Calderon, followed suit and stonewalled an inquiry into Wills' murder. Similarly, the U.S.

Embassy in Mexico never sought justice for a slain citizen despite the personal pleas of the dead man's family.

**Why such studied indifference?** Because holding Governor Ruiz, a prominent PRIista, accountable for the killing(s) would have upset the burgeoning alliance between the PRI and the PAN to ratify Calderon's legislative agenda, the most pertinent item of which was "energy reform" i.e. the privatization of PEMEX.

Embassy inaction regarding Brad Wills' murder followed the same logic. As U.S. ambassador, Bush crony Tony Garza is charged with representing U.S. interests in Mexico and Washington's interest in opening up Mexican oil to U.S. transnationals far outweighs its interest in bringing the killers of a freelance anarchist reporter to justice. The U.S. has long contemplated a North American Energy Alliance that would guarantee access to Mexican and Canadian reserves.

To this end, Washington has played an active role in facilitating the impending privatization of Petroleos Mexicanos. Over the past months, U.S. transnationals and their associates in government have orchestrated an extraordinary campaign to hoodwink Mexicans into swallowing the lie that PEMEX is hopelessly broken and must be opened to private capital forthwith for the salvation of the Fatherland.

Last July, ex-Federal Reserve czar Alan Greenspan was beamed into Mexico for a teleconference with the nation's most exalted business council to deliver an ultimatum: if PEMEX was not fixed quickly, the country faced fiscal crisis. Indeed, the petroleum giant (the 11th largest on the planet) generates 40 per cent of Mexico's total budget and 100 per cent of a social budget that keeps 70,000,000 Mexicans who live in and around the poverty line, in relative quiescence. **By "fixing" PEMEX, Greenspan meant privatizing it.**

It should be noted that Alan Greenspan is an expert on fiscal crises - his monetary policies just helped to tripwire such a crisis in his own country, the Sub-prime disaster.

The Greenspan game plan was echoed December 13 in a memo issued by the International Monetary Fund urgently counseling legislation to allow private capital into PEMEX before the government went broke. Garza's embassy chimed in the next day, warning of massive capital flight if the Mexican Congress did not pass Calderon's "energy reform" package. On December 19, The Economist, which ironically was founded on the fortune reaped by Anglo oil companies in Mexico that eventually became British Petroleum, opined that "the obvious solution to the disaster of PEMEX is to privatize." Finally, the U.S. Department of Energy delivered the death knell on January 9: the lack of investment in PEMEX's Exploration and Exploitation (PEP) division spelled energy catastrophe - not a good sign for Washington's North American Energy Alliance strategy. On January 10, the PRI came on board to back Calderon's "energy reform."

Despite the Jeremiads, the push for privatization has lost considerable steam globally. In fact, a moderate swing to nationalization seems to be in process. Amidst prognoses of irreparable damage to the Venezuelan economy, Hugo Chavez renationalized sectors of PDVSA, the state oil company, and ran a 12 per cent surge in domestic growth in 2007 in spite of it. Bolivia has renationalized natural gas production and Ecuador is on the brink of doing so. **The most successful renationalization has been in Putin's Russia where Gazprom and Yukos became major world players overnight.**

According to Mexican strategic resource writer Alfredo Jalife, 32 per cent of the world's petroleum supply is in the hands of private transnationals, 20 per cent is nationalized or in the process of being renationalized, and the rest is held by mixed state-private corporations.

But despite their exaggerated anguish at an energy meltdown if PEMEX is not privatized, the doomsayers do have a point: Petroleos Mexicanos is in deep doo-doo. Daily accidents such as the unquenchable fire that took 21 workers' lives on a Caribbean oil platform and contaminated surrounding waters last fall, pipeline bombings by the guerrilla Popular Revolutionary Army, and the failure to modernize infrastructure - no new refinery has been built in 20 years -

(Continued on page 10)

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(Continued from page 6)

tive they "were at the mercy of an international organization that appeared ready to ignore all the rules of international mediation", declaring a solution that "was both illegal and immoral."

A third factor that aided them greatly was the complicity and tactics of the Jordanians who wished to expand their own little empire in the making. While coveting the area of greater Israel, "the Zionist leadership was committed to their collusion with the Jordanians," who apparently never had much if any sympathy for the cause of Palestine. This collusion had the effect of "ensuring the ethnic cleansing operations" as it "neutralized the strongest army in the Arab world." Other Arab leaders provided much rhetoric but little in the way of military support from their properly enraged populace.

With an estimated 50,000 well-trained and well-equipped military force the cleansing began against what proved to be a passive Palestinian population and a militarily inactive and ineffective Arab defense force. The Palestinian villagers showed "no wish to fight" and rural Palestine "showed no desire to fight or attack, and was defenseless." The Jewish forces resorted to terror of various sorts - biological and chemical weapons, murder, rape, and theft of personal property.

From these beginnings in quick order, Pappé details the various elements of the ethnic cleansing. Villages are given life, with brief accounts of their culture and uniqueness; the people are given life with anecdotes about the savageness of events overwhelming them; the Israeli forces are given life, such as it was, in their barbaric actions and satisfaction with the manner in which the cleansing progressed. After the removal of the Palestinians, the ongoing destruction of their heritage is described, the looting of the empty houses and villages, the continued destruction of the housing and infrastructure, the legalized theft of farmland and the erasure of village sites. The over-riding purpose was to "pre-empt the threat of international sanctions" that could include the right of return, given that there was nowhere to return to.

Not only was the Palestinian culture physically destroyed, it was replaced "with a fabricated version of another" culture, supposedly the long history of Jewish settlement in the region. The propaganda that the Jews were "making the desert bloom" and were acting ecologically to "keep the country green" was used effectively to mask the physical destruction of the villages. Ironically, that process relied somewhat on the native cultivation that had been ongoing for centuries within the Palestinian agricultural community. Finally, Pappé recognizes the various peace proposals and initiatives as being means for avoiding any final settlement, allowing the cleansing to continue under the guise of the settlement policy that developed after the 1967 war. Further along, the events of 9/11 allowed the Jewish state to identify the population not as Palestinians but as Muslims and terrorists. This created more antagonism towards them, at the same time continuing the support of the local population for the process of 'removal', a more recently used euphemism for ethnic cleansing, but also a throwback to the original Zionist plans of a century ago.

To recognize their moral responsibility for the terror and illegality of the ethnic cleansing perpetrated against the Palestinians would require the Israelis to deny "their own status of victimhood", forcing them to recognize "they have become the mirror image of their own worst nightmare." A final description of Israel as essentially a failed state, with high social violence, a declining standard of living and a reliance on American military and financial support, leads to questions about the future. Unless Israel can stop its Zionist inspired plan for complete ethnic cleansing and accept a more pluralistic Judaism, then the risk of escalating conflict in the region, from Lebanon through Syria and Iran, is imminent.

The recognition of the nakba, the disaster of ethnic cleansing, is a necessary first step towards a successful resolution of the conflict. Succinct, clearly written, sometimes emotionally overwhelming in its personalized presentation, The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine should be put forward as a document serving as a prime witness to the war crimes and the crimes against humanity of the destruction of Palestinian society and cultural geography by the Jewish state.

# Positive Representation in Education



## ¡No to SB 1108! Taking Away our Children's Identity. Harming our Students' Success

### What this bill does

\* Will not allow student cultural or ethnic organizations to meet on any school campuses, universities, community colleges or charter schools within the district.

\* All curriculum materials and course syllabi will be required to be approved by Superintendent Tom Horne, who has proudly proclaimed his opposition to both Ethnic and Women's Studies

\* Takes away tax funding from public schools which sponsor Ethnic and Cultural Studies Programs

\* This bill is an attempt to limit the multiculturalism that is the basis of American Society, speaking broadly about the "American democracy or western civilization," without clearly defining what would fall within this broad context

### What we MUST do:

Contact your local Arizona  
Senate and House  
representatives  
and demand that they  
VOTE NO on SB 1108

Call the AZ Speaker of the House, as well as your local representatives!

AZ Speaker of the House Jim Weiers: (602) 926-5894

AZ Senate Info Desk (520) 398-6000

AZ House Info Desk (520) 398-6000

Sponsored by: Tucson High MEChA, Catalina High MEChA, Pueblo High MEChA, Pima Community College MEChA, Tucson High Raza Studies Alumni Association Social Justice Education Project, Coalición de Derechos Humanos, TUSD Mexican American/ Raza Studies



## Arizona legislation will outlaw MEChA and Mexican-American studies

Article in *La Voz de Aztlan*

[http://www.aztlan.net/arizona\\_targets\\_mecha.htm](http://www.aztlan.net/arizona_targets_mecha.htm)

The Appropriations Committee of the Arizona House of Representatives has approved provisions to a "Homeland Security" measure that would essentially destroy the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA) and Mexican-American study programs in the state's public schools, colleges and universities.

The anti-Mexican provisions to SB1108 were approved yesterday and the bill is now scheduled for a vote by the full House. The provisions would withhold funding to schools whose courses "denigrate American values and the teachings of European based civilization." One section of SB1108 would bar public schools, community colleges and universities from allowing organizations to operate on campus if they are "based in whole or in part on race-based criteria," a provision Rep. Russell Pearce said is aimed at MEChA. Pearce is a Republican and the

Chairman of the Appropriations Committee out of Mesa, Arizona.

According to Chairman Pearce, SB1108 would also bar teaching practices that "overtly encourage dissent from American values" such as Raza Studies at the Tucson Unified School District. In addition, SB1108 mandates the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to confiscate books and teaching materials that are deemed anti-American. Chairman Pearce said some of the teaching materials amount to "sedition" by suggesting that the current border between the United States and Mexico disappear with La Raza taking over the American Southwest. One book that would be confiscated mentioned by Pearce is "Occupied America - A History of Chicanos" by Professor Rodolfo Acuña.

Visit this link to view the bill:

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/48leg/2r/proposed/h.1108rp2.doc.htm>

## TAKE ACTION NOW

Support the communities and organizations who are resisting this racist bill.

Please take a minute to sign these two petitions:

### SAVE RAZA STUDIES CAMPAIGN:

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/save-raza-studies>

### UFW ACTION CAMPAIGN

<http://www.ufwaction.org/campaign/sb1108?rk=n11pYBFqzpPrW>



# I.C.E. out of Travis County

The Travis County Sheriff's Office is expanding its collaboration with U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) by offering an investigative office.



Tell Sheriff Greg Hamilton that you want I.C.E. out of Travis County

Mail: Travis County Sheriff's Office Attn: ICE Comments P.O. Box 1748 Austin, Texas 78767

Email: roger.wade@co.travis.tx.us Phone: (512) 854-9770

**LNR is in need of donations!**

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**<http://www.notexasborderwall.blogspot.com/>**

**VISIT: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/ice-out-of-travis-county-jails-now>**

*(Continued from page 2)*

administrative positions is not only related to academic colonialism as practiced by many Anglos but is also complicated by the politics of black – brown relations and the effort by these two groups to empower their respective communities. This has been recognized by both groups as they compete for these types of jobs. Ironically in the Garcia case, three Anglos supported Juan Garcia but the votes were not enough to convince the others on the Board of Trustees. After strong criticism by the selection committee, members of TACHE, and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the College of the Mainland Board of Trustees held back the hiring of the New York applicant, Sandra Holst, who also happens to be an African American. Hiring practices of African American, Mexican American and Anglo decision-makers do not always pose conflicts among these groups. Many individuals from these groups often see above and beyond race and ethnicity. Nonetheless, it would be naïve to think that conflicts do not occur between African Americans and Mexican Americans, just as it would be naïve to think that white racism and white privilege have been totally eliminated within colleges and universities.

## **Much Needs to Be Done**

There is much to be done if the number and percent of Mexican Americans are to significantly increase at state colleges, universities and community colleges. The presence of Chicana and Chicano professors is indispensable to the proper education of all students in higher education just as the presence of African Americans and other historically oppressed people (Native Americans) is indispensable. Mexican Americans serve as role models and usually bring their unique experiences into the classroom not often

heard by students. The strength of our colleges and universities is related to the diversity of ideas, positions taken, and the interpretations of knowledge conveyed to students. The lack of Chicano representation within these institutions short-changes students of all backgrounds but is particularly devastating to other Chicanos and Chicanas because information they receive more than likely comes from a more *mainstream* point of view that often fails to capture the reality and diversity of the Mexican American experience in the United States.

## **Recommendations**

The following are ideas that can be undertaken to increase the number and percent of Mexican Americans in colleges and universities: Several of these have come out of the TACHE State conferences over the past years.

**1)** Meet regularly with the Chancellors and Presidents about how to improve the representation of Mexican American higher level administrators/professionals and full-time professors (tenure track professors at research universities). **2)** Meet with Deans and the Chairs of individual departments including the provosts of respective institutions of higher learning as well as the trustees and board of regents; be cordial but firm in the need to increase Chicana and Chicano representation, **3)** Demand that universities grow their own Chicana and Chicano doctoral students in all of the departments within the universities including the natural sciences, mathematics, business, etc. Individual departments can do this by searching for strong undergraduate students within these departments and getting the university to provide the necessary funding for graduate fellowships and scholarships, **4)** Develop student leaders through

leadership retreats, Chicano student conferences, symposiums, etc. **5)** Work with community-based organizations, public schools, and civil rights organizations in developing a media campaign to highlight the under representation of Mexican Americans in higher education, **6)** Work closely with the state legislature to support funding for these kinds of programs with state mandates calling for a more diverse faculty and administration in Texas colleges and universities, and **7)** Organize conferences over academic colonialism and how these conditions can be overcome in relationship to the Mexican American community; conferences should also be held in relationship to the problematic of higher education of historically oppressed groups in the United States **8)** Advertise (and create) data banks of Mexican American professors and administrators and create new sources of information concerning job openings in higher education. **9)** Join the **Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE)** in order to make this an even stronger organization that can make the necessary changes for the increased representation of Chicanos and Latinos in Texas colleges and universities, **10)** Work to get Chicanos hired as Associate Vice -Presidents of universities. This can be a very effective road towards becoming a President and/or Chancellor over time.

*Lorenzo Cano is the associate director at the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Houston and is the President of the Gulf Coast Chapter of the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education. He has been an activist for many years dedicating himself towards the empowerment of Chicanos and has advocated on behalf of Mexican and Latino immigrants in the United States. He can be e-mailed at: [Gallista2010@yahoo.com](mailto:Gallista2010@yahoo.com)*



# La Nueva Raza Needs Your Support

La Nueva Raza News is in need of your support.

We are a volunteer operation but are in need of financial contributions to keep this platform alive and running. We receive an average of 250,000+ hits a month from people who are steadily following the communities' efforts against injustice in its various fronts. We also have a newspaper (printed quarterly) which helps connect those of us who cannot access computers or the internet.

Please show your support for La Nueva Raza News by sending us a donation. Please keep in mind that a donation to La Nueva Raza News is a donation to all the grassroots community efforts we help promote. Our goal with LNR is to help amplify and connect the voices of our peoples in battle and to document the movimiento for the future generations.

**Please visit [www.LaNuevaRaza.org](http://www.LaNuevaRaza.org) to send your donation.**

The beauty in La Nueva Raza's online platform is that you have the ability to be active in the community from home! While this is no replacement for frontlines grassroots organizing, it forms a powerful part of the movimiento when all these efforts are combined.

We are ecstatic about the overwhelming support we've received from across the country. As a volunteer organization, we've reached a point where we see the need to become a more formalized operation to serve your needs. But in order to build a solid foundation, we need your support. Let's work together to combat the injustices we face in our comunidades. We can do this. Si se puede.

Please show your support for La Nueva Raza by contributing to our efforts at the link on the top of our home page.

Dandoles gracias for the love and support you've shown us and in solidarity,

**La Nueva Raza News Staff**  
[www.LaNuevaRaza.org](http://www.LaNuevaRaza.org)

*(Continued from page 7)*  
is stark evidence of corporate corrosion.

Despite 100 weak dollar-a-barrel prices (Mexican light crude tops out around \$80 USD these days) that generated \$2.3 billion in enhanced revenues during the first ten months of 2007, lack of refining capacity forces PEMEX to shell out \$5 billion Yanqui dollars each year to import 40 per cent of its gasoline needs - which is to say that for every \$1 of the increased revenues PEMEX takes in, two bucks go out for gas.

**Calderon's solution? The so-called "Gasolinazo", the President's gift to the driving public on January 6, the Day of the Kings (Mexican Christmas), that will increase prices at the pump incrementally each month indefinitely.** Increased transportation costs are expected to impact food prices across the board.

But the bad news doesn't stop there. The big battle over Mexican oil is really a battle over crumbs. If U.S. Department of Energy calculations are on target, Mexico only has 12.9 billion barrels in proven reserves, depletion of which could turn PEMEX into a net importer by 2018 if no new petroleum sources are uncorked before then - although Mexico is the sixth largest international oil producer, it has only 1 per cent of the planet's proven reserves.

With the Cantarell field in the Sound of Campeche, the magnum star of offshore production that has motored PEMEX since the 1990s, just about tapped out, the clock is ticking. To exacerbate this doomsday scenario, Mexico is pumping out what it has left at a record clip to capitalize on the booming barrel price - PEMEX now produces about 3.2 million barrels daily, fully 1.7 million of which are sent up the Gulf to the U.S., an export platform that is accelerating depletion and subsidizing Washington's wars around the world.

Given this bleak picture, most experts concur that the only place PEMEX can go to drill for new reserves is deep water, five miles down in the Gulf of Mexico. The only catch is that Petrolios Mexicanos does not have deep water drilling capacity. That's where Petrobras, as contemplated in the PRI/PAN privatization scheme, would come in handy.

**What exactly constitutes privatization?** Auctioning off the corporation from the top to the highest bidder or selling it off piece by piece from the bottom? During 35 years of oil boom and bust, PEMEX has systematically dismantled its Exploration & Exploitation division and handed it over to transnational subcontractors, emphasizes Autonomous National University researcher John Saxe- Fernandez who heads up the UNAM's Strategic Resources Institute. At the top of Saxe-Fernandez's list of prominent subcontractors is Halliburton with 159 PEMEX contracts since 2000 worth \$1.2 billion USD - Halliburton moved into Mexico in the 1990s during the development of Cantarell when Dick Cheney was CEO.

But subcontracting out choice contracts goes back generations. George Bush Sr partnered with PEMEX director Jorge Serrano (who later went to jail) in Zapata Offshore, a drilling outfit that operated in the Sound of Campeche in the 1970s. Today, virtually every major transnational driller has a piece of the Mexican action.

A recent La Jornada investigation by energy reporter Israel Rodriguez revealed the signing of a series of secret "pre-privatization" covenants to exploit Mexican fields with Shell (the mysterious "Project Margarita"), Exxon, Petrobras, Nexen (Canada), and StatsOil (Norway.) The contracts, accessed through Mexico's Freedom of Information Act, contained clauses whose contents cannot be divulged for the next five years.

The PRI/PAN energy scam is currently being hatched in the Mexican Senate's Energy Commission chaired by Francisco Labastida, a former secretary of energy (as is Calderon) and the PRI's losing presidential candidate in 2000. Those who have gotten a peek at the details label the energy reform legislation "privatization lite" with foot-in-the-door measures that will allow for the "association of private capital" in such areas as pipelines and refineries. **The legislation stops short of amending the Mexican Constitution's Article 27, which stipulates that the petroleum belongs to the nation.**

Skirting constitutional amendment will deny ammo to AMLO - leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who many believe was swindled out of the presidency in 2006 and who has emerged as the leader of the fight against privatization. This January, Lopez Obrador announced formation of a cross-party Movement In Defense of Petroleum whose battle cry is "Mexico is not for sale!"

The ex-presidential candidate proposes that PEMEX can raise sufficient revenues without opening itself up to private investment by simply cleaning house - the corporation has long been riddled with corruption, bribe-taking, kickbacks and rampant dirty dealing. For decades, the PRI siphoned off millions to finance its electoral campaigns - in 2000, \$110 million USD in PEMEX funds were funneled through the gangster-ridden petroleum workers union into Labastida's campaign coffers, the so-called "PEMEXgate" scandal.

AMLO has also long advocated the construction of three new refineries to offset the escalating cost of importing gasoline which he tags "an absurd situation" for the world's sixth largest oil producer.

## poetas insurgentes

seeking  
poetry and art for  
upcoming xican@ anthology

- - -

This is a call out to the entire Xican@ art community of all ages and backgrounds for the submission of poetry and visual art pieces. We are looking for work that will be medicine for our community and give strength to our people. Currently we are working on an anthology that contains a compilation of poetry and visual art.

We are interested in sowing the seeds of beauty in the gardens of our peoples. Help us water these seeds with your energy & will so that they may bloom into beautiful flowers. Please send us movimiento poetry & art so that we may give sustenance to our community through these flowers.

**Please submit poetry and artworks to:**  
[poetasinsurgentes@riseup.net](mailto:poetasinsurgentes@riseup.net)

**Check us out on myspace at:**  
<http://www.myspace.com/poetasinsurgentes>

In the opposite corner, Lopez Obrador's archrival Felipe Calderon insists that opening PEMEX to private capital will somehow make Petrolios Mexicanos "more Mexican" ("more productive, more competitive, more Mexicano.")

"To hand over our natural resources to foreign powers is an act of treason," AMLO responds, quoting the man who expropriated and nationalized Mexico's petroleum in 1938, President Lazaro Cardenas. Lopez Obrador's defense of Mexican oil will be a first test for the grassroots base the leftist has been cultivating since the tainted 2006 election and is sure to frame the next round of his ongoing bout with Calderon and his allies. AMLO, who in the past has been able to mobilize millions, is calling for nationwide protests this March 18th, the 70th anniversary of Cardenas's expropriation.

**Petroleum is a patriotic fluid here.** Expropriation of the oil industry from the "extranjeros" (foreigners, literally "strangers") was the high point of revolutionary nationalism in Mexico. But in a globalized world, the coming battle around the privatization of PEMEX is not just a Mexican matter anymore and, indeed, has far-reaching implications for the future of neo-liberalism in the Americas.

Sprawled in the Oaxaca street, the life blood leaking from him, the last thing Brad Will could have imagined is that in death he would become an accidental pawn to the transnationals' ambitions to privatize Mexican oil. Tragically, in the end, that may be Wills' most significant legacy.

**John Ross** can be reached at [johnross@igc.org](mailto:johnross@igc.org)

SITE: <http://www.counterpunch.org/ross01272008.html>



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## ¡Que Vivan L@s Blogger@s!

Just wanted to send a quick SHOUT OUT to the blogs out there in *cyberlandia* that are taking action and spreading knowledge.

### Border Ambassadors

<http://www.borderambassadors.com/>

### CENSORED

<http://www.bsnoorrell.blogspot.com/>

### Column of the Americas

[web.mac.com/columnoftheamericas/iWeb/Site/Welcome.html](http://web.mac.com/columnoftheamericas/iWeb/Site/Welcome.html)

### Dos Centavos

<http://dos-centavos.blogspot.com/>

### Edinburg Politics

<http://www.edinburgpolitics.com/>

### Freedom Ambassadors

<http://www.freedomambassadors.com/>

### Latina Lista

<http://www.latinalista.net/>

### Maiz Centeotl Chicomecoatl

<http://maizcentoteotlchicomecoatl.blogspot.com/>

### XicanoPwr

<http://xicanopwr.com/>

## Are Immigration Authorities Going After School Children Now?

By **Amanda Martinez**

New American Media

<http://www.alternet.org/story/84718/>

Editor's Note: Immigration raids near schools in Berkeley and Oakland have sent waves of panic in the communities and may keep undocumented students from attending class, writes NAM education reporter Amanda Martinez.

OAKLAND, Calif. - Berkeley High senior Chase Stern said he was taking an Advanced Placement test May 6, when he noticed that his classmates were fidgeting in their seats and seemed distracted.

He soon found out that the Latino students were receiving text messages and phone calls from family members, warning them that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers were nearby, and that they should be cautious and find their way home because family members could not pick them up.

Scores of undocumented parents began to panic as early as 7:30 a.m. May 6, as word got around that ICE vehicles were parked near schools in East Oakland and South Berkeley.

Parent liaison Isela Barbosa said she was swamped with phone calls all day. "Parents were so afraid to come to the school, they called family members and neighbors, whoever had papers, to pick up their children."

A community member contacted Mark Coplan, Berkeley Unified School District's public information officer to tell him that a Latino family from South Berkeley had been detained at a house

near Russell Street, and that neighbors had spotted ICE vehicles near school areas.

By noon, the district had received so many calls from concerned parents that they set up an automated voice message system, assuring parents that there was no way they would allow ICE officers to pick up students from school campuses. These messages were sent out both in English and in Spanish.

At about the same time, Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) officials were receiving similar calls from concerned parents and community members that ICE agency vehicles had been spotted near four Oakland schools, including Esperanza Elementary, where parents say they saw agents parked on International Blvd, 98th, 95th, and San Leandro Boulevard, a four block radius surrounding the school.

OUSD officials said they were hesitant to communicate with parents, so instead sent out e-mails to all school district staff about what was happening and reminding them that the school district's commitment was to educate all students, documented or otherwise. The e-mail also advised staff not to facilitate any immigration enforcement actions.

As word of the presence of ICE agents in the neighborhood spread, Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums rushed over to Esperanza Elementary School, where a number of parents and community members had gathered.

Addressing them, the Mayor called the situation the "the ugly side of government."

He labeled the ICE actions "inappropriate and unnecessary" and reiterated that children needed education, not harassment. "There should be no raids in Oakland," he said.

"As a sanctuary city," Dellums said, "we're all in union. We don't want this type of intimidation. Immigrants are human beings, and need to be dealt with respect."

Oakland Vice Mayor Larry Reid, who also showed up at the school, said there was no warning about the ICE raids. "ICE just rolls in and tells our police department after the fact," he said. "The students are upset and crying. The school's administration said some of the kids are very shook up."

ICE spokeswoman Virginia Kice said that the agency is mindful of the sensitivities associated with schools. She said there was no truth to the reports that ICE was targeting schools on this day, and that the two ICE fugitive operations teams based in the Bay Area go out virtually every day seeking immigrant fugitives.

She confirmed that on the morning of May 6, ICE officers arrested four immigration violators who were from Mexico, and were living at a residence in Berkeley. A fifth person was arrested at a residence in Oakland, she said, noting that all five have been released, pending immigration hearings.

Sara Nuno of the Family and Community Office of the OUSD dismissed ICE's assertion that there was no targeting of any schools. "They are targeting schools and we are watching them do it," she asserted.

Ellen Murry, who had come to the school to pick up her grandnephew, said that she believed these types of government actions hurt all students, not just the undocumented ones. She said that if students stayed away from school out of fear, it could impact the school district's income, the bulk of which comes from student attendance.

Troy Flint, communications officer of OUSD, pointed out that such raids distracted students who were taking the state standardized test. He assured students that the OUSD would do everything it could to allow them to finish taking the tests.

Parents and local groups, including the Alameda Labor Council, sent out more than 900 e-mails letting parents know of what was taking place.

One parent liaison, who helped to make phone calls throughout the day to concerned parents, said he thought the fear of deportation was serious. If parents sought his advice, he said, he would tell them to keep their children at home, even though the OUSD has assured them that the students would be protected.

NAM reporter Pete Micek contributed to this report.

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Extracted from **Maiz Centeotl Chicomecoatl**  
<http://maizcentoteotlchicomecoatl.blogspot.com/>





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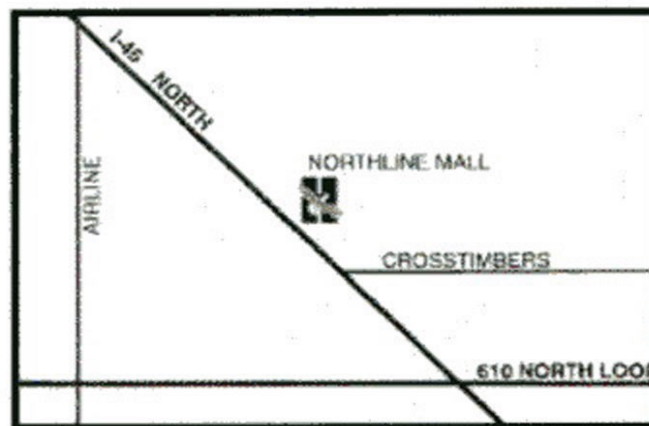
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