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McFarland USA 2

The Rest Of the Story



Left to Right> Johnny Samaniego, Ruben Ozuna, Rudy Ballardo, Rudy Cavazos, Jose Perezchica, Jim white, Joel Lopez, Gerardo Soto, Jose Galvan, Amador Ayon (girls head coach now).



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Felix Alvarado

We enter a political season as never before. Eyes are now focused not on politicians but on judges. The recent passing of Judge Antonin Scalia has created havoc in the Supreme Court and on the political scene. President Obama has the responsibility of submitting a candidate to the Senate for confirmation. Ideologically the SCOTUS was divided 5 to 4 in favor of Republicans. Now it is 4-4 until the new judge is named and confirmed. The Senate is now controlled by Republicans. They can delay and stall the nomination until a new president is elected hoping that a Republican gets elected. Of course there is nothing to guarantee that a Republican will be the next POTUS. It could be Democrat Hilary or Non-Democrat Sanders. It is a gamble Republicans are willing to take. This is probably the most important responsibility of the President. Supreme Court justices are appointed for life. We do not need a justice with an extreme ideological position.

Yes this is election season and you need to be thinking of whom you want to support. There are many local elections that affect you much more than the presidential election. Local politicians are the ones that connive ways to take your money in the form of taxes, tolls or fees. They also make laws or change laws regarding every aspect of your life. Yes. Local politicians affect your life much more than politicians in Washington.

We support Dr. Scribner's efforts to improve education in the FWISD. Change may not be easy for some but it is necessary. With less tax dollars districts must look at how and where they spend taxpayer dollars. We must get more bang for our buck.

Vote. There is no other way to put it. Get all your family and all your friends to go vote. Sal Espino Jr. shows us how difficult it is to affect change. Change happens in the ballot box. Vote.

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Racism From Washington To Weatherford

By Felix Alvarado

I hear so many immigrant Latinos tout the greatness of American and how it truly is the land of opportunity. Some come hear educated others come to get their education here. They become very successful professionals or entrepreneurs. Yes. American is great.

Yet it was not always that way. It is hard to imagine that blatant racism once existed against Mexicans. Even in the halls of Congress. It extended to the printed media. It was open carry time for racism.

Here are two examples of what it was like to be Mexican late 1890's and the beginning of the 1900's century:

Washington Jan 7, 1905

In the US Senate chamber: (During deliberations to admit Arizona to the union.)

.....During the course of Bard's speech he was interrupted by Mr. Tillman who said he wanted to make an appeal for "White supremacy in Arizona".and to subject the white people of Arizona to the domination of Mexicans and "greasers" which he opposed. Extracted From the Weatherford Weekly Herald.

(Train bringing in Mexicans to work on the coal mines) "...having on board thirty-two Mexican miners for the Rock Creek (Parker County no longer there.) coal mines...they were "greasers one and all." The Texas Miner, June 16, 1894.

According to those that practiced racism it was protected speech under the 5th Amendment. The Civil Rights Act made racism go concealed. For those of us that felt the full impact of racism the 5th Amendment left a foul taste in our mouth. To be called every racial slur in existence is not enjoyable. Yes, we ate crow for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Thanks to the Civil Rights Act the menu changed.

Then comes Donald Trump speaking of Mexicans and Muslims. I find this offensive campaign rhetoric. I do not expect that racism will be obliterated in my lifetime or that of my grandchildren or great-grandchildren. America faces enormous challenges in the future. To overcome these challenges is going to require that we unite as a nation as never before. We are no longer the only pit bull in the yard. There other pit bulls that are younger and getting stronger.

When it comes to racism perhaps it is best to follow the advice "let sleeping dogs lie", Mr. Trump.

Ps. I am a proud American of My Mexican descent.

The Divide Between Migrants Living In Texas

By Juan Ramon Govea

During the 19th and early 20th centuries almost a half-century after the annexation of Texas in 1845, the flow of Hispanics entering were barely a trickle. In fact, there was a significant migration in the *other* direction according to Times Magazine's Julia Young whom is currently researching Mexican immigration to the U.S. during the 1920s. According to Young, during the 1890s, new industries in the U.S. Southwest — especially mining and agriculture — attracted Mexican migrant laborers. As the number of different ethnicities from different parts of the world migrated to Texas, Mexicans were sometimes said to have certain positive qualities that made them "better" labor immigrants than the other groups.

As of now there is a negative migration rate to Mexico. But there are still migrations to Texas from Mexico whom have moved to the United States of America, but Hispanics from Mexico migrating to Texas might not be welcomed by their own cultural dialect and cultural traditions. There are several districts of Mexico whose residence may be foreign to those from the Eastern to the Western and Northern to the Southern parts. In 2000 approximately 20 million American residents identified themselves as either Mexican, Mexican-Americans or of Mexican origin, making it the sixth most cited ancestry of all US residents. The National Institute of Statistics and Geography forecasted in 2000 that about eight million Mexican-born individuals live in the United States of America. That is 8.7% of the total Mexican population.

In that same year, the Institute stated that the states with the greatest number of emigrants to the United States were Jalisco 793), Michoacán (165,502) and Guanajuato (163,338), with the total number of emigrants being 1,569,157. The great majority of these were men. Approximately 30% of emigrants come from rural communities. That same year, 260,650 emigrants returned to Mexico.

Many Mexicans can't speak fluent English and studies show that their ability to speak English doesn't improve drastically whilst they live in the US. This is largely due to them living in closed communities of other Mexican immigrants which reduces their need to assimilate with America. Just as well, the different Mexican dialect spoken in different regions of Mexico can in turn, create tension between migrants and locals, which in extreme cases, can lead to segregation, crime and violence.

In the following months of the Nuestra Voz publication these topics of segregation between the recent Mexican immigrants to Texas and those whom have been accustomed to Texan culture will be studied through interviews of different sources who can justify these differences, which do not enable productive social outcomes for those living as migrants to Texas from those Hispanics who now have to share cultural differences with their new neighbors.

Prudence Sanchez, J.D.

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MCFARLAND USA, THE REST OF THE STORY:

JOEL LOPEZ WAS AGE 7 WHEN MCFARLAND HIGH SCHOOL WON ITS FIRST TITLE.

“I really knew nothing about McFarland’s success or their first title. I just knew I loved to compete but football was my sport. Mr. Lopez and I were discussing the history surrounding the story and the quite good, inspiring, exciting movie, McFarland, USA. Ruben Ozuna, McFarland High coach Jim White’s assistant, got Joel Lopez involved in running. Although not portrayed in the movie about the Southern California school and Jim White, Mr. Ozuna invited 8th grader Joel to compete in an annual relay race in Lake Tahoe. This was in the summer of 1993. And compete, Joel did. He went on to McFarland High, where he won numerous awards, such as All-League Runner, All-Valley, Most Valuable, among others, and he was the athlete with the highest GPA. I then asked Mr. Lopez about his relationship with the now legendary coach Jim White, portrayed in the movie by Kevin Costner. He noted that in movie Mr. White rode around in a what looked like a lowrider or for sure a kids bike, it was a regular beach cruiser, it became a tradition for the team to chip in and by him a new one every year. “He was like a father figure to me. My greatest memory of him as a runner was at my McFarland Senior Banquet, when he called me his friend. This meant more to me than

any award or championship.” Mr. Lopez said he spent a lot of time taking care of Mr. White’s house, feeding his chickens and watering his lawn, when he was out of town. “I felt he trusted me and that meant the world to me,” Mr. Lopez said. And now their relationship has come full circle. Joel Lopez is McFarland’s head cross country and track coach. It’s almost like a son taking over the family business from dad. Mr. Lopez’s feelings have not changed much; Mr. White remains a mentor and a friend. Mr. White now retired spends his time speaking around the country about how relationships contribute to success. Mr. Lopez admitted that his coaching style is much like Mr. White’s. “I challenge my runners to give me their best through positive reinforcement. I treat them all as individuals,” Mr. Lopez said. “I try to have a real relationship with each runner; I treat them much like I would my own children. “McFarland’s winning has resulted in the team being moved up to Division 5 status, for much larger schools than McFarland. It translates into McFarland playing teams from schools with five times the student population of McFarland. The reasoning behind this required redistricting, as we would call it in Texas, seems too simple: McFarland wins too often! Mr. Lopez’s winning teams have led to him being dubbed Coach of the Year several times in the last seven years. “At times it feels like a David versus Goliath but our team is up for the challenge” Joel said. Although Mr. White has continued to be a friend and role model, another person has come to be like Mr. Lopez’s big brother - “and a role model to our whole team,” Joel Lopez said. That someone is Mr. Ruben Ozuna. If we asked him for anything, and he

knew it would have a positive effect on us, he would never deny us,” Mr. Lopez said.

Mr. Ozuna was one of the original runners on the team, starting in the early 80s, not 1987 as portrayed in the movie. Mr. Ozuna went on to become Mr. White’s right hand man. But when asked by movie producers if he wanted to be portrayed in movie, Mr. Ozuna said, “No.” I believe that speaks volumes about Mr. Ozuna’s character and what’s truly in his heart. He’s not unlike many of the silent heroes in our own community. Clearly, Mr. Lopez, his staff and, of course, his athletes have continued McFarland/White/Ozuna’s winning tradition, not unlike that portrayed in the movie. How does Mr. Lopez’s students feel about the movie? “They were excited and proud, all positives. As for me, I was also proud,” he said. “It also made me nervous and put more pressure on us to succeed.” The McFarland-area community voice a lot of pride, and the community has had something of an invasion of tourists since the movie’s release. Mr. Lopez said about 40 percent of the movie was shot on location, such as scenes on the track practice field, at the carwash and the store, a block from Mr. Lopez’s mother’s home. He said all the visiting actors and Disney movie-making personnel treated everyone in the McFarland area with respect. Many of the actors came to the school and spoke to Mr. Lopez’s classes; Mr. Lopez doesn’t just coach; he teaches biology and has taught English language development. The actors who portrayed Danny and Victor in the movie were former students and runners for McFarland, in 2011 and 2012. Mr. Lopez was offered a part in the movie, but the offer came during track season. So he, not unlike

his immediate predecessor, Mr. Ozuna, chose his team over the bright lights of Hollywood. Coach Ozuna is now teaching PE in Middle School and spending as much time as he can with his own kids. Some of Mr. Lopez’s coaching assistants and some McFarland runners at the time of filming were hired as extras in the movie. Mr. Lopez has taught all the subjects in the middle school curriculum during his 16 years of coaching and teaching. His teaching philosophy mirrors his approach to coaching: Build an effective, trusting, honest relationship first and then teaches the general concepts and the details. The student and the runner come first; then come the running and/or the academic subject. “The greatest lesson Mr. White taught me was have a personal relationship with each individual, and all else will fall into place,” Mr. Lopez said. Coach Lopez still has ties with all involved in McFarland’s success in addition Johnny Samaniego and David Diaz are his Compadres. In closing I decided to get a lot more insight on Mr. Lopez’s thinking, so I asked him the following questions;

What do you think is the most important issue effecting our community’s progress?

“The ability for our community to work together as a whole”

What would you say to youth struggling to stay in school?

“Find something you love or someone you look up to and spend some time with them” Learn there are ways to get involved in positive activities” Take a chance on the good stuff.”

What would you say to parents?

“Provide as much positive reinforcement as you can, spend quality time with your kids, have a lunch or dinner date with your kids and ask them, how they can be of help.

“In closing Mr. Lopez said “Success comes in many forms. It’s not necessarily measured by how much money you make or how many championships you win. It’s all about relationship one shares with each other, It always brings out the best in us” (Joel Lopez has been married to his wife Isela his High School Sweetheart for 18 years and they have 4 daughters Grace, Sarah, Emily and Joelle and he counts them as his biggest supporters)

Coach Lopez and his McFarland team will be coming to Arlington to compete. Details on the schedule will be reported here as the information becomes available.



North Texas Achievers

Estudiantes Sobresalientes

Magazine

Reorganization of Fort Worth ISD

You may have heard the news. FWISD is going under construction. Our new Superintendent hit the ground listening. He heard what he suspected...that we are too top heavy. The Board approved his request to cut the Cabinet down from 20 people to a new Leadership Team of 10. The move will save the school district roughly \$1.3 million a year. We will be flattening out the organization and pushing resources out to the schools that are in desperate need.

An exciting part of this move is the creation of an Equity and Excellence Department. Dr. Scribner knows FWISD is Good, but we want to be Great. The first step is to speak openly and honestly about the Achievement Gaps, hiring practices, curriculum, and district trainings. The challenges we face will require courageous conversations. An Equity and Excellence Department will be tasked with addressing those challenges.

FWISD is doing great things in collaboration with parents and community.

1. Parent University has expanded to 7 other schools which include Rosemont Elementary, Diamond-Hill Elementary, and WJ Turner. Manuel Jara Elementary had 90 parents involved this past academic school year.
2. North Side High School hosted the biggest Noche de Ciencia in Fort Worth by hosting over 150 students, 60 parents, and 50 engineers from Lockheed Martin. There is a huge gap in engineers and local companies are challenging FWISD to produce Latino/Latina professionals.
3. February 3, 2016 Diamond-Hill Jarvis and Meacham Middle attended the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo. Big thanks goes to Mr. Ed Bass, Steve Murrin, and Sasha Camacho for making it possible. North Side attended February 4th. Over 100 students attended each day. They got to go behind the scenes, enjoyed a delicious lunch, and watched the rodeo.
- 4.

Keep an eye out for FWISD. We are on the move! Jacinto "Cinto" Ramos, Jr
FWISD Board President
Follow me at @jaramos_jr
#AsiDerechito
Parent University for Manuel Jara Elementary
Noche de Ciencia 2016



My First Year of College at TWU

By Anay Gonzalez

My freshman year was full of trials and tribulations. From multiple breakdowns to almost giving up on my dreams. I decided to attend college and live on campus. Being away from home was for sure quite challenging. That was when I realized that I was on my own and I wasn't going

to have my parents there to console me when needed. This was the most dramatic change in my life as I was experiencing the most wonderful world of achieving a higher education.

College is a whole different environment compared to High School. I started noticing the workload like never before. The late-night studying began, sleepless nights as well as the long stressful nights. Times like this I felt like giving up because I was not used to it. Despite this new challenges, I would always think back to my goals, and my dreams, to graduate college and make my parents proud. I knew I wanted to become somebody that will be successful in life and that was not going to be easy but at the end it will all be worth it.

As time was passing and I was getting used to my classes and college, I realized I needed to get more involved on campus. I had so much free time sometimes but nothing to do. Later on I had the amazing opportunity to start working on campus as well as joining a few organizations. After this occurred I kept asking myself, "What have I done?" I had a busy schedule with work, classes, meetings, events and more. It didn't take me long to get used to having such a busy schedule. This thought me how to manage my time and get things done because there was always something to do later.

Everyone has a different adjustment to college. Some people might love it but others might not. I can personally say that I love how college is so diverse and it offers so many leadership opportunities. It has giving me the chance to grow my leadership skills and gain more self-confidence. College takes time and dedication but it is possible. I will be soon be completing my second year and time sure does goes by fast.

For any new upcoming freshman, I would recommend to not be afraid to be open minded, and to just be yourself. It will be a whole new environment so don't be quick to judge. Explore different cultures and try to get out of your shell. Do not change who you

are because you want to fit in with others. Always take advantage of the opportunities being offered at school because they can make such a huge impact in your life. Attend welcome events and also go to the involvement fair with all the organizations that the school has to offer. It is a great opportunity to get involved on campus. Don't be afraid to ask for help and reach out to professors, advisors, etc. One main thing is, "Don't forget where you came from" Remember not everyone was raised the same and people have different values so just think back to your values and your motivation to trying to reach your goals.

FWISD Parents as Teachers-Home Visitation Program

The Parents as Teachers-Home Visitation Program is a free early childhood program for parents and children from Prenatal to school entry. The program is designed to assist parents in preparing their child for kindergarten. A certified social worker visits the parent and child in their home twice a month until the child is ready to start school. The visits are designed in assist good parents in becoming great parents. The program has 4 dynamic components they are; personal visits done in the family's home, group connections with other parents and children at a school site, screenings and an access to a resource network. Areas of emphasis in the model components are parent-child interaction, development-center parenting and family well-being. The social workers each are assigned a school pyramid in the FWISD, but are not bound to only that area. They have the flexibility to enroll any family that lives in the Fisd boundaries. They do have a maximum case load of 20 families each and spots are filling very quickly. The only two requirements to be enrolled on the program are to have at least one child between the ages of prenatal and 5 years old and live within the Fisd boundaries. If you are interested in the program you can contact Juan Daniel Garcia the program supervisor at 817-995-9687 or by email at juan.garcia@fwisd.org. Spots are limited and filling quickly so please act quickly.



The 'Ice Man': Honors' Student, Pro Quarterback/Coach, Latino Legend

By Alberto Govea

Tom Flores - Academic All-American, first Latino starting quarterback in American professional football history, first Latino head NFL coach and the rare winner of two Super Bowls - was born in California farming country.

Early in his pro career Tom Flores was tagged "The Ice Man" - being cool under pressure and

adept at come-from-behind wins. He wasn't just the first minority head coach to win a Super Bowl; he was the first minority to become president and general manager of a U.S. professional football team. Only Tom Flores and Mike Ditka have ever won pro-football championships as a player, assistant coach and head coach.

Roots in Soil

Born Thomas Raymond Flores on March 21, 1937, in Fresno, he would learn how to work in the fields around Sanger, Calif. He was named for his father, who immigrated from Durango, Mexico, and like his father did early in his new U.S. home, the young Tom Flores spent a lot of time picking grapes. Tom learned how to work with his hands, but he had his sights set far beyond the California vineyards that he saw almost daily as a child.

Now 76, Flores received some early childhood advice from his parents, advice that he took to heart: "If you want to do something big, you have to roll up your sleeves and get to work; you find a way to get things done."

The young Thomas attended Sanger High School and was a high achiever on and off the field. He was an accomplished student; he earned an academic scholarship to Fresno State (later renamed University of the Pacific).

I recently took an opportunity to chat with Tom Flores on the phone, from his California home. I asked him if he ever had to deal with discrimination, growing up and as an adult. "In high school, I know it was there, but I always tried to rise above that; I think if you look for it, you will find it," Tom said. "In the Pros, there was blatant prejudice in the south against the Black players. As for myself, I guess I kind of flew under the radar," he said. "Most people, especially in the north, did not know what to make of a Chicano."

From College to the Pros

Tom won the starting quarterback role for two seasons at Fresno State; additionally, he was active in Student Council and served as president of The Men's Associated Students group. He was named Academic All-American. His parents' advice was not lost on him. But he was destined to accomplish more, much more despite suffering a shoulder injury during his senior year at Fresno.

"This hurt my chances of getting drafted, especially since back then (1958), there were not that many teams, and the American Football League was not even in existence yet," Tom recalled.

Graduating from college, he focused on pursuing a career in professional football, a lofty goal for any athlete, but especially one coming out of a small college and one who was a Latino before that term was commonly used or used with respect or pride. At best, back then when people were being half-way civil, Tom likely was called a Mexican. Today that's a label of pride, too, in many Hispanic circles.



Although the National Football League did not call, the Canadian Football League did. So, Tom went north to Canada and joined the Calgary Stampede football team in 1958. Tom, however, met more than his share of adversity. He was cut after one season. But his dream was not lost; he didn't give up. The Washington Redskins of the NFL picked him up in 1959. His stay didn't last long; his shoulder injury from college days came back to haunt him. He was released by the 'Skins, and he underwent shoulder surgery.

Tom returned to college: "I was preparing for life after college and was working on my master's degree when I got a call from a new team, from Oakland." Not just a new team, the Oakland Raiders were in a new league, the AFL. So in 1960 Tom became a Charter member of the American Football League. As a Raider, Tom was to enjoy most of his pro successes as a player and later as a coach. He was named starting quarterback, thus becoming the first Latino starting QB in American professional football history, all leagues. In his first year as the starter, he passed for 1,738 yards, completing 54 percent of his passes, connecting on 12 touchdowns. Those numbers are not impressive by today's standards, but in that era, running the ball was always the number one weapon for all teams. Indeed, Tom's passing stats that year led the league, AFL.

As Raider QB, Tom was dubbed "The Ice Man" for his ability to keep his cool under pressure and bring his team back from scoring deficits to win. Tom stayed with Oakland until 1967, by far his longest stay with any team; then he was traded to Buffalo. Tom stayed with the Bills until 1969; he was traded to Kansas City and helped win an AFL championship there as a backup QB. In 1970, after the AFL and NFL merged into the National Football League, Tom retired as a player, with a record of 838 completions on 1715 attempts, gaining 11,959 yards and 92 passing TDs. He also rushed for 5 TDs.

Coaching

Tom started his coaching career in Buffalo under Sid Gillman. But he was soon back with Oakland, where he would reach his crowning achievement. In 1979, Tom was named the Raiders head coach when John Madden retired. The promotion made Tom the first minority head coach in the NFL, in both divisions. Tom Flores went on to lead the Raiders to two NFL championships, against the Eagles in Super Bowl XV and against the Redskins in Super Bowl XVIII.

Jerry Jones-X-2

What I find even more admirable were Tom's achievements with the Raiders, the team owned by Al Davis, who was known for his impatience and constant meddling in team management, coaching and recruiting. Many sports history buffs call Davis the original Jerry Jones-TIMES-TWO.

I asked Tom about his relationship with Al Davis. "Sure he was tough to work for at times," Tom said, having worked for Davis as a player/assistant coach and as a head coach. "He was tough, but for the most part, he was fair, but at times . . . unreasonable." How did Davis and Jerry Jones compare? "When Jerry bought the Cowboys, he . . . sought out Al for advice," Tom said. "This led to them becoming friends." Tom said it's possible that Jerry did take to heart the early counsel of Al Davis. "But again," Tom said, "If you win, nobody will second-guess you." For Davis and anyone in the business then and now, Tom said, "the bottom line . . . is winning. If you win, you can do no wrong. If not, you will be in the hot seat." So, to quote the late Al Davis: "Just win, Baby." Davis was once quoted as saying that Tom "is not just a great coach in the league," but that Tom "is among the greatest ever."

And as the business proved, Tom knew, a coach is only "as good" as his record at any given moment. Davis removed Tom from the head coaching job and moved him upstairs in Oakland management and later fired Tom from that job and all Oakland roles. It proved to be another opportunity. Tom was named

general manager of the Seattle Seahawks and later, in 1992, became the team's head coach. After three disappointing seasons, Tom was let go. Overall, Tom compiled a coaching record of 97 wins, 87 losses and no ties, with a playoff tally of 8 wins and 3 losses - and of course, the two Super Bowl victories. Tom recalled his Super Bowl quarterback, Jim Plunkett. "He was a very talented quarterback and also the first and only Latino to win the Heisman Trophy. He is of Mexican descent on his mom's side." Does Tom foresee another Hispanic quarterback and head coach combo in the NFL?

"There will likely never be again," he said. Tom never regained the magic of his Oakland days. The Football Gods giveth and taketh away.

Honors y Mas

Tom Flores has been recognized on many occasions for his philanthropy, including being presented the Roberto Clemente Award by National Council of La Raza, being named to the California Sports Hall of Fame and having the football stadium at his alma mater, Sanger High School, named for him. When considering Thomas Raymond Flores's whole body of work, including being a charter member of the old AFL, I and many other pro football fans and many experts argue that "The Ice Man" deserves to be in the NFL Hall of Fame. I asked him about the induction possibility. "It, of course, would be an honor," Tom said. "My last chance will not come until four or five years down the road, as an old-timer pick." Regardless, Tom Flores is a prime source of pride for the Latino community.

For now, he's still involved in football, as color commentator for the Oakland Raiders Network. He plays golf; one course is a short walk from his home. His advice for anyone with a dream is: "Have passion for your chosen career, and be prepared for setbacks. They will only make you stronger and smarter."

Tom is married; he and his wife Barbara have three grown children, twin boys and a daughter, and five grandchildren.



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¿Hay justicia en el Condado de Tarrant?

Se dice que America es un país de leyes.

Recientemente hemos recibido la visita de un amigo de un hombre que está encarcelado por veinte años por abuso sexual de un menor de edad. Fue declarado culpable por un jurado debidamente designado. Podría ser un caso simple si no fuera por un grupo de amigos que creen en su inocencia. Han gastado miles de dólares en lo que parece ser una causa perdida. En este momento sólo el proyecto de la inocencia puede ayudarlo. Escuchando a su amigo parece que el fiscal del condado fue demasiado rápido para tirar el gatillo y hacharle cargos sin una investigación exhaustiva. Lo que nos lleva hasta el punto de esta discusión. Tenemos una fuerza policial porque queremos sentirnos seguros en nuestras casas. Están allí para nuestra protección. El trabajo de la policía sería fácil si todo el mundo era un ciudadano observante de la ley. Desafortunadamente, ese no es el caso. La vida de un policía corre el riesgo incluso en el más inocuo de encuentros. Por supuesto los medios de comunicación nos hacen conscientes de estas situaciones en todo el país no sólo en nuestro barrio. Esta cobertura tiene una tendencia a amplificar los actos y nos hace más inseguros como si la misma situación ocurría en nuestro barrio. Puedo entender el miedo que puede tener un oficial de la ley cuando es amenazado. Sin embargo no importa lo grande sea el miedo no puede ser tan grande como estar en una zona de combate donde no se sabe cuándo una bala puede ser dirigida a su camino y que la persona que disparó esta bala está bien armado y bien entrenado. Un oficial de policía puede practicar moderación que un soldado no puede. Una chapa no le da el derecho a un policía el derecho de matar a una persona sin provocación. También tenemos casos de mala conducta judicial de jueces y fiscales de distrito. Usted puede preguntar, “¿Qué tiene esto que con derecho a voto?” El fiscal es el funcionario que es responsable de investigar todos los crímenes y hacer cargos contra personas que han violado la ley. El fiscal de distrito es una posición elegida. Se necesitan votos para quitar un fiscal de distrito que no sientes está haciendo un adecuado trabajo de tratar los casos. Sí. La votación está en tus manos. Sí, tu voto cuenta. Ha habido manifesta-

ciones de protesta sobre policías que han matado personas supuestamente inocentes. Demostrando estas personas ejercieron su derecho constitucional a expresar su opinión. Las autoridades locales no parecen preocuparse demasiado por estas manifestaciones. Probablemente porque sienten seguros en su posición de elegidos. Por supuesto, la expresión constitucional más de gran alcance que usted puede hacer es votar. Si quieres justicia, así se obtiene. Sólo puede cambiar eso en las urnas.

La iglesia Católica La nave enorme!

En nuestro estudio bíblico el martes pasado hablamos de las últimas palabras de Jesús en la Cruz y por qué las dijo. Esas palabras fueron, “Consumado es”. Si recuerdan la última cena fue realmente la celebración de la Pascua que Jesús no terminó porque fue la última parte del ritual de beber el vino. En la crucifixión que Jesús dijo “Tengo sed” entonces se le dio vino. Dijo que “Consumado es” justo después de que degustó el vino. Esto significó que su ritual de “Pascua” era completo con él siendo el cordero de sacrificio. Ese fue el momento que Jesús terminó formando su iglesia. Como católico participamos de la misma celebración de la Pascua durante la Misa diaria. Es un maravilloso y cumplimiento experiencia. La iglesia católica es la iglesia más difícil de entender es por eso que muchas personas han abandonado. Algunos de los que abandonan quieren la explicación simple de lo que debe creer y desean fáciles de entender. Realmente nuestra creencia católica es fácil de entender. En primer lugar todo lo que nosotros los católicos hacemos es honrar a Dios, Proviene de la Biblia y sobre todo del Nuevo Testamento que nos dice cómo Jesús cumplió el Antiguo Testamento. Cuando empieces a estudiarlo empieza a ver que es incluso matemáticamente correcto. Es muy agradable para mí saber cómo todo se une a través de la iglesia católica.

A muchos eruditos bíblicos han intentado refutar la iglesia católica y en lugar se han convertido a la religión católica. Algunos se han convertido en líderes católicos. Oí un Bautista que se convirtió al catolicismo describen la iglesia católica como esta enorme nave traviesa el Mar Atlántico así un nuevo mundo (la gloria). Está rodeado por un montón de balsas también haciendo el viaje al nuevo mundo. Las balsas son símbolos de denominaciones cristianas no-católicas. Entonces él dijo esas personas en la balsa se pueden conseguir en la enorme nave cualquier momento. El creador de la enorme nave lo ha suministrado con todo lo que necesita la gente que hace el viaje para su destino. Los líderes en las balsas han de decirle a la gente la mejor manera de llegar al nuevo mundo. Por lo que unos permanecen en las balsas. Esta gran nave cuenta con la Iglesia Católica durante los últimos 2000 años continuos moviéndose a través del tiempo para que todos suban debido a cómo fue construido. Es alimentada por la palabra de Dios y Unido en cada costura con el nuevo pacto. Nuestra forma de orar, vivir y honrar a Dios es como el casco que protege a las personas dentro de ella de las garras de todos esos tiburones del demonio que quiere devorarlos y luego depositar su alma en el fondo del océano. Es un viaje de cuerpos de cristianos que están honrando y adorando a Dios como Cristo nos mostró. Durante la misa católica que el sacerdote ordenado



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hace como Cristo nos mostró, toma el pan y el vino y pide el Espíritu Santo para cambiar en el cuerpo y sangre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Este "transubstanciación" se produce por el poder del Espíritu Santo y se convierte en la Eucaristía que se ofreció a Dios tal como Jesús lo hizo durante la última cena. Entonces somos capaces de hacer lo que Jesús nos dice que hagamos cuando dijo, "verdad, verdad, os digo que, si no coméis la carne del hijo del hombre y bebéis su sangre, no tenéis vida en vosotros; el que come mi carne y bebe mi sangre tiene vida eterna y le resucitaré en el último día. Porque mi carne es comida de hecho, y mi sangre es bebida en verdad. El que come mi carne y bebe mi sangre permanece en mí y yo en él"(John 6:53 - 56). Sí, puede hacerlo todos los días a través de la iglesia católica.

Cuando incluyen a la Virgen María la madre de Dios y estudiar cómo ella es parte del Pacto, se hacen sentir completos dentro de la iglesia católica. Si usted es el tipo de persona que cuestiona todo y tiene un poco del síndrome de Thomas incrédulo y no demasiado perezoso para buscar, ven unete a nosotros para el estudio de la Biblia y aprender cómo todo viene junto. O, si no quieres hacer todo lo que funciona entonces solo Humíllate y cree que la iglesia católica es correcta.

Nos reunimos todos los martes en el salón de Catedral de San Patrick a las 19:00. Ven a ver la nave enorme!

Tu amigo en Cristo,

Joe M. Govea, un devoto Católico cuya tarea es evangelizar.

¿Cuál es tu excusa???

Por Felix Alvarado

Entre el 16 y 26 de febrero son las fechas de votación anticipada. La votación anticipada se deshace de esas excusas como una rueda pinchada, se averió el coche, salí tarde del trabajo, dormí tarde, tardó demasiado la cita con el médico, no pude conseguir alguien que me llevara al lugar de votación, no pudo encontrar una niñera. Como se puede ver la votación anticipada fue desinada para que sea conveniente y fácil para que usted asista a las urnas. Sin embargo como alguien que se postuló para un cargo público e escuchado muchas excusas por las cual una persona no votó. El más común y el que realmente hace que mi sangre hierva es "mi voto no hará la diferencia". Es también probable-

mente la verdadera razón para no votar. Si no votas, tu voto no hará una diferencia. ¿O va a? Cuando una persona consigue ser elegida por pocos votos, y tenemos algunos ejemplos de aquellos, o cuando pasa una propuesta con unos cuantos votos, el voto si hace una diferencia. Tal vez alguien fue elegido que no se debía de ser elegido o un aumento de impuestos o algún tipo de impuestos se aprobó con unos cuantos votos. Así que no votar si hace diferencia. Y si su excusa no aparece por favor mandármelo para agregar a la lista. Este es un año presidencial y hay un gran interés en los candidatos. Los votantes que se identifican como Independientes piensan que ellos deciden quién será Presidente. En realidad es un puñado de gente llamada la "base" de los partidos democráticos y republicanos cuyo candidato estará en la balota en noviembre. Es la base que toma esa decisión. Independientes solo pueden votar por los dos candidatos de la base del partido. Pero dejar de mirar a quien se postula para Presidente. En lugar mirar a todos los candidatos locales. Estas son las personas que han aprendido a aumentar los impuestos sin llamarles aumentos. Por ejemplo las cámaras de luz roja son para recaudar fondos. Ver todos los caminos de peaje. Están ahí para recaudar dinero también. Por supuesto estos impuestos están ahí porque alguien más paga el impuesto. Está bien quitarle dinero a mi vecino pero no a mí.

Nosotros Latinos tenemos fama de no votar. Esto tiene que cambiar. Debemos aumentar nuestra participación de los votantes. Así que aquellos de ustedes que son votantes consistentes lleven toda la familia a votar. Recordar a todos sus vecinos a votar. Eres la mejor persona de "conseguir el voto" que hay es usted. Así que por favor vote y llevar todos que conoces a las urnas. Si es tiempo de votar.

Un sueño perdido por Alfredo Sánchez

Los miembros de la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos (LULAC), una organización de derechos civiles, han participado activamente en ayudar a la comunidad Latina desde que se estableció en el Condado de Denton en 1983. Hace varios meses Denton LULAC fue contactado para ayudar a un hombre hispano desamparado (a quien llamaremos, José). Me ofrecí como voluntario para ayudar a José así que me puse en contacto con la persona que solicitó la asistencia de LULAC (quien le llamaremos Jim). Entrevisté a Jim y él me proporcionó información sobre José. José había vivido en los Estados Unidos por más de 40 años y Jim creía que José tenía más de 63 años de edad. José y su hermano habían vivido juntos durante muchos años hasta que su hermano murió porque le atropelló un coche. José había sido desamparado por muchos años, era un trabajador pero le gustaba beber. José trabajó en la comunidad sobre todo cortando hierba. José tenía cicatrices en su cuerpo después de haber sido quemado en un incendio. Había pasado muchos meses en el hospital como consecuencia de quemaduras en su cuerpo. Como resultado del fuego, José había perdido sus orejas, un par de dedos, tenía cicatrices en todo su cuerpo, tenía el pelo desigual y era casi imposible entenderle cuando hablaba. A veces era difícil relacionar lo que hablaba sobre los hechos debido a su incompleta recolección de eventos y su dificultad en la comunicación. Había perdido mucho movimiento en sus brazos por la cicatrización de la piel pero que no lo guardan de empujar un cortacésped, una vez que se inició para él. Todos sus documentos personales importantes se habían perdido como resultado del fuego. Según Jim,

José era un residente permanente legal y había trabajado muchos años para dos empleadores distintos en su comunidad. Los empleadores habían dejado de funcionar sus respectivos negocios. Jim quería ayudarlo obtener beneficios de Seguridad Social de José. Jim era firme que José tenía derecho a esos beneficios.

Jim había previamente intentado ayudar a José pero había pero siempre se encontraba con una pared de ladrillos. Había oído hablar de LULAC y solicitó la asistencia de LULAC. Cuando hablé con Jim, me enteré de otras familias de la comunidad que conocían muy bien a José. Me puse en contacto con ellos y me dieron un poco más de información. Se me ocurrió un día que José podría posiblemente tener un record de policía así que visité la estación de policía para intentar de obtener más información biográfica. Mientras hablaba con uno de los oficiales otro oficial escuchó la conversación y sorpresivamente declaró que él tenía un documento viejo I-94 de José, y es un documento muy importante para establecer su inmigración legal en los Estados Unidos. Lo había encontrado unos días antes. José, Jim y yo visitamos varias oficinas de gobierno, Administración del Seguro Social, Consulado, oficina de seguridad de la patria y, apertura puertas internacional servicios (ODIS) y había hecho varias llamadas a México en un esfuerzo para conseguirle a José sus beneficios. Durante la espera de procesamiento y verificada de la información, una de las hijas de una de las familias con que había visitado había parado para visitar a José. El campo de refugio de José era un pabellón de metal abierto con maquinaria agrícola. Después de llamarle y sin respuesta entro en el refugio sólo para encontrar el cuerpo de José sin vida. Jim organizó una pequeña estela de José. Fue evidente durante la recolección de información que José tenía un corazón muy generoso y era un trabajador a pesar de su problema con la bebida. A pesar de sus debilidades José era fiel a su trabajo incluso en tiempo frío. Jim me dijo que creía que José era su bendición. Varias semanas después de la muerte de José hemos recibido una carta que sus beneficios fueron aprobados. El propósito de esta historia es para recordarnos que a veces perdemos de vista de nuestros sueños y puede tener consecuencias devastadoras. Jose como muchos mexicanos han llegado a este país con el sueño de hacer una vida mejor. La enfermedad de alcoholismo destrozó esos sueños. Triste.

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Arlington's 'Best of' Tex-Mex

By Juan Ramon

El Gabacho Mexican restaurant in Arlington is the place to be. While serving a variety of Tex-Mex dishes, appetizers and specially made Margaritas from the bar, the restaurant recently had to add a page to its menu to please its customers. The restaurant, located at the corner of Bowen and Abrams street in Arlington has won the Best of Arlington from the Arlington Citizen Journal along with several previous "Best Of" awards from Fort Worth Weekly, The Dallas Observer and Arlington Today.

El Gabacho opened its doors to patrons in 2008 and remained successful throughout the year. Causing attention to locals and out-of-towner's. The restaurant was featured in The Star-Telegram's "Tasteful and Terrific" review its opening year. "When a man works eight days a week some good is coming out of it," Owner David Govea said. "It's a business that I love." Govea named the restaurant El Gabacho in reference to the times he would sit Saturday mornings with his grandfather and watch John Wayne on TV as the actors refereed to Wayne as El Gabacho. "It's like a tribute to John Wayne," He said.

Govea says it's all about working with people that are happy and it makes the business work. "The restaurant business is a hard business to be in," he said.

"It took a long time to get where we are at."

Govea says work ethic is the key to success and that his employees working hard to support their families. As well, Govea says that his younger employees work just as hard, while learning the do and don'ts of the restaurant business.

The restaurant serves mostly Tex-Mex with their best dish, Chili Rellenos, and the recently added menu item Mariscos plates. El Gabacho is open 7 days a week. Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday's and Saturday's 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

THE OSCAR'S NOMINTED FOR BEST PICTURE

This year's awards have been tainted by some that claim there is no color at the Oscar's, I have my own thoughts on this but that will come later. That being said there are many good movies nominated for best picture. They are as follows; The Martian, Bridge of Spies, The Big Short, Brooklyn, Mad Max, The Revenant, Spotlight and Room. I have seen half and working on others, check out my review.

The Martian; A 2015 Sci-Fi starring Matt Damion as Astronaut and Biologist Mark Watney. Matt is left on Mars after a violent storm and presumed dead. Once it is known he is alive there is no way to get to him before he starves or dies of thirst. However, as a one the foremost biologist' he uses all his knowledge of science to survive. However, Jeff Daniels as the NASA Director cannot find a way that he feels would work to bring him back alive. Plus, he is not even sure that the public should know they left him there, Kristen Wiig stars as Director of Media Relations that is more concerned about how NASA will look to the public, than possibly saving Matt. Luckily his fellow astronauts, especially Rick Martinez played by Michael Pena will not take no for an answer. A lot of stuff happens including China getting involved to secure his rescue. Not sure if this is best picture but if you like space stuff and can remember

some of the science you learned in High School or College, you will definitely will like it.

I would give a 3*** out of 5 Stars, especially since a Mexican type is a Hero not a Landscaper. Bridge of Spies; A historical drama based on a true story, directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Tom Hanks. The story is based in 1960 and involves attempting to secure the release of American Francis Powers a U2 spy plane pilot during the cold war. Earlier in the movie a Russian KGB Spy Rudolf Abel is captured in America and James B. Donovan reluctantly (Tom Hanks) agrees to represent him in court. He is able to prevent him from receiving death penalty, this in spite of death threats and hate mail for his efforts. This catches the attention of top Government officials that decide he is the right person to negotiate a deal to trade the Russian Spy for the U2 Pilot. However, his specialty in law is Insurance settlement specialist which left many wondering Why Him? Again a lot of stuff happens before deal is finally secured, Best Picture maybe, maybe not but if you like history pieces a must see.

I will give it 4**** out of 5 Stars. Sorry no Mexican types,

The Revenant;

Based on Hugh Glass' a Legendary Frontiersman, played by Leonardo DiCaprio, co-starring Tom Hardy. This film is based in the wild-wild west of 1823. If you like frontier type action you will get it in this film, there are hostile Indian raids (See the movie for the reason), bear attacks and the natural elements. The plot revolves around vengeance as Leonardo's character is left for dead after a bear attack and his son is killed. Perhaps one of the greatest elements to this movie is the visual cinematography, shot by two time Oscar winner Emmanuel "Chivo" Lubezki. The movie was shot in location in Canada and Argentina in the bitter cold, you will see great mountain scenes, streams and how the natural elements affect the actors. In fact, some actors described having to act in the winter elements as a living hell.

Leonardo is up for Best Actor in this movie and last year's Best Director El Mexicano, Alejandro G. Inarritu is again nominated for best director. Although I loved this movie visually I thought the plot was kind of thin but the acting was good and it is worth seeing but it is better on the big screen. I give it 2** and half stars out of 5.

The Big Short: Before I get into the movie I have an observation to share with you about the pre-movie. My wife and I were the only Latino types in the theater and it was not until right before the start of the movie when a Black guy walked in. We were the only minorities, not sure if this was because of the movie subject or because it was shown in Grapevine. There was also a part in the movie where one of the characters says (paraphrasing) "I was breaking a piñata and a bunch of old white golfers fall out." The almost all white audience really laughed with this line, I enjoyed the punch line also and thought, "Glad I have my golf cap on." The point here is that in some movies let's say the "N", word is used and it seems that non-Blacks are always unsure whether to laugh or not. I laugh and I laugh when Mexican type humor is used in a movie, however I don't laugh when someone running for President like that dope Donald Trump uses it to denigrate Mexicans. I guess what I'm saying laugh if it's funny, it's funny.

Ok, the movie, it is based on the economic collapse of about 2007 caused by the housing bubble and the very loose credit practices of lending institutions. The

movie star's Christopher Bale, Brad Pitt and Steven Carrell which by the way has really proven he has a huge acting range beyond Michael Scott from The Office. Michael Burry played by Christopher Bale is a hedge fund manager who discovers after extensive research that the housing market is very unstable. This leads to him create a financial instrument that will allow him and his clients to benefit from the collapse when it happens. However, the process is very slow as it seems that all financial institutions are doing their best to cover this up. They are also aided by Bond Rating agencies as everyone is trying to cover their A**. There are several moments of comic relief in this movie and they actually spend some time attempting to explain financial terms and situations. There are cameo appearances by Selena Gomez, among others. I enjoyed the movie and felt like I had a closer look at the root cause of our biggest recession in this country since the depression. I will it give ★★★ stars out of 5

The Room, Spot Light, Brooklyn, And Mad Max, next week on Nuestra Voz Weekly. To receive in your inbox contact us at goveaalberto215@yahoo.com.



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Voting

By Alfredo Sanchez

This year's early voting period is February 16-26, 2016. Early voting is the best time to vote for the following reasons: voters can take advantage of voting at any location in their county, lines are short, there are two weeks slated for early voting so the stress of voting is reduced, and early voting sites are open on the weekends. The following forms of photo Identification (ID) are acceptable when voting: Texas Drivers License, Texas Election Identification Certificate, Texas Personal Identification Card, Texas concealed Handgun License, United States Military Photo ID, United States Citizenship Certificate w/ photo, and United States Passport. With the exception of the U.S. Citizenship Certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 60 days before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place. For more information on voting in Denton County go to votedenton.com. Dallas county voters can get information from DallasCountyVotes.org, and Tarrant County voters can go to AccessTarrantCounty.com. Latinos are encouraged to assist members of their families to vote by reminding them to vote, driving them to the voting location, talking to them about how important voting is, organizing voting in the family and make voting a family event. Latinos should exercise their right to vote. Latinos have died defending that right contrary to what some American citizens believe. United, our votes send a message that we are a force to be recognized and a voice to be heard.

Dear Friends,

The following is an official press release and a my own personal opinion/editorial on the comments made by several members of the Fort Worth City Council. These comments are my own personal opinion and statement and do not represent the views or any person or organization. There are solely my own. Please consider using the following content for use in any publications. Feel free to contact me via email at sespinojr@gmail.com or by phone at 817-476-3229.

Thanks. Sal Espino, Jr.

State Vice Chair for Youth, Tejano Democrats President, Tarrant County Tejano Democrats

Expansion is Good for All: Tejano Democrats State Vice Chair for Youth Comments on City Charter Election

By: Salvador Espino, Jr.

February 5, 2016

Fort Worth, TX – Sal Espino, Jr., the State Vice Chair for Youth of Tejano Democrats and its Tarrant County President, is calling for citizens to unite for the continued push and fight for expansion of the Fort Worth City Council in the upcoming City Charter Election that is scheduled in May. In an editorial/opinion piece that he has submitted to local news outlets, Mr. Espino expressed concerns regarding recent comments made at the City Council meeting that was held on February 2, 2016.

"I was shocked, amazed, and disappointed by the comments made by several members of the Fort Worth City Council, especially those made by Councilmen Jordan, Zimmerman, Moon and Shingleton," he said. He noted that he understands the concerns raised about oversized government but disagreed that empowering local neighborhoods by decentralizing power through increasing the size of the Fort Worth City Council was how you avoid too much government and empower citizens to take part in their governance and encourage and cultivate "democracy in action."

Mr. Espino took issue especially with the comments

made by Councilman Singleton that expansion was a Hispanics-only issue: "Councilman Shingleton frames the issues as one that is only about increasing the number of Hispanics on the Fort Worth City Council. While certainly many in the Hispanic community, myself included, believe that expansion of the Fort Worth City Council from its current 8 single-member districts to 10 single-member districts would result in more opportunities for Hispanics to be elected, this issue is more than a minority vs. majority or Hispanic-only issue. Expansion of the City Council is a good for all our neighborhoods because it would empower neighborhoods through decentralization of power. Smaller districts means communities of conflicting interest no longer have to share a City Councilmember." Mr. Espino argues that expansion of the council is good for all communities, regardless of color, creed or politics because it will result in better representation and advocacy by its representatives: "It means that your Councilman won't have to decide on which part of his district to advocate for. This issue has been a growing one, especially for Far North Fort Worth communities that are consistently placed and grouped with communities in the more urban communities inside of Loop 820. These communities have different needs and interests and the current size of the districts makes it incredibly tough for its representatives to advocate for the whole district."

Mr. Espino plans on launching efforts to organize Hispanic votes to raise their voices at the polls in the May Election after the March 1 Primary Election and also plans to reaching out to other communities, regardless of color, creed, or politics to establish a Unity Coalition to support not only expansion of the City Council but all the proposal up for vote.

More Information on the City Charter Review Taskforce and Election can be found on the official City Website at: <http://fortworthtexas.gov/boards/charter/> More information on Tejano Democrats can be found at: www.statetejanodemocrats.org Tejano Democrats is a statewide political organization that aims to increase and maximize Hispanic impact at all levels of the political process by promoting the an inclusive, effective coalition that gives representation to all its voices. Tarrant County Tejano Democrats is its chapter in Tarrant County, TX and the successor to North Texas Tejano Democrats. Mr. Espino was elected President of Tarrant County Tejano Democrats in May of 2015 and State Vice Chair for Youth for Tejano Democrats at its Annual Meeting in August of 2015. More information on Sal Espino, Jr.:

Sal Espino, Jr is the State Vice Chair for Youth of Tejano Democrats & President of Tarrant County Tejano Democrats, its local affiliate. He also serves as a member of the Tarrant County Democratic Party Leadership Council. He is a student at Wabash College, where he is majoring in Classics with a minor in Political Science. He is currently a visiting student at Tarrant County College for the Spring & Summer sessions and plans on returning to Wabash

College in the Fall. He has earned Eta Sigma Phi Honors for achievement in Classics, Latin & Greek, as well as Pi Kappa Delta Honors for outstanding achievement in Speech & Debate. He is a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, serving as Vice-President, Secretary, Social Chair, and Recruitment Chair & House Manager in past years.

Wabash College is a liberal arts college for men located in Crawfordsville, IN. Wabash College educates its students to live humanely, lead effectively and to think critically. Tau Kappa Epsilon is an International Fraternity that builds better men for a better world through its programs that promotes values of love, charity and esteem.

For more information on Wabash College, visit: www.wabash.edu

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What is your excuse????

By Felix Alvarado

February 16 through 26 are the dates for Early Voting.

Early voting gets rid of such excuses as flat tire, car broke, got off late from work, slept in late took too long at doctor's appointment, couldn't get a ride to the voting place, couldn't find a babysitter, as you can see early voting was intended to make it convenient and easy for you to vote.

Yet as someone who that has run for public office I hear many excuses why a person did not vote. The most common and the one that really makes my blood boil is "my vote will not make a difference". That is also probably the truest reason for not voting. If you do not vote, your vote will not make a difference. Or will it? When a person gets elected by a few votes, and we do have some examples of those, or when a proposition passes with a few votes, your non-vote does make a difference. Perhaps it got someone elected that should not be there or a tax increase or some sort of taxation was passed with a few votes. So not voting does make a difference. And if your excuse is not listed please send it to me so I can add it to the list.

This is a presidential year and there is a lot of interest on the candidates. Independents like to think that they decide who is going to be president. In reality it is a handful of people called the "base" of the Democratic and Republican Party that decide whose name is going to be in the November ballot. It is the base that makes that decision. Independents only get to vote on the two candidates decided by the base of the party.

But stop looking at who is running for president. Instead look at all the local candidates. These are the people that have learned how to increase taxes without calling the tax increase a "tax increase". For example those red light cameras are there to raise money. Look at all the toll ways. They are there to raise money too. Of course the rationale for these targeted tax increases is that someone else is paying them. Put another way it is like saying, "it is okay to take my friends money, just don't take mine."

We must increase our voter turnout. So those of you that are consistent voters, take your whole family to vote. Remind all your neighbors to go vote. You are the best "get out the vote" person that there is. So please vote and take everyone you know to the voting place.

A Dream Lost

By Alfredo Sanchez

Members of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), a civil rights organization for Latinos, have been active in assisting the Latino community since it was first established in Denton County in 1983. Several months ago Denton LULAC was contacted to assist a homeless Hispanic man (whom we will call, Jose). I volunteered to help Jose so I contacted the individual that requested LULAC's assistance (we will call him Jim). I interviewed Jim and he provided me with information about Jose. Jose had lived in the United States for over 40 years and Jim believed Jose was over 63 years of age. Jose and his brother had lived together for many years until his brother died after being hit by a car. Jose had been homeless for many years, was a hard worker but liked to drink. Jose worked in the community primarily cutting grass. Jose

had scars on his body after having been burned in a fire. He had spent many months in the hospital as a result of burns to his body. As a result of the fire, Jose had lost his ears, a couple of fingers, had scarring throughout his body, had patchy hair and it was almost impossible to understand him when he spoke. Sometimes it was difficult to piece facts together because of his incomplete recollection of events and his difficulty in communicating. He had lost a lot of movement in his arms due to the scarring of his skin but that did not keep him from pushing a lawn mower once it was started for him. All of his important personal papers had been lost as a result of the fire. According to Jim, Jose was a Legal Permanent Resident and had worked many years for two different employers in their community. Both employers had ceased operating their respective businesses. Jim wanted me to assist with obtaining Jose's Social Security benefits. Jim was adamant that Jose was entitled to those benefits. Jim had previously tried to help Jose but had run into a brick wall. He had heard about LULAC and requested LULAC's assistance. As I talked with Jim, I learned of other families in the community that knew Jose very well. I contacted them and was able to obtain a little information. It occurred to me one day that Jose might possibly have a police record so I visited the police station in order to seek to obtain relevant personal biographical information. While talking to one of the officers another officer, who had just walked in, overheard the conversation and surprisingly stated that he happened to have one of Jose's old I-94's, which is an important document received from the United States Immigration Service. He had happened to find it a few days earlier. Jose, Jim and I visited several government offices, Social Security Administration, Mexican Consulate, Homeland Security Office and, Opening Doors International Services (ODIS) and had made several calls to Mexico in an effort to get Jose his benefits. While waiting for the information to be processed and verified, one of the daughters of one of the families I had visited with had stopped to visit Jose. Jose's shelter camp was an open metal canopy filled with odd farm equipment. After calling to him with no response she entered the shelter only to find Jose's lifeless body. Jim organized a small wake for Jose. What was apparent to me while gathering information was that Jose had a very generous heart and was a hard worker despite his drinking problem. Despite his infirmities he would show up to work for Jim even in cold weather. Jim stated to me that he believed Jose was his blessing. Several weeks after Jose's death we received a letter that his benefits were approved. The purpose of this story is to remind us that sometimes we lose sight of our dreams and it can have devastating consequences. Jose like many Mexicans have come to this country with a dream to make a better life. The disease of alcoholism ravaged his dreams.

Is there justice in Tarrant County?

Recently we had a visit from a friend of a man in prison for twenty years for sexual abuse of a minor. He was convicted by a duly appointed jury. This could be an open and shut case were it not for a group of friends that believe in his innocence. They have spent thousands of dollars on what appears to be a hopeless cause. At this point in time only the Innocence Project can help him. From hearing his friend the DA was too quick to pull the trigger and

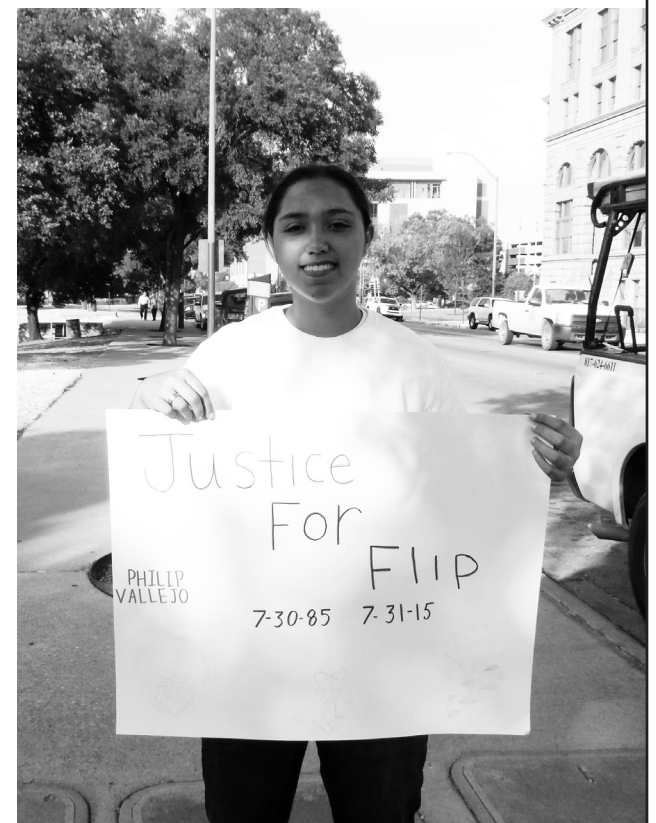
file charges without a thorough investigation. Which brings us to the point of this discussion.

We have a police force because we want to feel secure in our homes. They are there for our protection. The police's job would be easy if everyone was a law-abiding citizen. Unfortunately, that is not the case. A policeman's life is at risk even in the most innocuous of encounters. Of course the broadcast media makes us aware of all these situations across the country not just in our neighborhood. This coverage has a tendency to amplify the acts and makes us more insecure as if the same situation was occurring in a neighborhood.

I can understand the fear a law enforcement officer may have when he threatened. However big that fear may be it is not as great as being in a combat zone where you know that a bullet may be headed your way and that the person that fired that bullet has more and is well armed and well trained. A police officer can practice restraint a soldier cannot. A badge does not make a police officer's actions right. We also have cases of judicial misconduct by judges and District Attorneys.

You may ask, "What does this have to do with voting?" The District Attorney is the official that is responsible for investigating all crimes and files charges when there is sufficient proof that a crime was committed. The District Attorney is an elected position. It takes votes to remove a District Attorney that you do not feel is doing an adequate job of trying cases. Yes. The vote is in your hands. Yes, your vote counts.

There have been demonstrations protesting police killing of innocent people. Local officials do not seem to be too concerned about these demonstrations. Probably because they feel secure in their elected position. Only you can change that. By demonstrating these people exercised their constitutional right to express their opinion. Of course, the most powerful constitutional expression that you can make is to vote. If you want justice, that is how you get it.



Protest Your Property Taxes

By Alfredo Sanchez

A new year is here and property tax value notifications will be mailed in April 2016. I have written about protesting property taxes before and would like to remind our readers why it is important to protest your taxes. The process of protesting your taxes is extremely easy and will save you money. Simply fill out and return the Notice of Protest form that comes with your Notice of Appraised Value. The form can be either mailed in or hand delivered. If it is hand delivered the clerk will set up an appointment immediately with one of the appraisers. Instead of meeting with an appraiser immediately, you may want to wait before meeting with an appraiser to determine your property value so that you can do your research into similar properties to see what value they are appraised and taxed at so that you can use this information in your protest. In the appropriate box on the Notice of Protest form, check the reason for your protest. Personally I prefer checking the "value is unequal compared with other properties" box. I check the property values in the neighborhood to see if my property value is consistent with others in the neighborhood. Then I use those property values to determine the value of the property to negotiate with the appraiser. If you would rather use figures of current sales of similar properties, that is also an option. Once you meet with an appraiser, either you agree on the appraised value or you don't. If you don't agree your next step is to go before the Appraisal Board. An appointment will be scheduled for you. You present your evidence which is your research and your argument before the Appraisal Board and they make a ruling on the value of your property. This process takes around 15 minutes. If again you don't agree with the evaluation of the Appraisal Board you can appeal that to an Arbitrator. As the appellant you are required to post \$500. In the event you lose your case that money is used to cover the cost of the Arbitrator and Appraisal District's expense. If you win all but \$50 is returned to you. In my case in 2015, there were three properties that we could not agree on. I decided to take the three properties before an Arbitrator. When we submitted our application along with the \$1500 check, the Appraisal District made a counter offer on the three properties and we agreed on two of the three. Therefore we only had to present one property to the Arbitrator. A letter is sent to the appellant with several arbitrators listed and you select 3 based on your preferences. You will be contacted by the Arbitrator as to the time, date and location to meet. You present your evidence to the Arbitrator and counter what the appraisal district has presented. In order to win, the Arbitrator's value of the property must not exceed half of the value the land owner proposed and the appraisal district proposed value. In other words if the land owner's proposed value is \$70,000 and the Appraisal District's proposed value is \$80,000, then the value proposed by the Arbitrator cannot exceed \$75,000 for the land owner to win the case.

What I learned from the process in 2015:

- 1). As a small investor owning more than 10 properties, my interview with the appraisal district should have been conducted in a private office, it was not.
- 2) While discussing my properties with the appraiser assigned to me, the person next to me, whose property values had been decided previously by the appraiser helping me, went back and found a different appraiser, discussed his property again and

had his values lowered. The property owner should have been denied a second visit with an appraiser. The owner's next step of appeal should have been to the Appraisal Board not to another appraiser. How often does this happen? The reason I know about this case is that the conversation took place right in front of me and next to me where we were all seated. The appraiser I was dealing with was drawn into the case next to us and he stated to me after wards what had transpired. I had already understood what had taken place. Do some people get special privileges? I brought this up to a supervisor at a later date and he denied such things happen.

3) As the appellant I had inform the Arbitrator and the Appraisal District that I wanted to evaluate my property based on similar properties in the neighborhood-- which is allowed. I discovered that the owners of the properties with the 3 highest property values in my property's neighborhood all had Hispanic last names. This is a very good reason why Hispanics need to protest their taxes.

4) I had the understanding that we would be meeting in a neutral environment, however, we met at the Appraisal District. After the arbitration session, the Arbitrator remained in the conference room with the Appraisal District employees. This was unsettling to me because it took away the feeling of being treated impartially. It would be more proper for the Arbitrator to leave the room first or that the Appraisal District employees leave the room before the land owner in order to dismiss any perception of partiality of the Arbitrator to the Appraisal District Employees after the case has been discussed and closed. The Arbitrator is supposed to be impartial not friends with the Appraisal District.

Over all the process is helpful, but a few areas need to be reviewed: 1) the area of the meeting needs to be a neutral place (library conference room for example) and 2) all persons should leave the room at the same time so there is no appearance of undue influence on the Arbitrator by either party. No additional conversation should occur between the Appraisal District and the Arbitrator, nor the landowner and the Arbitrator once the case is closed.

The Huge Ship Catholic Church

At our Bible study this past Tuesday we talked about Jesus's last words on the Cross and why he said them. Those words were, "It Is Finished".

If you recall the last supper was actually the celebration of the Passover which Jesus did not finish because the last part of the ritual was to drink the wine. At the crucifixion Jesus said "I thirst" he was then given wine. He said "It Is Finished" right after he tasted the wine. This meant his "Passover" Ritual was complete with him being the Sacrificial Lamb. That was the moment Jesus completed forming his church. As a Catholic we take part of the same Passover celebration during the daily Mass. It is a wonderful and fulfilling experience.

The Catholic Church is the hardest church to understand that is why so many people have been leaving it. Some of those leaving want the simple explanation of what they should believe and they want it easy to understand. Actually our Catholic belief is easy to understand. First of all everything that us Catholics do to honor God comes from the Bible and mostly from the New Testament which tells us how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament. When you start studying it you begin to see that it is even mathematically correct. It is very pleasant for me to learn how it all ties together through the Catholic Church.

Many a Biblical scholars have tried to disprove the Catholic Church and have wound up converting to it. Some have become strong Catholic leaders. I heard a Baptist who converted to Catholicism describe the Catholic Church as this huge ship crossing the Atlantic going to the new world (heaven). It is surrounded by a bunch of rafts also making the trip to the new world. The rafts are symbols of non-Catholic Christian denominations. Then he said those people on the raft can get on the huge ship any time.

The creator of the huge ship has supplied it with everything the people making the journey will need for their destination. The leaders on the rafts tell the people their way is the best way to get to the new world. So they stay on the rafts.

This huge ship the Catholic Church as it has for the past 2000 years continues to move through time for all to climb on because of how it was built. It is fueled by the Word of God and bonded at every seam by the new covenant. The way we pray, live and honor God is like the hull that protects the people within it from the jaws of all those demon sharks that want to devour them then deposit their souls on the bottom of the ocean. It is a traveling body of Christians who are honoring and worshipping God as Christ showed us. During our Catholic Mass the ordained Priest does as Christ showed us, he takes the bread and wine and asks the Holy Spirit to change them into the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. This "Transubstantiation" occurs by the power of the Holy Spirit and becomes the Eucharist which is offered to God just like Jesus did during the Last Supper. We are then able to do what Jesus told us to do when he said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him" (John 6:53-56). Yes, you can do that every day through the Catholic Church.

When you include the Virgin Mary the Mother of God and study how she is part of the covenant, you are made to feel complete within the Catholic Church. If you are the type of person that questions everything and have a little bit of the Doubting Thomas syndrome and not too lazy to seek, come join us for Bible study and learn how it all comes together. Or, if you don't want to do all that work then just humble yourself and believe the Catholic Church is correct.

We meet every Tuesday at St. Patrick Cathedral Hall at 7:00PM. Come get on the huge ship!

Your Friend in Christ,

Joe Govea, a devout Catholic whose duty is to evangelize.

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