

THE RIGHT THING

Latino Community News On the Right Side of Things
Volume II, May 2017

The Minority Report

**CELEBRATING
CINCO DE MAYO**

**THINGS HEAT UP
IN PASADENA
MAYORS ELECTION**

**The Immigration Debate
Continues To Dominate
The Political Conversation**



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The Allusive Black and Brown Voting Power

By RW Bray
www.rwbray.com

With the growing dislike for everything Trump and sprouting economic discontentment, the political world has shifted on its axis, showing a budding new interest in minority engagement from both sides of the spectrum. For the greater part of the decade, finding out what niche or niches would attract minorities has been a discussion that has spouted more initiatives, coalitions and social projects than in the quarter of a century prior. Unfortunately they have regularly pitted or divided minority groups against one another as each demographic swells and challenges the white majority for voting dominance.



Photo Credit: Tanya Robertson

All the math is there, from the growing population of the Latino community, to the campaign altering voting power of Black Americans, it is without question a fact that if a formidable Black and Brown Coalition were to germinate, elections could be altered from local School Board races to the Presidency. But why hasn't this coalition been formed and if it has, why hasn't it been effective? Surely these question are widely renowned and to answer it would take subsequent articles to the current writing but importance demands the revelation of at least one of the symptoms to this band's lack of collaborative political efficacy.

One indicator prevailing the collaborative ineffectiveness of these races is that the formation of such an alliance between said groups demands ethnic commonality (this is only one of the compo-

nents needed). *Ethnic Commonality* is not to be confused with *Racial Similitude*, the latter has to do with the biological make-up of the two groups. This quality has shown itself to be widely accepted by both groups, evidence existing in the increase of marital unions, as both races share in attributes had and appreciated visually by men and women alike, aiding in the shared attractiveness and familiarity assort. Donald Symons, author of *The Evolution of Human Sexuality*, provides study behind this actuality when he refers to such actions as a psychological mechanism, "a rule" engrained in humans, whereby we develop an adaptive awareness and preference to individuals who are built like ourselves or what we are used to seeing within our homes and communities. Notwithstanding, *Ethnic Commonality* (or the lack thereof), between these two colored communities are quite different.

Ethnicity is the state of belonging to a social group that has a common national or cultural tradition. In the case of Black Americans verses Brown Americans the differences of the two ethnic groups may serve as a looking glass as to why a fearsome coalition has yet to mount. It's no secret that the United States' greatest shame, that of the enslaved African, is the main reason why we have such a large black populous in our nation and therein lies the rub. Blacks, did not break immigration laws, nor travel to the States in search of a better life. On the contrary, Black slaves were responsible for the erection of nearly every State in the Union, they and their descendants were and are to this day, Americans, recognized by the Constitution (not without a fight), and privy to all the rights thereto. Conversely, the majority of Brown Americans in the U.S. are voluntary immigrants and the descendants of such, whether legal or illegal. This dynamic alone polarizes the political interest of the races because of the fear of deportation. A subject that serves as chief amongst Hispanics is not a shared phobia of Blacks, and has not driven them to the poles nearly as much as police brutality and economic depravity, a point of contention shared by both groups but historically championed by Blacks.

**BLACK AND BROWN
GIRLS MATTER**

Here we see Blacks identify themselves as North Americans, whereby the majority of Latinos currently in the States may possess a reciprocity to their native lands (Middle America & South America), an affinity foreign to Blacks as Africa serves as a heritage more so than an identity.

In studying the lack of political strength held by these two groups, one must retreat to an Austrian school of thought in dissecting this issue as opposed to a Keynesian one. To that end, the study of the Black and Brown disparaging consortium calls for a more in-depth look than this brief explanation. However, upon reflection, the brilliance of bringing this qualification to light provides researchers, consultants, observers and interested minds a small hint as to why this coalition has yet to emancipate itself and presents our nation's political parties with an opportunity to serve as a conduit and cultural adhesive to two groups on the verge of nationwide dominance. It is safe to say that whatever group is able to serve in this capacity is destined to dominate.

- Fin -

How Will You Celebrate Cinco De Mayo?

By Chris Carmona
Editorial

As another year passes where the assault on the Mexican continues to increase, what will you be doing this year to partake in the annual Cinco de Mayo festivities?



Photo Credit: Chris Carmona and Chavez High School
JSA Students prepare for the 2015 Cinco de Mayo Parade.

Anyone outside of politics traditionally didn't listen to any of the rhetoric imposed by candidates during a presidential campaign, but that all changed this past election cycle with President Trump's relentless campaign promise to "Build a Wall" and to have "Mexico pay for it". These two phrases appeared to spur a growth of interest from politicians and the casual voter.

Some people believe Mexico and the influx of Mexicans is the cause of all of the United States' ailments, while others have taken the opposite approach and have really appreciated the contributions that Mexico and the Mexican culture have given to this country.



The restaurant industry is probably the most appreciative industry when it comes to the contributions of the Mexican culture, and Cinco de Mayo is the most popular day where we see that appreciation on full display. While we welcome another year of unlimited margaritas, fajitas, pan dulce and pinatas, let us not forget about the tradition of happiness that has consistently been engrained into our annual celebrations. If you choose to not participate in the festivities, no one will hold that against you, but your taste buds may hold a grudge. If you will be like most Americans and do choose to celebrate this year, please remember that Cinco de Mayo is not Mexico Independence day, but rather a celebration of the Victory at Puebla and the Mexican Culture and Heritage. So enjoy the fiesta while it is here, as we don't know if the celebration will one day disappear in the abyss of history that we forget ever existed outside of our borders.

2.582721196479386: Quienes Somos, Who We Are



By Bernardo Eureste

On July 1, 2015, the total population of the United States was projected to be at 321,418,820. By 2060, the U.S. population is projected to be at 416,795,000, a population increase of 95,376,180, or an increase of 29.67%.

In the same time frame, Hispanics constitute 56,600,000 million of the population, that is, 17.6% of the total U.S. population. By 2060 we are projected to be at 119,044,000, that is, 28.56% of the population. The Hispanic population is projected to grow by 62,444,000 by 2060, a growth rate of 110.3%.



Our population growth will account for 65.47% of the population growth of the United States during the next 43 years. As happened in the decennial of 2010, the decennial census of 2020 will increase the number of congressional districts in Texas, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, South Carolina, Utah and Washington. Latinos are a major contributor to the growth rate in these states, some more than others. Latinos migrate to these states because of job opportunities, for the Latino, jobs would be jobs in the growth sectors, construction, housing, infrastructure, non-skilled labor markets, etc. They are not the only contributor, but in any analysis of population growth in each state, Latinos will factor in, as in Georgia, where Latinos accounted for 50% of the population increase for that state leading up to the 2010 census. Texas' story in the 2010 count resulted

in populations increases that gained Texas four new congressional districts, Florida with two, and the other states with 1 new district each. The growth in the Latino population in Texas is responsible for 75% of the growth, the very reason why the Texas redistricting fight is still going on in Texas, 7 years after the 2010 reapportionment, with the 2020 count due in three years. In the state of Washington, a predominate White population state, Latinos grew at the rate of 71%, while the rest of the state grew at 14%. The states that gained congressional districts in 2010 are identified with growing Latino populations. That will be repeated in 2020, in 2030, with a leveling off post 2030.



President Lyndon B Johnson signs the Voters Rights Act of 1965

Immigration policies might dent the projected estimates for Latinos, but in the main, Latinos are here to stay. They are a part of the fabric of the American society. School enrollment in Texas public schools registered 5,299,728 million students in the spring of 2015-16, with Latinos numbering 2,767,747 and whites numbering 1,513,027. In one year, that is from 2014-15 to 2015-16, whites decreased by 2,526 and Latinos grew by 45,475. Latinos are here, and como dice el dicho, "aquí estamos y no nos vamos!"

The growth rate of this community can be mathed out at 2.582721196479386 per minute and counting. There are 60 minutes in an hour, 24 hours in a day, 7 days per week, 30 or so days per month, 12 months per year, 46 years in this time period, for a total of 24,177,600 minutes.

These numbers and the political machinations to affect them are a driving force of the American

body politic today. Two examples of this used as a power shift occurs are:

*"They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists" pix here
July 16, 2015, Donald Trump*

Rep. Steve King tweet in support of a right-wing Dutch politician, in which King wrote,

"We can't restore our civilization with somebody else's babies."

The code talk appeals to racists and xenophobes and is the basis for the formulation of policies that attempt to put a stop to the inevitable growth of these people, from a border wall to enhanced immigration raids to oust 11 million immigrants from this country.



Photo Credit: LULAC

Quienes somos forms a question as to who are we; or an affirmation: who we are. The "we" here is a reference to the 56.6 million who are classified in the United States census as persons who reside in the United States who classify themselves as being persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, a classification that has been evolving at the Census Bureau for the past 50 years.

The ethnonyms Hispanic or Latino refer to people who reside in the United States who classify themselves as having origins from Mexico, Puerto Rico or countries of Central America or South America.

We refer to ourselves in a multitude of ways, sometimes more than one in a single conversation. Latinos or Hispanos of Mexican origins might easily move from the word Meicano, Mexican, Mexican-American, Mexican American, Chicano, Cuban-American, Cubano, Xicano, Raza, La Plebe, Nuestra Gente in a short conversation or devote entire treatises to just one of the terms. Mexicans comprised the dominate segment of

the "illegal immigrants" but when other Latinos south of Mexico began to populate those apprehended, the immigration service, the INS at that time, unable to identify their nationality, referred to them as "OTM's" (Other Than Mexican) Some of us, a few, have moved away completely from associating ourselves with having Hispanic or Latino origins. It could be a way to more easily fit into the greater American amalgamation of just being an American.

A fast review of ethno identity over the past 70 years has provided for us a greater understanding of who we are and who we are not. Not all of us are Chicanos. And, yes, and not all of us are any of the other ethnonyms that we can conjure up. The writer is most of the above when most of the above does not connote national root identity with anything not Mexican.

The best minds of this community have written extensively about the subject and nearly all have come back full circle that we are who we want to be. That has not always been the case in this long march toward social cultural identity.

The League of United Latin American Citizens, "LULAC," as most of us have come to know it, went through its hay days in the late 1920's as it evolved into the organization it is today, that's 88 years ago. Three organizations, the Order of the Sons of America, led by Ben Garza, out of Corpus Christi, the Knights of America, led by Manuel C. Gonzalez, out of San Antonio, and the League of Latin American Citizens, led by Alonso S. Perales, out of San Antonio, came together in Corpus Christi, Texas in 1929 and formed LULAC. LULAC is an all inclusive organization with members from almost all Hispanic/Latino origin communities, including Black and Anglo American. An issue that was debated in 1929 was whether membership was going to be open to only citizens, with one of the organizational delegations bolting and threatening to shut down the organizing effort, after which it was agreed that LULAC would be open to all, citizens and non-citizens. Today, LULAC stands out as the oldest Latino organization in the United States.

This is an early history of how early leaders of this Latino organization, born out of mostly Mexican American professionals out of south Texas,

saw a need to put forth an identity that would fit well in generations to come.

Today, the U.S. Census uses the ethnonyms of Hispanic and Latino interchangeably and permits the submitters to choose to be so identified based on the national delineations that each identifies with, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Columbia, Venezuela, Brazil, Suriname, Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile, Columbia, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru or Venezuela.



*Photo Credit: LULAC—Nov 1963
JFK visits LULAC Council 60 in Houston, TX*

Colleges and universities in different parts of the country have developed educational programs that are directed at particular groups within this broad community, including Mexican American and Chicano studies programs in the southwestern United States; Puerto Rican and Latin American studies programs in the northeastern United States and Cuban American studies programs in the southeastern United States. It should not be surprising that the regional programs are developed around the particular subgroup of this large community who reside in the particular regions, Mexican American/Chicano in the southwest, Puerto Rican in the northeast and Cuban American in the southeast.

How we refer to one another in this special community depends on who we are trying to reach.

This writer communicates to a national community, so the use of Latino and Hispanic is very common. You sell yourself short if you are not inclusive. Hispanic and Latino is the most inclusive. Major Hispanic and Latino organizations have learned over the past 80 years that if they want to communicate to 9 million Latinos in Texas, they need to be broad in their thinking and reference

to this community is inclusive if the terms Hispanic or Latino are used as modifiers. Each one of us has different agendas when trying to communicate with our community. Do not sell yourself short by referencing Mexican American or Chicano when speaking to an Hispanic audience in Houston, where the make-up of the audience might be a mixture of Mexican Americans, Chicanos, Mexicans, Puerto Rican Americans, Cuban-Americans, Salvadorians and other Central and South American nationalities.

In the heavenly halls of academic thinking and writing, the debate continues today about how we refer to us and the general conclusion is that if you want to be inclusive, the reference to Hispanic or Latino goes a long distance if the objective is to communicate an idea, a thought, a thinking, a policy matter, a social matter, an economic matter. Narrowing your ethnonym referencing can easily narrow your message.

The essence of who we are in this write is a positive affirmation that we are who we want to be in this large community. We can super identify with our subgroup, that is Mexicano, Chicano, Mexican American, Puertoriqueno, Boriqua, Puerto Rican American, Salvadorian, Nicaranguence, Honduraneo, Guatamaltecó, Columbiano, Peruano, Boliviano, Venezuelano, etc, and communicate effectively within this subgroup referencing the subgroup's ethno modifiers and being able to recognize the need to bring in a broader modifier when trying to reference the larger Hispanic or Latino community.

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- Fin -



The Merit-Based Immigration Plan

By Ana Maldonado

Univision's Jorge Ramos recently made a rather disturbing statement at Premios Lo Nuestro: "This is also our country. Let me repeat this: *Our* country, not theirs. It is our country. And we are not going to leave. We are nearly 60 million Latinos in the United States," he continued. "And thanks to us, the United States eats, grows and, as we've seen today, sings and dances." I don't know about you, but this sounds like someone coming into my home and staying without ever being invited! Newsflash Jorge Ramos: the only people leaving are those who entered this country ILLEGALLY. Personally, I've never been offended by President Trump's stand on immigration. Wall, deportation, ban, etc. It needs to be done. I want my family to be safe.

As with most things, those impacted the most by our current immigration system are the poorest citizens living in predominantly minority communities. The current system is putting a huge strain on resources those citizens rely upon. Under President Trump's new merit based immigration system, we could save countless dollars, raise wages, and help struggling families – including helping immigrant families enter the middle class faster. According to President Trump, this is possible because our current system allows people to immigrate to the US with no regard for their employability or skill level, it creates an overflow of low-skilled workers, who in turn drive down job opportunities and wages for those Americans who possess a high school diploma or less – the "uneducated" as the Democrats refer to them.

"It's a basic principle that those seeking to enter a country ought to be able to support themselves financially, yet in America, we do not enforce this rule, straining the very public resources that our poorest citizens rely upon," Trump said. "Switching away from this current system of lower-skilled immigration, and instead adopting a merit-based system, we will have so many more benefits."

– President Trump



Photo Credit: CNN, Govt Photos

Being Hispanic, I can't help but get irritated when I hear white folks talk about how my people are coming and taking their jobs. Many times I ask, "Please sir, tell me which one of those jobs would you like to take back?" We all know the jobs immigrants (especially Hispanic immigrants) take are those that nobody wants. How this new merit-based immigration plan will work for the Houston-area is uncertain, but I believe President Trump is taking a step in the right direction - putting American's first, especially those who are poor and uneducated. At the time when President Trump stated that he loved the uneducated, the press made fun of him. What they failed to realize is that when they made fun of him, they made fun of a large part of our citizens. They made fun of my mother who was born here but only completed 8th grade because her father died and she had to help my grandmother raise her three siblings. We all know the poor and uneducated do not matter to the Democrats, I mean why would they matter, when they attract mostly Ivy League educated constituents and celebrities to their party. My uneducated 75 year old mother voted for President Trump because no other candidate had ever spoken to her. Not everyone is made to practice law, medicine or teach school. ***Antes de salir a cambiar el mundo da tres vueltas por tu casa.*** Someone needs to send this message to the Democrats.

- Fin -

Gratitude

By Sam Rosas

I recently had the most interesting interaction with a client. While working with him I asked him about the type of work he did and the company he works for, he stated being a self-employed electrician. I thought it was great, I have great respect for entrepreneurs, people willing to take risks to work independently and do things they are good at, mainly being in control of their own destinies and not depending on someone else's job for a paycheck.

During our interaction, without me asking anything else, he confided that he just had returned from Mexico. He goes back and forth every few months, I guess with a Mexican passport and temporary permit. With disdain he added that the only reason he is here is because back home there are no jobs and hardly any opportunities. To my disappointment, he emphasized that he doesn't like this country, he doesn't even care to learn English. It was difficult to hide my disappointment when I said "people usually migrate to this country to improve their quality of life, gain access to better opportunities and to raise the standard of living of their families and children..." so I figured it was logical that the first step is try learning at least basic English in order to navigate the system, do business and function in society.

In thinking about his line of work (electrician) I figured, someone in that kind of trade can manage to get work and contracts anywhere, because knowing how to work with electricity is an important skill, well paid also. Which society nowadays can possibly function without electricity or licensed electricians? I dared asking him, "So if you don't like living in this country, why are you here? That doesn't seem like a way to be happy, living somewhere you don't like and struggle to communicate". He said that the only reason is because there's no work over there and there's plenty of money to be made here. Plain and simple: his loyalty lies on the almighty dollar, not on this country; he is here, while his heart remains in Mexico. As days went by, and with this thought in my mind I decided to embark in serious research on this topic. I proceeded to interview as many people as I could to get their honest opinion,

learn what motivated them to leave their home countries and venture towards America, legal or illegally.



Illustration by Rafa Garcia

I gathered enough material which in general I found quite enlightening, most people I had talked to were frank and open in their responses, they had no problem saying what they were after, others were concerned about me identifying them by name; I reassured them that it was just their responses I was interested on, and not in identifying them individually. Others didn't care either way, like Jorge, a man from Honduras who told me he often travels back to his home country where he has a wife and family, for whom he's building a bigger and nicer house. He comes to the states to work as a welder in the oil and gas industry, sometimes on the offshore platforms. He said that with the kind of money that he earns in only four months of work, he can "live like a king" in back home. He confided that at some point he was detained by customs for traveling back and forth so often and was risking losing his visa, so he resorted to marrying an American woman who helped him become a resident, I was astonished at how far some people can go to make things work for them. "You gotta do what you gotta do, nothing wrong with that" he justified, and added that after becoming a resident, he has never had another problem traveling back and forth, but then again, when it comes to life in the United States, he's not interested on anything other than making enough money to secure his future, but he doesn't even care to gain citizenship. Although outrageous many of these stories were, I tried to be as objective as possible and keep my personal bias in check. The stories I heard, all from different right or wrong moral angles helped me put things into perspective:

it was clear that we all are motivated by an infinite number of reasons: fear, love, ignorance, safety, hunger, poverty, illness, desperation, corruption, but nevertheless they all have a common denominator: money and opportunities.

In analyzing the responses recorded, I confirmed something I have observed for years: how so many people openly hate this country, from immigrants to (some) born and raised Americans who clearly take their blessings for granted. Many others do not hate, but simply dislike America, yet, they come here to partake of the benefits of the American Dream. These individuals have clear that they will never obtain these generous benefits anywhere else but here.



Photo Credit: Sam Rosas

I concluded my research understanding that although is not the rule, many immigrants are not grateful, nor they would ever give their heart-felt loyalty to their new country, sadly. A woman I will call Gloria had the gall to say "I don't want to betray my country" (Nicaragua) by pledging allegiance to America, so I am still a citizen in my country, but now I got the residency here which makes things easier". They do not express appreciation for the opportunities given, but since they made a difficult choice and sacrificed a lot to come, most feel entitled to get something in compensation for their hardships -social services, assistance, jobs, food-stamps, education, health care, and housing, which are the usual the magnets; sadly, not so much the inspiring values of self-reliance, freedom and patriotism, so deeply rooted at the core of the true American spirit.

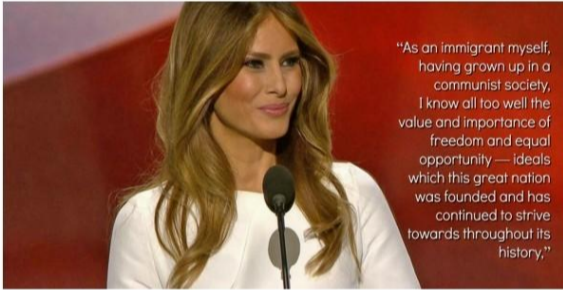
Many of us immigrants feel differently, for instance, the day of my Citizenship ceremony was a special and emotional day for me, was the day I became an **American by Choice** in a massive event along with hundreds of people from all over the world. That day on my feet and along so many others, I placed my hand over my heart, and with tears of joy rolling down my face I recited the pledge of allegiance and kissed my American flag; it was a beautiful and joyous moment. In contrast there were other people who were visibly annoyed at how long the ceremony was taking, and never once bothered to get up from their seats, let alone place their hands over their hearts. I couldn't understand their native languages but their body languages and expressions were of impatience and annoyance. I knew these people were becoming American citizens in paper only, as a mere process to gain rights, but I could see their hearts were not committed. I couldn't help feeling discomfort in seeing how some people like them just come to take advantage, but not give their at least gratitude, let alone loyalty to their new country.

Fortunately, many immigrants do their best to express their love and gratitude for their new country, which they do by assimilating to the American way of life, learning how things work, becoming active participants of the civic and economic life, avoiding at all cost to become public burden, and showing respect to the laws that govern and protect us all, equally.

In a recent event hosted by our First Lady, Melania Trump, also a new American citizen, she recited the following words:

"As a young entrepreneur, I wanted to follow my dream to a place where freedom and opportunity were in abundance. So of course, I came here. Living and working in America was a true blessing, but I wanted something more. I wanted to be an American. After a 10 year process, which included many visas and a green card, in 2006, I studied for the test and became a U.S. citizen. It is the greatest privilege - it is the greatest privilege in the world. I'm an immigrant, and let me tell you, no one values the freedom and opportunity of America more than me, both as an independent woman, and as someone who immigrated to America."

- First Lady, Melania Trump



This country rewards our talent and hard work, does not intend to make anyone forget who they are or where they come from, it is okay to miss one's homeland, that painful nostalgia squeezing our hearts whenever we hear an old song, or taste familiar flavors we grew up with. Missing those and all that we left behind is human and understandable, it's our connection to our roots and who we are, and that is a beautiful thing. As an immigrant this is what I see: play fair, follow the rules and do your part in making socie-

ty work well for everyone. As the saying goes "When in Rome do as the Romans do" or "A la tierra que fueres, haz lo que vieres"... also a little gratitude would also be kind of nice.

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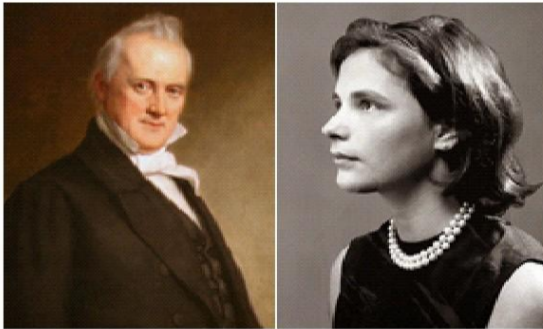
Trump's weather forecast: Partly cloudy with golden showers

By Rafa Garcia

Today our sexual knowledge and tendencies have been fully frontally exposed.

Those of us with dominate lust and perversion were enticed by President Trump's admission of indulging in a "golden shower". The smaller percentage of the population remained shocked at this sexual act. But sex can be written into most anything.

Our own first lady Barbara Bush is recognized for wearing a pearl necklace, but even her surname can be taken in a sexual content. And let us not forget Venus. She was a black slave, and allegedly a sex slave to our first President George Washington. Another was Sally Herrings, who sired six children of Thomas Jefferson. Back then slaves had no rights, so the plantation owners could freely pluck them, as one does with fruit from a tree.



The list goes on and on, Garfield, Harding, Eisenhower, Cleveland, Kennedy, LBJ, Clinton, Roosevelt and the bulk of the others. James Buchanan as John Travolta says in the movie Urban Cowboy, "He's like David Bowie, he goes both ways." More shocking is that Honest Abe associated with one Joshua Speed. "We've come a long way baby". But who were these women? Judith Exner, Lucy Mercer, Helen Douglas, Kay Summersby, Angie Dickerson, and Maria Halpin have been linked or mentioned just to name a few. Some of them with ties to the Germans, Russians, the Mob, interns, and even an 18 year old? Wasn't

the secret agent Jackie Kennedy reaches for when President Kennedy was assassinated reportedly her alleged lover? Some of these things, we will never know, only drown our curiosity in the mystery of the captivity.

What can we expect out of Mrs. Trump? The difference is we learned about Trump's sexual preexisting cravings before he became President, not after he assumed the position. We cannot argue that the Trumps are hiding anything, even Trump's wife has been fully open about her physics with the nude photographs taken of her. The sexual encounters and whims are moral issues, and the electors across the country were okay with all of it. Today we have sugar babies, legal prostitution in Nevada (home of Sin City), and yet, legally you cannot have more than one wife, as the Mormons permit.

Trump was elected to be our President. This is the only performance we should hold him to. His discretions will be addressed by one greater than he on judgement day.

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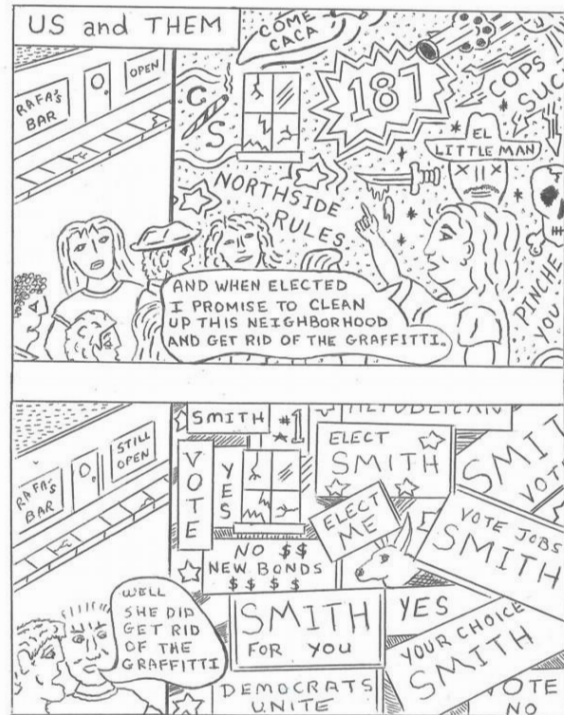


Illustration by Rafa Garcia

Harris County District Clerk's Office quenches passport service demand

*By Chris Daniel, District Clerk
Guest Column*



Years ago, Harris County District Clerk Chris Daniel envisioned the need for additional avenues for Houstonians to obtain passports in a timely and efficient manner. In 2013, with Chris Daniel's leadership, the District Clerk's office began operating a convenient passport application service to assist the people of Harris County in applying for and renewing their passports.

For many Houston area families, with roots running deep in other countries and cultures beyond our borders, a passport is an essential document to have. In fact, for those families planning to travel outside of the borders of the

United States, a passport book or card for each member of the family is fundamental and mandated.

A passport can also be important to parents and spouses of U.S. military personnel, business or technical support personnel whose jobs require foreign travel, students and faculty members in an academic program requiring foreign study, athletes participating in athletic programs with a likelihood of overseas competition, individuals planning vacation or holiday travel within one year, travel industry personnel, including entertainers and other artists. If any of these areas apply to you, it would be to your advantage to apply for a passport,

regardless of whether you have immediate travel plans.



The passport application service at the Harris County Civil Courthouse is Chris' brainchild. He observed long lines at various post office passport desks and decided the District Clerk's Office could do the job more efficiently. He wondered why this District Clerk's Office hadn't provided a passport application service, as most other district clerks' offices around the state had done, for decades.

With the approval of the U. S. State Department and Harris County Commissioners' Court, the District Clerk's office initiated its passport application service in the Harris County Civil Courthouse in 2013. Customers regularly compliment the office on the speed and convenience of its service. Thoughtful effective leadership is at the heart of Chris Daniel's drive to make Harris County work for the people.

Even after the passport application service was implemented, Chris continued to hear from suburbanites hesitant to commute downtown for the DCO's passport application service. In 2016, he opened four (4) satellite passport application operations to meet suburbanites' concerns. With limited space, Chris again used his bridge-building and diplomacy skills,

partnering with the Harris County Library System to provide the passport application services in County libraries in Clear Lake, Humble, Spring and Katy. If you or your family needs a passport, some key information is outlined below:

- It is important to remember that a passport is a license to travel outside of the United States into or through other countries. It is our government's assurance to other governments that the bearer is a citizen or a national of the United States and may be extended the usual courtesies and assistance afforded international travelers in accordance with international law and practices as well as reciprocal privileges usually embodied in formal agreements. Passports are issued by the Secretary of State.
- The passport fee must be paid in a money order/cashier's check or personal check because it is sent with the application to National Passports for processing/issuance and must be made payable to the U.S. Department of State. Each application submitted must be accompanied by its individual passport fees (one payment per application submitted). For passports, an applicant is considered an adult at 16 years old, while 15 years and under are considered minors. Please keep in mind, service begins the day National Passports receives the application for processing. Routine service is 4-6 weeks and expedited service is 2-3 weeks. If you would like to use expedited service, an additional fee of \$60.00 must be included in the money order/cashier's check or personal check. An optional overnight delivery fee of \$15.45 can be added to expedited service to shave off the mailing time, once the passport book has been issued. The overnight delivery fee is not available for passport cards.
- A \$25.00 execution fee is charged to accept each application. If you would like for us to take your passport photograph a \$10.00 photo fee applies. These fees must be paid in cash, money order, cashier's check or by credit

card. Sorry, no personal checks. Execution fee and photo fee may be combined in your payment per applicant. Additionally, cash is only accepted at our downtown courthouse location. Library and satellite locations may only accept credit card or debit payment for the execution and photo fees.

For more information log on to:

www.hcdistrictclerk.com/Common/Passport/Passport.aspx



MESSAGE RECIEVED

By: The Right Thing Editorial Staff

The recent General Election of 2016 brought the discontent and new organized election strategies. The picture below could be considered distinct and individual. The Right Thing believes we are all entitled to not only select our own candidates but also our methods of promoting their election. This campaign sign was distributed throughout Harris County. Some may consider it a means of expressing the individual method for reaching the Black community. Others may see divisiveness.



Photo Credit: The Right Thing Staff

Will we see more of this in future campaigns? Will other ethnic or special interest groups do the same? How much did this campaign sign contribute to the victory of the election of those posted? What is your opinion?

Pasadena Elections: An end to voter oppression?

By Rafa Garcia

Federal courts seem to be occupied with judgments concerning the inequities of minority voting rights. San Antonio, Corpus Christi and Pasadena, Texas are prime examples.

The court action in Pasadena comes in the midst of the Pasadena School District and Mayoral and City Council elections this May. It appears that the Nation has their eyes on Pasadena. Although the City elections are non-partisan, it is tainted with political party intervention. Many speculated it would provide an opportunity for the Latino community to take over and empower themselves. The fact that the court ruled there was discriminatory intent, the liberal (and only) slate did not leverage off of this by including Anglos on their ticket.



Photo Credit: Rafa Garcia

If one considers the "party" element, traditionally Republicans surpass the Democrat turnout by ap-

proximately 5,000 votes in a Presidential year. This election they are predicting a dismal 6,000 to 7,000 voter turnout.

Historically Pasadena exhibits more than its share of political moles, undermining and dirty tricks. More than usual, this election has increased PAC monies, political operatives, and hire guns.

Winning in Pasadena is very complicated. First you have the "city thing". Small town people resent us "city slickers". Then you have to deal with the years of discrimination and oppression of being a minority. Additionally, there is the issue of solid aggressive leaders, well trained and funded. There doesn't appear to be all the screaming, shouting, protesting, name calling and hate exhibited in this election. So, when the polls close at 7:00 p.m. on May 6, the question will be who will prevail? How will we know how the new mayor was selected? Simple, the Pasadena voters are no different than the rest of America. They too are discontent and victims of past political corruption and tired of false political promises. This is a common denominator for both the Latinos and the majority of White America. The voters don't need CNN, Telemundo, social media, or political big wigs coming out and pointing out this continual exploitation. They themselves will elect their new mayor. They know the court righted a wrong. They love Pasadena, they know which of the Mayoral candidates is best for them. They will come out and select a new mayor that is one of them, someone that has them in mind, and Pasadena at heart. The voters of Pasadena will silently and on their own free will do The right Thing.

- FIN -



Astrodome vs Astrodoom: The Eighth Wonder of the World Continues to Marvel the Citizens of Harris County

By Sarah Verret

For a decade, the Astrodome has stood idle. County Judge Ed Emmett and Commissioners Rodney Ellis, Jack Morman, Steve Radack, Jack Cagle, are all elected by the majority of the voting populace of Harris County, and entrusted to serve us and protect our interest. For sometime now, Commissioner's Court and the County Judge have been tirelessly working on a plan that would not only transform the outdated thinking of what to do with the infrastructure currently sitting across from NRG Stadium, but revitalize the entertainment options throughout Harris County. With this project, would come jobs, a unique recreational and entertainment facility, and the restoration of one of Americas most recognized icons, the Eighth Wonder of the World.

All this quickly diminished when elected officials saw the opportunity to use it as a "soapbox" to voice their political agendas. The intent of the opposition of those wanting to delay the restoration of the Astrodome is sketchy. Although their arguments have merit. It is



On April 9, 2015, I shook hands with many of the 25,000 smiling Astrodome fans who had waited patiently for their chance to slip inside the "Eighth Wonder of the World" on its 50th anniversary and relive the thrill of one of the nation's greatest architectural feats.

I remain amazed at the profound emotional bond that Harris County residents, and Texans at large, have with this distinctive building. But it is after all just a building – a debt-free asset owned by the taxpayers of Harris County. And it's time – past time, really – to put that asset back to work for Harris County and the tenants of NRG Park.

That's why we on Harris County Commissioners Court have approved a plan to repurpose this wonderful building, to renovate and redesign it to provide nearly nine acres of column-free space for major community events, exhibits and open public space.

This booklet is designed as a brief showcase of the past, present and – most importantly – the future of the Harris County Domed Stadium, known worldwide as "The Astrodome."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed Emmett", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ed Emmett
Harris County Judge



doubtful the Commissioners Court will abort their intent to revitalize the Astrodome. Dooming the Astrodome would be comparable to desolating the Alamo.

We have included a couple of pages about the “Rebirth of the Astrodome”, from County Judge Emmett’s web page. If you want to learn more details you can log on to his web page at: www.judgeemmett.org/astrodome.asp

For now, the Astrodome is again on the back burner. If the voters ever feel the thought of restoring the Eighth Wonder of the World is a bad investment, they will disregard the political soap box in favor of taking their own opinions to the voting booth.

Nostalgia: What are your favorites memories of the Astrodome?





The Right Thing© 2017 May Election

This is not a list of endorsements, but here are some highlighted races that showcase exceptional candidates that represent and advocate for not only the Latino Community, but for all of us. The Right Thing does not endorse political candidates. The Editorial Board encourages you to vote and exercise your civic right. This is not a full list of all elections taking place this May, only elections that have candidates or issues deemed important to the Latino community.

City of Pasadena Mayor

David Flores
John JR Moon
Gilbert Pena
Gloria Gallegos

District A

Dan Vela
Felipe Villerral

District D

Sammy Cosado

District G

Oscar Del Toro

HISD Recapture Vote

Neither option is best for the children's education, but if you must vote, then the YES vote appears to be the lowest cost for taxpayers.



The Right Thing©
2017 May Election

VOTE

Early Voting Going On Until May 2, 2017

ELECTION DAY: MAY 6, 2017

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