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"Just not building one B-1 Bomber would equal the savings of closing 34 bases for 20 years"

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INLAND EMPIRE  
**HISPANIC NEWS**

Wednesday, 25¢  
January 11, 1989  
Volume 2, Number 6

# Norton Phaseout Countdown Starts

By: Sonia Rodriguez

Norton Air Force Base came one step closer to extinction last Wednesday when Defense Secretary Frank C. Carlucci approved the recommendation of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission long before his January 15 deadline.

The commission has recommended that 34 military installations and 52 military housing complexes be closed; that five other installations be partially closed, and that 54 others get new missions or additional personnel. Congress must now either accept or reject the list of bases proposed for closure in its entirety. Congress has 45 working days from March 1 to vote on the recommendation. If Congress approves and the President agrees, the closings and consolidations begin January 1, 1990 and should be completed within 5 years.

However, Captain Gary Jacobs, spokesman for Norton Air Force Base said, "Norton does not have a close order yet. Nothing will start to happen until the process is complete." If the recommendation is approved, Norton will be left with only its Ballistic Missile Office which employs approximately 900 -- compared to the 8,000 employees it now has on its payrolls.

"The economic impact to the area will be equal to \$1.7 billion loss within a 50 mile radius," said Captain Jacobs. There are 253 Hispanics employed at Norton under the military. The number of Hispanic civilian workers was not revealed because it is considered sensitive information.

According to the commission's recommendation, "The military value of Norton AFB is lower than other strategic-air installations because of a combination of increasing air-traffic congestions, outdated facilities, and increasing competition for skilled personnel.

"There are also deficiencies at Norton



**Bye, Bye, Birdie!** A C-141B Air Cargo jet soars gracefully above Norton Air Force Base.

AFB in the area of quality of life. The most prominent include a shortage of family housing units and inadequate medical, dental and recreational facilities. The installation also has difficulty meeting civilian hiring requirements due to the demand for technically qualified workers by other industries within the civilian sector."

In addition the report states the closure will have minimal impact on local employment.

If the commission's proposal is accepted, several squadrons assigned to Norton's 63rd Military Airlift Wing will move to March Air Force Base near Riverside while the remaining squadrons will relocate to McChord Air Force Base near Seattle/Tacoma in

Washington. Some of Norton's major tenant units were recommended for relocation. The Air Force Inspection and Safety Center was recommended for relocation to Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico and the Air Force Audit Agency will be transferred to March AFB. The Ballistic Missile office will remain at its facilities on and near Norton Air Force Base.

"People are in for a rude awakening," said Roy Roman, president of the National Federation of Federal Employees Local 687. "Close to 1200 people will probably be left unemployed," stated Roman explaining that a number of Norton employees will not be eligible to transfer because of duplication of services that would result in combin-

ing the two bases.

"The reasons for closing the base are just not true," said Roman. "Money was not appropriated to recruit high tech people," he noted. However, Roman pointed out that most of those jobs are filled. He also disagrees with the outdated facilities statement and the deficiencies in the quality of life. "A new commissary was just built for \$10 million, a control tower for \$3.5 million along with a child care center and a security police building."

"We've got universities and surrounding hospitals. In terms of recreation -- there are the mountains, the desert, lakes and beaches," noted Roman.

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Ray Abril Sr.

"A big no-nonsense gentleman of the old school"

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## Unruh Fellowship Program

RIALTO- Assemblyman Jerry Eaves today announced availability of applications for 1989-90 Jesse Marvin Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program. Fellows work as Assembly staff in Sacramento for 11 months and are paid \$1,500 per month. While Fellows are required to have a bachelor's degree Assemblyman Eaves noted, any academic major is acceptable. Although Fellows earn graduate credit from California State University Sacramento, individuals in mid-career are also encouraged to apply.

The Fellowship Program was renamed last year as a result of a resolution introduced by Assembly Speaker Willie L. Brown, Jr., and is now called the "Jesse Marvin Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program" in honor of former Assembly Speaker Jesse Unruh, the

father of the present-day Fellowship Program.

In the fall, Fellows are initially assigned to individual Assembly Members' personal Capitol staff positions. In the spring, they are transferred to policy committee staff positions. This gives each Fellow a good chance to be involved in the major components of the legislative process, Assemblyman Eaves commented.

Assemblyman Eaves invites anyone interested to contact his district office at (714) 820-1902 for further details. Application forms and brochures can also be requested from the Jesse Marvin Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program office, 1127 11th Street, Room 331, Sacramento, California 95814, (916) 324-1761. The deadline for applications is February 10, 1989.

## SCE Refunds Go To Colton

During the month of December, the City of Colton has received two separate refunds from SCE that had been ordered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The first payment received on December 1, amounted to \$85,140.00 for excessive rates charged to the Electric

Utility for the period 7/16/81 through 6/1/82.

The second payment of \$55,125.00 received on the 14th of December was a result of the 1986 Tax Reform Act which lowered taxes for investor owned utilities. Both payments included interest from the date of occurrence.

### Mexico Scene

## An Unreported Slice of Life

Reprinted from MEXICO-UNITED STATES REPORT

By: Cosme Haces

*(We reproduce here, somewhat condensed, a report that appeared on November 4 in the independent Mexican newspaper El Norte by its Mexico City correspondent. We do so not because it is earth-shattering but because it is a slice of Mexican life that U.S. readers should be made aware of. Yet, so far all we know, nothing has appeared in the major American media. Cosme Haces is a veteran Mexican journalist who is widely respected for his objective and detailed reporting. - Ed.)*

Mexico City - Two persons died and 15 others were wounded in a shootout between members of the Revolutionary Confederation of Workers and Peasants (CROC) and rival Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM), in the lobby of the prestigious Hotel Presidente Chapultepec, in a dispute over a collective work contract.

About 300 CTM members erupted into the lobby, where a group of five musicians belonging to the CROC were playing, hurling Molotov cocktails and firing guns.

Panic broke out among guests and hotel workers when the Molotov cocktails caused furniture to catch fire and people were felled by gunshots. An officer of the Special Shock Force of Mexico City's police, who refused to give his name, confirmed that two died and at least 15 were wounded and removed from the hotel. His information was confirmed by members of the President's General Staff and National Security (federal police).

Federico Gonzalez Baez, a hotel executive, explained that the act of aggression was directed not so much against the CROC musicians as against the hotel itself, since the CTM had been pressuring and intimidating (management) to retain its collective work contract with the hotel.

He said that guests were immediately returned to their rooms, where they were offered special attention to tranquilize them. They were not permitted to go back (to the lobby) until calm was restored.

The CTM contingent had appeared at the rear entrance of the hotel at about 8:00 p.m., November 3, arriving in two buses, González Báez reported. The leaders of both union groups seemed to be engaging in conversation when, suddenly, the *cetemistas* went out of control and began shouting and breaking the windows leading to the hotel. Then they burst into the lobby firing guns and hurling Molotov cocktails.

The hotel official added that the hotel's security service was soon able, using its fire control system, to put out the flames which had started in the lobby.

The lobby of the luxurious hotel looked like a battlefield with overturned furniture, pools of water, and charred furnishings. The hotel's two entrances were covered with broken glass.

Upon entering the lobby, the *cetemistas* has also burst into the hotel's offices and destroyed copying machines, computers and files. Material damage was estimated next morning at \$400,000, while 173 persons were detained.

Information provided by the hotel manager, security people, employees, and guests seemed to point to the head of the Union of Musical Workers, Venus Rey, as the leader of the *cetemistas*.

## Martin Luther King Open House, Jan. 12

The Department of Fair Employment & Housing cordially invites you to attend an open house, honoring the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Thursday, January 12, 1989 from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at 375 West Hospitality Lane, Suite 280, San Bernardino, California.

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## George Brown Vows Action on Norton AFB

Congressman George Brown (D-CA) announced today that both Norton and George Air Force Bases were targeted for closure by the report from the Defense Secretary's Commission on Base Realignment and Closure. Rep. Brown spoke to Congressman Jerry Lewis at his California home early this morning, and Brown said the two pledged to work together to "coordinate the effort to blunt the economic impact this announcement will create for the Inland Empire."

In speaking to Norton Base Commander Col. Wood in San Bernardino and Deputy Commander Col. Siepmann at March Air Force Base in Riverside, the Congressman pledged to actively challenge the Commission's statement that closure of Norton would have "minimal impact on local employment." Brown and Lewis both stated if the recommendation is not amended, they will vote against the base closure report. And Brown promised to organize a prompt response among his California colleagues "to analyze the complex recommendations of the Commission report and to spearhead the movement to off-set the economic loss to the Inland Empire."

Brown acknowledged that George Air Force base was among those rumored to be closed, but expressed shock that Norton was also on the list. Brown

explained that "some of the bases listed are really obsolete and have had no military mission in some time. However, Norton is not one of them, and that is why the Commission recommendation is so shocking."

Congressman Brown said the list of bases recommended for closure was much larger than Members of Congress were led to believe, and the political outcry will be much greater than the Secretary of Defense may have expected. Brown concedes that odds are about "ten to 1 that we can do anything to stop the bases from closing, but there are a host of things to work on within the framework of the Commission report to minimize the economic impact."

Among the various suggestions from area leaders is the recommendation that the Norton facility be used as a joint military/civilian/air freight airport. In addition, Rep. Brown suggested a possible commercial and industrial facility with a technology-oriented focus be considered.

Local leaders expressed their concern today and pledged their support to Congressman Brown and Lewis as they analyze the report in detail. Brown and Lewis will return to Washington, D.C. and discuss the Base Closure Report with their California colleagues early next week.

Continued from Page 1

## Norton Closure

Roman noted there are a lot of Hispanic families that work together at Norton. A number of Hispanics that work at the base come from Colton, San Bernardino, Riverside and Fontana.

"In a lot of the Hispanic households there is still only one breadwinner and the base closing will severely impact those families," said Roman. He pointed out that the \$5.6 billion this country expects to recover in the next 20 years from the closing would be saved if one B-1 bomber was not built.

"In the Air Force's opinion the Commission's recommendation was accurate," said Captain Jacobs. A number of the buildings date back to World War II and are hard to maintain he stated.

"If the recommendation is approved, special teams will come in and help with the reassignments and relocations. "Everything that can be done will be done to help get civilians jobs," said Capt. Jacobs.

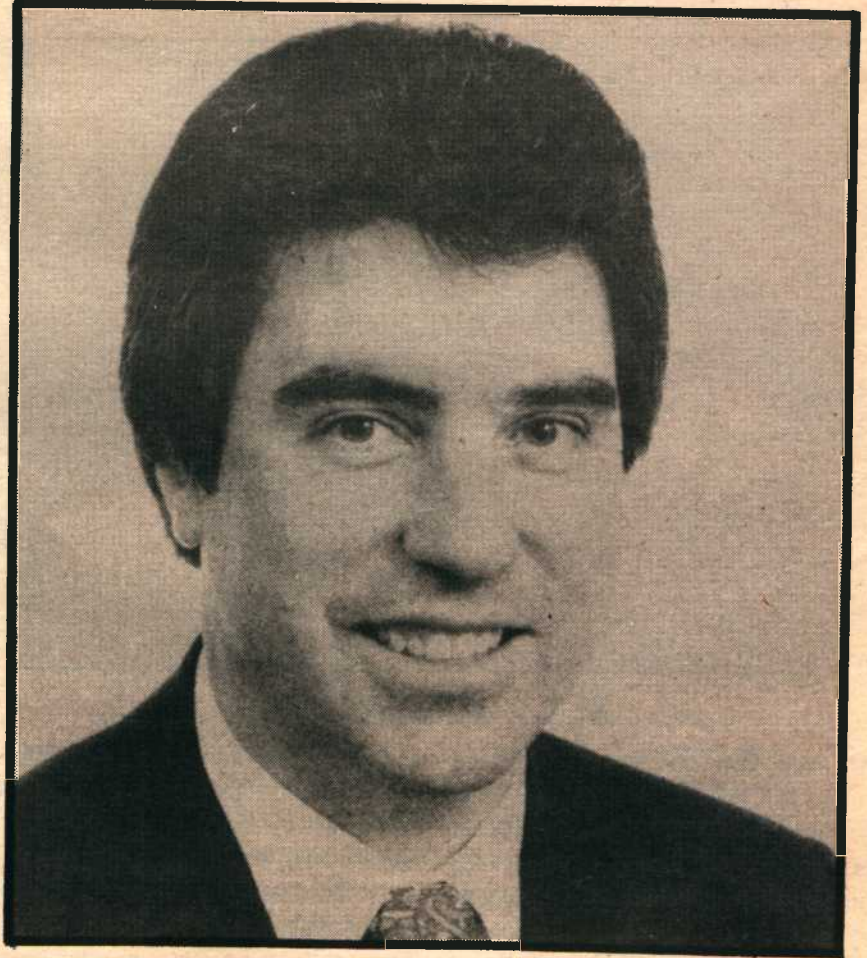
San Bernardino Mayor Wilcox stated that the city is in the process of drafting a proposal for a City-County partnership to take to legislative bodies.

"Our initial thrust would be to concentrate efforts in six areas: determining the socioeconomic impact on the region; negotiating for extended phase-

out of base operations; acquisition of Norton's surplus military property; establishing a Norton Re-Use Committee; investigating funding sources; and setting up good lines of communication to keep the public informed of our progress," said the Mayor.

## Cal State

## New Librarian Named



**Dr. William Aguilar**

Dr. William Aguilar of Central Connecticut State University will assume his duties Jan. 3 as the new library director at Cal State, San Bernardino.

Aguilar, 39, succeeds Arthur Nelson, who resigned his directorship of the university's library after 25 years of service and took a post as library biographer.

Aguilar's expertise in automation will help him further develop the Cal State library's computer system. The library currently houses almost one-half-million books, a ratio of 53 books per student.

Aguilar earned his doctorate in library and information science from the Uni-

versity of Illinois-Urbana. He has published several articles in the library science field and was a 1986 Hispanic Leadership Fellowship recipient.

"There are very few Hispanics in the library field," said Dr. J. C. Robinson, associate vice president of academic personnel at Cal State. "With (Aguilar's) background, we are very fortunate to get him."

"Our library has been well-managed, but libraries have changed so much in recent years because of technology that the time has come for our library to make a leap into the future," Robinson added.

Aguilar will reside in San Bernardino.

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## Personal Profile

## Ray Abril Sr. "A Big Man"



## Ray Abril Sr.

Mr. Ray Abril Sr., an 80 year old resident of Colton, a big, straight-talking, no-nonsense gentleman (of the old school) sat in the comfortable living room of his home, which he indicated very proudly, he had built by himself and stated, "I have witnessed a lot of history in this area and have seen many good changes occur in our community."

A second-generation Californian, he has lived in the Colton area all his life, except when the family migrated to Yuma in a covered wagon in 1919. He attended Colton public schools, dropping out of San Salvador Junior High in the 8th grade to work as an orange picker and in the dairy farms or any other jobs that were available to Mexican-Americans at the time. He said he never considered working at the Colton

cement plant due to the unhealthy working conditions. In 1929, he was employed by the Pacific Freight Express (PFE), was married in 1931, and in 1932 he was layed-off a week after his son Ray Jr. was born.

Mr. Abril talked about the Depression and, a little misty-eyed, spoke of the hard times of this period in his life. He remembered about the hard times in the community, especially for the Mexican-American families. He recalls working small jobs for fifty cents a day, sometimes a dollar a day. Reluctantly, he applied and was employed by the Work Progress Administration (WPA), a Federal works project initiated by President Roosevelt, to help the large unemployed population at that time.

Mr. Abril was employed by the South-

ern Pacific Railroad from 1936 to 1945, working in the labor gangs. Being a progressive person he wanted to get out of the labor gangs. He was disillusioned and bitter because Mexican-Americans were not given an opportunity to enter the apprenticeship programs that were available to the Anglo employees. He strongly protested to his supervisors and the Superintendent for a long period of time. He joined the union and asked for help in entering the apprenticeship program, but when the union failed to help him, he quit the union. He was finally given an opportunity to become an apprentice-helper in the car department and eventually became a carman. He quit the railroad because he felt that his goals of achieving a trade had been accomplished.

After a couple of years as a painting contractor, he was employed by the Colton Unified School District in 1948, and retired in 1972.

He stated, with pride, that during this period in his life, he continued with his education attending San Bernardino Valley College for four years, studying heating, air conditioning and electronics. He applied the education with practical knowledge and was able to work in every facet of maintenance in the school district.

Recalling the depression period again, he highlighted some of the socio-economic conditions existing at that time and briefly described them. For example, the fire department was located in north Colton and when there was a fire in south Colton, the fire engines were detained from attending to the fires due to the trains stopping traffic at the railroad crossing, this also occurred with the ambulances. He remembers the police discrimination with the citizens (of south Colton), if any Mexican-Americans went to north Colton after dark they were usually harassed by police. Police protection in south Colton was non-existent. Other discriminatory practices in the community were segregation in the theaters and municipal swimming pools and the lack of precautionary measures for school children who had to cross the railroad tracks on the way to school. There were children who were killed or maimed as the result of the city's neglect. He further described the poor economic conditions existing for the majority of the families and the sub-standard education in the schools of

south Colton. He strongly stated that these situations occurred due to the discriminatory attitudes within the majority of the Anglo community.

As the result of these socio-economic and political conditions, the Latin American Civic Club was organized in 1932. A few of the members in the organization were Jennie Gonzales, Manual Padilla, Pete Luque, Paul Torres, Johnnie Martinez and Nellie Abril. All of these individuals became outstanding leaders in the community.

He proudly stated that due to the efforts of this organization, the city installed sewers, sidewalks, street lights, and paved streets in south Colton. Even then, he recalls, it was a continual struggle to have the city perform minimal services in south Colton.

In 1941, due to the beginning of World War II, he took over the Boy Scout Troop due to the induction of Dr. Ross into the armed forces. He continued as a scout master until 1964. Some of the members in his Boy Scout Troop were Dr. Ernest Garcia, Dr. Tom Rivera, Ernie Colunga, Mayor Frank Gonzales, Johnnie Martinez, Ray Abril Jr., school board member, and Ray Gonzales who later became the Scout Master.

During this same period of time, at the instance of Mr. Paul J. Rogers, School Superintendent, Mr. Abril became the combined city and school recreational director, becoming involved in organizing basketball, baseball and football teams that played in the different cities in the Inland Empire.

He continued to take youth leadership courses at Valley College and at Riverside City College. He stated proudly that the youths on his teams and the boy scout troops are continuing the tradition of helping today's youth. After 1964 he gradually withdrew from the many civic activities, and even after retirement he continues to work part time.

"Since the early thirties I have felt a deep commitment to my community and especially to our youth, I have used the talents that God gave me and my total experience toward the betterment of our community and its people, so that it would be a better place to live, I have struggled to educate and improve myself and my family. In my heart I feel I will continue to struggle for the betterment of my community until the day I die" he concluded.

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# '88 Went Unfulfilled for Latino Artists

By Antonio Mejias-Rentas

At the beginning of the year, 1988 promised to bring even greater achievements by Hispanics in the arts and entertainment fields than in the previous, landmark "Year of La Bamba."

In 1987, that Luis Valdez film and its title song recorded by Los Lobos proved that mainstream audiences would welcome Latino product with open arms and open wallets, and established that U.S. Hispanics were an increasingly important segment of that mainstream audience.

What a difference a year makes. In 1988 the promise went unfulfilled and Latino artists and entertainers found success limited to contributions outside of the mainstream.

Even the film "Stand and Deliver" -- the runaway candidate for biggest Latino achievement of the year -- was an independent, small-budget project, picked up for distribution by Warner Bros. late in 1987 in a veritable bidding war among the major studios. But interest in Latino film projects dwindled fast when audiences didn't react as warmly as critics did to Universal's "Milagro Beanfield War," and Columbia Pictures put off the release of Jane Fonda's "Old Gringo" until late 1989.

Except for "Gringo" -- based on Carlos Fuentes' acclaimed novel "Gringo

Viejo" -- no other Latino project survived in the major studios in 1988.

However, a little-known independent feature film found limited, though welcomed, success in the growing Latino film festival circuit. "Break of Dawn" -- the story of Pedro J. Gonzalez, a Spanish-language radio pioneer in California -- was a *Premio Mesquite* winner at the 13th edition of the San Antonio CineFestival in November.

The number of Latino film festivals in the country increased from two to five in 1988, providing a vital forum for Hispanic film and video product, otherwise ignored by the elitist, mainstream festivals. More and more, these events screened imports from Latin America and Spain -- such as Pedro Almodovar's "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown," which opened this year's New York Film Festival.

That trend to welcome Spanish and Latin American imports, while ignoring U.S. Latino product, was especially visible in literature and in the arts.

While English-language translations of works such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez' "Love in the Time of Cholera" were released by major publishing houses, U.S. Latino literature continued to be relegated to the world of small publishers with limited distribution in specialized bookstores.

And even though "Hispanic Art in the

United States" -- the largest and most comprehensive exhibition of its kind -- continued on a slow journey across the continent (with stops in Santa Fe and Miami), the art world's attention was concentrated on the record-breaking prices paid for Pablo Picasso's paintings, and on upcoming exhibits by Diego Rivera and Francisco Goya.

The art event of the year -- the traveling exhibit "The Latin Spirit: Art and Artists in the United States" -- opened at the Bronx Museum of the Arts without a single piece by a U.S.-born Hispanic.

The importing trend was slightly reversed in two areas of cultural expression -- theater and television.

Although the most lavish Hispanic stage production of the year was a play by Spain's Federico Garcia Lorca -- the Great Lakes Theater Festival's "Blood Wedding," which originated in Cleveland and traveled to San Diego and Miami -- home-grown Hispanic theater found increased acceptance in several regional theaters around the country.

A major boost to Hispanic theater in California was provided by the Ford Foundation, which funded the Teatro Meta component of San Diego's Old Globe Theatre, the Hispanic Playwrights Project at Costa Mesa's South Coast Repertory and the Latino Theater Lab at the Los Angeles Theater

Center. The foundation -- which released a major study on the state of Hispanic theater in the United States in 1988 -- also awarded funds to various other theater groups around the country.

But things didn't fare as well for Hispanics in English-language network television. The CBS sitcom "Trial and Error," which starred Paul Rodriguez and Eddie Velez, was canceled after three episodes. An even worse fate fell upon the ABC drama "Juarez" -- it was canceled before the first episode.

"Juarez" lead Benjamin Bratt-Banda -- who had been persuaded by the network to use his Peruvian mother's name in the credits -- quickly learned that Hispanics weren't as hot as they were expected to be in 1988. He re-emerged in the fall as Benjamin Bratt in the ABC drama "Knightwatch" -- the single new network program of the '88-'89 schedule with a Latino lead actor or a regular Latino character.

And so it was that things returned to normal for Latino artists and entertainers in 1988 -- they were back outside the mainstream, wistfully looking in.

(Antonio Mejias-Rentas, of Los Angeles, is arts and entertainment editor for the national newsweekly Hispanic Link Weekly Report.)

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## "Artes - The Mexican American Tradition" Opens Jan. 10

Seven local Hispanic artists will exhibit a variety of art media when "Artes-The Mexican-American Tradition" opens January 10 at the San Bernardino County Museum. The public is invited to the opening reception to meet the artists on Saturday, January 14 from 7 to 9 p.m. The show closes January 30.

This will be the first in a series of ethnic art exhibits planned by the museum. It promises to be an unusual and fascinating display with strong, vibrant colors and exotic imagery and symbolism. The deeply rooted influences of mixed cultures are evident whatever the subject matter.

Except for Albert Landeros who is from Mentone, and Roberto Garcia who was born in Mexico, all the artists are San Bernardino natives and attended local schools. All the artists received part of the art education at San Bernardino Valley college.

Linda and Rafael Garcia are husband and wife and are currently exhibiting at the San Bernardino Cultural Center. They work in oils, acrylics, block printing, clay and wire sculpture. Rafael studied art at the University of Guadalajara, Mexico and teaches art at Shandin Hills Junior High School in San Bernardino. He believes that "art has the power to heal. In this way art is a shaman of my psyche." Linda's paint-

ings are full of angels, people and animals-with good and bad spirits lurking about.

Ernesto Colunga earns his living as a graphic artist, but says, "I prefer to paint Life! - the human face and form, the beauty of animals and birds. I use enamels and oils to feast the eye with maximum color."

Manuel Guisa is from Fontana. Most of his works are in oils and acrylics. He likes to paint a variety of subjects, but portraiture is his forte.

Roberto Garcia's artistic energy has found expression in oils, acrylics, ceramics, sculpture and photography.

Albert Landeros is a watercolorist who enjoys painting people. Through visiting unspoiled areas of Mexico where native Indians still cling to their traditional dress and customs, Albert has developed a theme for which he has become known. He depicts the dignity and ruggedness in the lives of the "indigenas" and shows in the face and stance the unique character of each individual. His main concern is not merely design or composition, but his desire to convey the essence and nature of those people to the viewer.

Tom Acosta says, "My drawing and paintings are images of my life. My family, sisters and friends from the

Westside neighborhood all influence my art. The reflections I've saved from the barrio are as exotic and special as

any South American village. My goal is to share what might be missed because it was in our own back yard."



Six of the local artists whose exhibit, "Artes-The Mexico-American Tradition," opens January 10 at the San Bernardino County Museum. From left to right: Linda Garcia, Ernesto Colunga, Alberto Landeros, Rafael Garcia. Kneeling are Roberto Garcia and Manuel Guisa. Not pictured is Tom Acosta.

The public is invited to attend the opening buffet reception on Saturday, January 14 from 7 to 9 p.m. to meet the artists.



## Hispanic Link

## Education: A Case of Slander

There exists a set of beliefs in the American community, occasionally given public voice, to the effect that Latino parents do not support education for their children and that Latino children are not capable of educational achievement.

The evidence for this set of beliefs is, at best, spurious, and statements to that effect are therefore slanderous.

This slander is not a new phenomenon, nor is the shame that informs it. It is part and parcel of a larger slander, one that describes us as being unambitious, unmotivated and unqualified. It has been used to justify dispossession, exploitation and injustice.

In its current form, it serves to take educators and education policy-makers off the hook. It is used to justify the low achievement and high attrition of Latino students. It rationalizes the failure of educational institutions to address Latino needs. It shifts the burden of educational responsibility from schools to Latino parents.

Such beliefs betray a lack of understanding of American realities and Latino conditions. Our history has been one of both de jure and de facto exclusion from the life of U.S. institutions, not least from educational institutions. Public education may be our right as citizens and residents of this country,

but it has not been something that Latinos have never easily or fully enjoyed.

Quality education remains a goal rather than a reality for most of our community. The majority of our students attend excessively large, underfunded, poorly staffed and highly segregated schools where effective teaching and learning are difficult if not impossible to realize.

The students who are exceptions to that norm find their school environments to be either hostile or indifferent. What they don't find is challenging courses, intellectual encouragement and support, equality of opportunity, acceptance and respect, a reasonable number of peers or appropriate role models.

**"The facts are that daughters and sons of both native-born and immigrant LATINOS do well in school, receive high honors, and seek further education."**

Many of those who drop out are simply bored; others are literally pushed out. And most of those who succeed do so despite the negative conditions in which they have to function.

This slander reveals a lack of awareness of the aspirations and accomplishments of our community. Survey re-

searchers have determined that Latino parents and students have higher educational aspirations than those of any other group and that they are even higher when one controls for socioeconomic status.

The facts are that the daughters and sons of both native-born and immigrant Latinos do well in school, receive high honors, and seek further educational opportunities. Equally important, the children of *peones* as well as *mayordomos*, of migrant farmworkers and urban laborers, of poor Latinos and affluent Hispanics grow up to be academics, managers, professionals, scientists, business executives, community leaders, military officers and public officials.

of schools to educate all children well.

We are not the problem. Our children are just as curious and just as able to learn as are other children. Given the demographic changes that U.S. society is undergoing, the nation needs all of its citizens to be literate, numerate and educated.

What is missing from this formula is the belief that Latino children can be educated, acceptance of the fact that they need to be educated, and the will to adapt educational institutions to assure that they do.

Rather than accepting the slander, let us push our schools to do better by all of our children, whether it takes more funding, smaller class sizes, more and better trained personnel, improved physical plants or radically different modes of instruction.

Let us assure that our children have educational opportunities to match their potential and are given instructional support and encouragement consonant with their aspirations.

As part of the U.S. community we deserve no less, and as a nation we cannot afford to do otherwise.

(Arturo Madrid is president of the Toma's Rivera Center, an institute for policy studies that addresses Latino issues. The center is based in Claremont, Calif.)

## New Latino Dance Program at U.C.R.

RIVERSIDE - Juan A. Rios, a specialist in ethnic dance forms, has been appointed a lecturer in the Program in Dance at the University of California, Riverside. Beginning this month, Rios will teach a course in Mexican folk dance, to be offered for the first time at UCR in nearly a decade.

Rios, who also teaches at UCLA and UCI and has extensive professional dance experience, will hold the position of lecturer for one quarter. The course "Mexican Folk Dance" will be offered each Thursday evening during the winter quarter at UCR.

Rios has extensive academic and professional experience in the traditional Mexican dance form of folklorico. He earned a master's degree in ethnic dance education from Stanford University in 1978. Since then he has danced professionally with a number of dance companies, including the Ballet Folklórico Mexicano, the National Chicano Dance Theater of Denver, and Los Lupenos de San Jose. Among Rios' credits is an appearance in the movie "Zoot Suit."

He spent last summer in Mexico teaching, conducting research and performing. Rios was a dance instructor for the University of San Diego Summer Program in Guadalajara. He performed and served as guest choreographer for

the "Taller de Danza" company at the University of Guadalajara, and traveled with a number of ballet folklorico groups throughout Mexico.

In 1984, Rios received a California Arts Council grant to develop performing activities for children in the Los Angeles area. The three-year project was conducted in conjunction with the arts center Plaza de la Raza and included activities in tap, jazz and folklorico dance.

He is a member of the Asociacion Nacional de Grupos Folkloricos and served as a board member of the association in 1979.

Rios said the Mexican folk dance course at UCR would include instruction in dance technique, history of the dance form, and trips to performances of professional ballet folkloricos.

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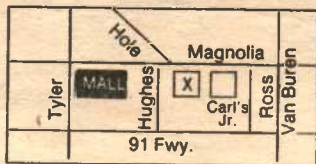
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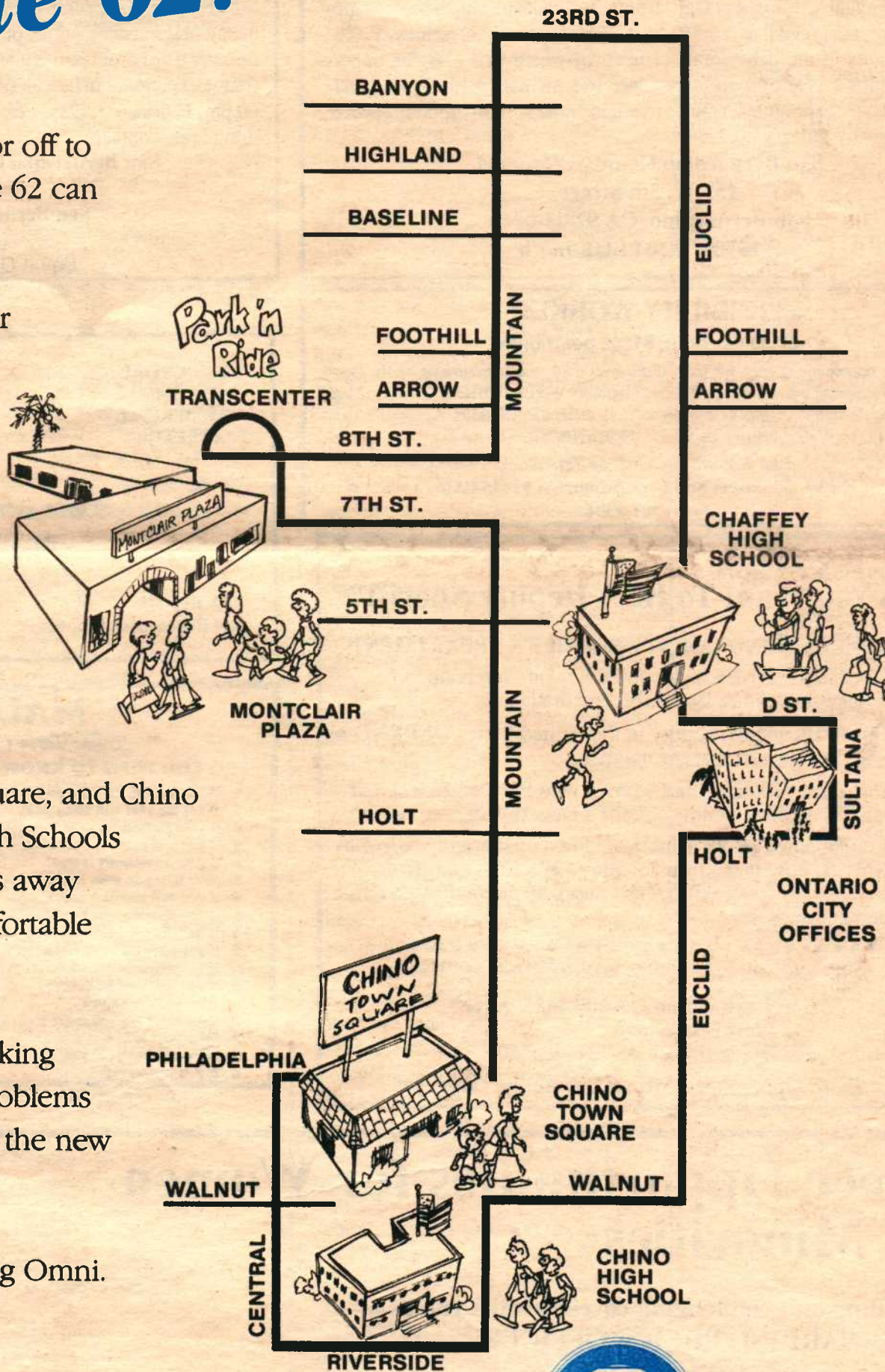
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