June 1st 2005

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SOLDIERS AND SLAVES

By Roger Cohen

American POWs Trapped by the Nazis' Final Gamble

In February 1945, 350 American POWs captured earlier at the Battle of the Bulge or elsewhere in Europe were singled out by the Nazis because they were Jews or were thought to resemble Jews. They were transported in cattle cars to Bergen, a concentra-

tion camp in eastern Germany, and put to work as slave laborers, mining tunnels for a planned underground synthetic-fuel factory. This was the only incident of its kind during World War II.

Starved and brutalized, the GIs were denied their rights as prisoners of war, their ordeal culminating in a death march that was halted by liberation near the Czech border. Twenty percent of these soldiers—more than seventy of them—perished. After the war, Bergen was virtually forgotten, partly because it fell under Soviet occupation.

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ECHANDOLE MAS AGUA A LOS FRIJOLES
(You have to give more to get more)
Commentary by Dolores "Lola" Vasquez

You have to give more to get more. It's a cultural phenomenon; we are asked to give, to care, to help, to serve, to prepare, and, above all, to remember others first. When we think of people who have done just that, they are the great ones... and we remember Thomas Rivera, the son of Chicano migrant farmworkers.

Since 1987, the University of California at Riverside has hosted the Tomas Rivera Conference, named after the late Chancellor Rivera. This conference focuses on a variety...
DAVID MENDOZA RETIRED AFTER LONG CAREER AT CALTRANS

Colton Maintenance Station. In 1971, he was promoted to leadman and in 1975 was promoted to maintenance supervisor.

Challenged by opportunities within the department, he was promoted to landscape specialist I in the Riverside Maintenance Area. A year later, he was promoted to area superintendent II. An opening in Orange County in July 1990, gave Mendoza an opportunity for promotion to maintenance manager at the agency’s District 12. Later returning to District 8 in the Riverside area in a lateral position transfer.

Mendoza was promoted to Acting Deputy District Director of Maintenance in District 8 in August 2001, the position becoming permanent several months later. He retired in December 2004.

Mendoza is enjoying his retirement with his wife, Aurora, and sons David and Richard. His hobbies are fishing, golfing, gardening, cooking, and traveling.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Governor says he wants to improve California’s schools but he has not once mentioned the real problem that is facing them. California ranks 44th out of the 50 states in how much it spends per student. We spend $600.00 less per child than the national average. This underfunding has resulted in California having some of the largest class sizes in the nation. Attacking teacher’s due process rights, paying them based upon test scores, and limiting their ability to organize will not solve the problem of chronic under funding. Let’s fix the real problem, not create new ones.

Janet Wilson
San Bernardino, CA 92405
ASSEMBLYMEMBER BILL EMMERSON SALUTES 63 INLAND EMPIRE NURSES IN HONOR OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

RANCHO CUCAMONGA - District 63 Assemblymember Bill Emerson (R-Rodlands) saluted 63 area nurses at a celebratory breakfast as part of National Nurses Week commemorations. Assemblymember Emerson noted that this year’s theme for National Nurses Week is “Nurses: Many Roles, One Profession,” and during the ceremonies Emerson acknowledged the varying aspects of professional nursing.

“Each year, we honor a group of outstanding professionals who are deeply deserving of a weekend celebration,” stated Assemblymember Emmerson. “America’s nurses work tirelessly to ensure quality care for their patients. They alleviate pain and suffering every day, and today it is my honor to recognize our local nurses who give so much to their field and to the community.”

Assemblymember Bill Emerson hailed Governor Schwarzenegger’s recent release of $13 million in immediate aid to bolster nursing education in California. In addition, Emmerson lauded the Governor’s proposed $90 million nurse education initiative that would be distributed over the next five years to continue the expansion of educational opportunities.

“Nurses are vitally important to the continuity of care in our community hospitals, clinics and nursing homes,” concluded Assemblymember Emmerson. “I encourage every Californian to join me in honoring our nurses during this special week.”

Assemblymember Bill Emerson represents the 63rd Assembly District, which includes the cities of Rancho Cucamonga, Upland, Redlands, San Bernardino, Fontana, Highland, Yucaipa, Loma Linda, Grand Terrace, Moreno Valley and Riverside.

Marilyn Martinez-Flores, a Ph.D., is Director and Academic Affairs Administrative Intern at Riverside Community College. Martinez-Flores is a community leader and role model to many students in the Inland Empire. Photo by IEHN

Marilyn Martinez-Flores has reached a high level in her professional career in education with the appointment as Director of CLEAR UP Program in 2001 at Riverside Community College, with responsibilities in managing programmatic and fiscal decisions of federal grant, consult with business and community entities, and the development of goals and objectives during the grant period.

In 2004, she additionally was appointed Academic Affairs Administrative Intern, with new program initiatives in pre-collegiate studies and academic affairs.

During her tenure at RCC, she has been a lecturer on “The Classroom,” at the University of California, Riverside (UCR). She also served as educational consultant with Riverside and San Bernardino County Schools, as an external evaluator for underperforming schools, and providing systemic changes in curriculum and instruction.

Martinez-Flores received a BA in Liberal Studies with areas of concentration in Education and Spanish at UCR; an M.A. in Education with BCLAD Teaching Credential at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Ph.D. in Institutional Leadership and Policy Studies at UCR, with a doctoral dissertation on “The Intersection of Policy and Practice Linking Teacher’s Meaning to Action.”

Martinez-Flores, fluent in Spanish, was initially appointed 5-6 grade teacher in the Jurupa Unified School District in 1995. Her later assignments includes reclassification and CBET district coordinator, ESL and Citizenship instructor and resource teacher, and principal-designee.

In 1999, she was appointed graduate student researcher at UCR, coordinating the mathematics articulating project and evaluating the School University Partnership Program.

Her community membership involves: RCC Management Association, Latino Network, Centro de Niños, Hispanic Serving Institutions Task Force, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, among others. She has presented 10 papers in conferences and workshops throughout the United States.

Marilyn Martinez-Flores, in a prepared statement, said, “Being a first generation college student and having accomplished my Ph.D. by the time I was 30, has given me the internal drive to continue to move forward in my professional goals and to mentor others to do the same. My mother went to the third grade, and my father to sixth grade, and my primary language was Spanish. Reflecting back at the challenges I faced and how resilient I have become, my goal is to guide, teach and role model to other challenged youth.”

OVER A THIRD OF YOUTH 12-17 USED ALCOHOL IN THE PAST YEAR 9 MILLION ENGAGED IN DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR

Almost 8.6 million youths ages 12 to 17, over one third of this age group, used alcohol in the past year, data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) show. The data, released today as part of Alcohol Awareness Month, show more than 650,000 youth (2.6 percent) reported heavy alcohol use, and nine million engaged in at least one delinquent behavior in the past year.

The data, highlighted in a new report, “Alcohol Use and Delinquent Behaviors among Yous,” extracted from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2003, show that youths who reported heavy alcohol use in the past month were the most likely to have participated in delinquent behavior. Heavy alcohol use is defined as five or more drinks in a single sitting at least five times in the past 30 days.

“Underage alcohol use is not a behavior that should be overlooked by parents. It can be a sign of other serious problems,” SAMHSA Administrator Charles Curie pointed out.

“Heavy alcohol use among young people is not only illegal, it is linked to fighting, stealing, selling drugs and carrying a handgun. Parents must talk
Almost thirty years later, those in attendance at the conference were captivated by Tomas Rivera’s seminal Chicanismo vision that continues to inspire everyone today. We could feel Tomas’s presence in the room as we held our breaths and became mesmerized by every word spoken by him. The emotional significance was so overwhelming that tears welled in our eyes and became suspended, almost as if in their falling we were missing a word of what was being shared. Rarely had the community had the opportunity to hear one of the greatest Chicanos heroes, Tomas Rivera, personify the beauty, strength, courage, intellect, and pride that goes with understanding the Chicano experience... of being “Chicano”.

As the Dr. Rivera’s eloquent lecture informed us, the consciousness of the “movimiento” has its roots at the university level as a deliberate philosophical/social/spiritual idealist effort, renaissance in its nature. It redefined the Mexican in the United States, still called by many as a Mexican-American. Above all, Tomas Rivera deliberately underscored the recognition of ourselves as a colonized people. That is the beginning, and once we accept the struggle of a colonized people, then we can invent ourselves and embrace the word “Chicano” on our own terms. Thus, the liberation process is a self-awareness of the negative stereotype imposed upon us and the inspiration of the positiveness of our culture. And it’s this realization of determining our self-concept that drives the revolutionary spirit of change. Dr. Rivera further explains this revolutionary spirit in the acceptance of being elected in the intellectual endeavors of the people who were involved in the “plan de Santa Barbara,” a Chicano codes for social empowerment. Tomas comments that although we have been represented as a passive people, that, in fact, Chicanos are resilient survivors. His working class characters are strong and tolerate unbelievable conditions in order to meet family obligations, a sort of ultimate work ethic. He states that “we are a complex people” and we should not associate negativity towards those that struggle to earn a living. However, Tomas never wanted his family to suffer although he had repeatedly heard the phrase “para que sepa lo que es sufre”, he didn’t want his children, he wanted to break that vicious cycle. This love of family has been a compelling force in Rivera’s life as he attributes his motivation for writing as a need to leave his memoirs for his children, that “recuerdos” were the inherent in the creative process. We have now inherited a living legacy of “reinventing ourselves,” of a call to civic responsibility, and a dissociation with negative stereotypes of the working class.

Dr. Rivera was inspired by the toil and hardships of the migrant farmer as reflected in his writing, which was later performed in the evening. Dr. Carlos Cortes, Professor Emeritus of History, University of California, Riverside, skillfully narrated, coordinated and directed the selections, which included the following readings:

Chicano Literature: Fiesta of the Living read by Maria Herrera-Sobek, Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Academic Policy, University of California, Santa Barbara;

El Salamandar” a poem read by Gloria Macias Harrison, President, Crafton Hills Community College;

“The Searchers” a poem read by Eluid Martinez, Professor Emeritus of Creative Writing and Comparative Literature, University of California Riverside.

In addition, another historic “first” took place that evening. Dr. Rivera was never able to deliver his inaugural address due to a rainstorm. Dr. Juan Felipe Herrera graciously delivered it to us twenty-five years later. Tomas also requested the first Mexican song “Cuatro Milpas” to be played at an inaugural; and twenty-five years later, Hector Catallos, sang a glorious rendition of that song for the audience along with Chancellor Leroy’s favorite, “El Rey.” It was an evening of enduring memories and enchanting music; and perhaps next year we can remember the words of Tomas Rivera, reflect on their value, and work to relive their meaning.

Dolores “Lola” Vasquez is an alumna of UCR, a teacher for the Jurupa Unified School District in Riverside and a member of the Tomas Rivera Conference Planning Committee.

Continued from page 1

Chicano issues ranging from music and food to education and business. Traditionally, the conference consisted of two components: an after­noon program and a more formal dinner award-scholarship program in the evening. Raising funds for the conference had continually been a dilemma; consequently, the Tomas Rivera Planning Committee decided that we would have one last conference a couple of years ago. Time passed and people preoccupied themselves with serving, caring and helping... and the year was 2002.

Then it was 2004 and history began descending upon us. Twenty years had passed since Tomas had left us and the University of California at Santa Barbara, under the leadership of Dr. Carlos Morton, planned an event in memory of Tomas Rivera: Artist, Activist and Leader.

The reviews came back and the praise was resounding. What had happened to the Riverside campus? Were we suffering from cultural amnesia, had our memories evaporated, had everyone lost their sense of history? After all, this was Tomas’s backyard and the university had not as much as sent out a memo. As events were later to prove, time would be on our side. April 28, 1980, Tomas Rivera was inaugurated as the first Chicano chancellor in the country, so it was befitting that we commemorate that historic occasion with a twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of his life. As we met and we decided that including some of the uniquely profound characteristics of Tomas’s writing, along with some heartfelt reflections of his accomplishments and a multimedia presentation would celebrate his life in a creative, artistic manner. After many months of deliberating, planning and archival searching, After the Rain: The Legacy and Life of Tomas Rivera endowed chair, Dr. Juan Felipe Herrera, and there would also be a unique evening performance, Tomas Rivera: Celebration of a Life.

On April 29, 2005, the Tomas Rivera Conference began and at approximately 3:30 in the afternoon people started watching a videotape of Dr. Rivera that was recorded in 1977. The audience was amazed at what they were viewing. It was a simple event. Tomas, at the time an administrator at San Antonio College, had been invited to give a lecture to a graduate English class taught by Julian LaHei. The assignment was on the writing of his novel Yo no se lo trago la tierra and what he called “germinacion,” the germination process of creative writing.
Wednesday, June 1, 2005

JUDGE DONALD ALVAREZ RECEIVES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

14, 2001

At the University of Redlands, Alvarez participated in the football, cross country and track teams, and a Pi Chi. He graduated with a BA in Political Science in 1975. He received a law degree from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

He joined the law firm of Brunnick and Welebir, a civil litigation firm, and later became a partner in the law firm, Brunnick, Alvarez and Battersby, specializing in general business law and civil litigation in federal and state courts. Alvarez served as legal counsel for the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools.

Actively involved in the community, Alvarez served in the Colton Joint Unified School District Board of Education, and its president for one term, the Rotary Club of Colton, and Arrowhead United Way Board of Directors.

He has continued to served at the University by coaching the Mock Trial Team, which captured ninth place nationally in a 170 team field at the American Mock Trial Association Championship Flight in 1994.

He has two children, Brennan and Conner.

Donald Alvarez received the Alumni Career Achievement Award at the University of Redlands Alumni Association’s Annual Alumni Awards Dinner on May 13. Judge Alvarez was appointed superior court judge of San Bernardino County by Governor Gray Davis and sworn into office on June 1, 2001.

Photo courtesy of the Alvarez family.

SOLDIERS AND SLAVES

By Roger Cohen

American POWs Trapped by the Nazis' Final Gamble

Continued from page 1

domination and partly because America's Cold War priorities quickly changed, and the experiences of these Americans were buried.

Now, for the first time, their story is told in all its blistering detail. This is the story of hell in a small place over a period of ten weeks, at a time when Hitler's Reich was crumbling but its killing machine still churned. It is a tale of madness and heroism, and of the failure to deliver justice for what the Nazis did to these Americans.

Among those involved, William Shapiro, a young medic from the Bronx, hardened in Normandy battles but as a prisoner unable to help the Nazis' wasted slaves, whose bodies became as insubstantial as ghosts; Hans Kasten, a defiant German-American who enraged his Nazi captors by demanding, in vain, that he help German POWs and eventual residents eventually have the option to become US citizens.

Create a national immigrant communities integration initiative to help immigrants become full participants in the political, social, economic and cultural fabric of the United States.

- Establish policies that manage future migration flows into the United States in ways that are legal, secure, and respect human rights.

NALACC also urges Congress and the Administration to rethink the current approach to supporting economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean. "The economic policies of the past decade in Mexico, the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean have failed to create economic opportunity for the majority of the population. As a result, many people continue to see emigration to the U.S. as the most viable option to lift their families out of poverty," stated Jose Luis Gutierrez, president of the Illinois-based Federation of Hispanic Associations from Michoacan, Mexico and a leader of NALACC.

NALACC will also continue to focus its energy on the "Keep Our Families Together" national education campaign. "Keep Our Families Together" seeks to raise awareness among policymakers, the general public and the Bush Administration of the plight of immigrant families with the goal of promoting a humane and fair reform of U.S. immigration laws and better economic policies toward the region.

LITANIO IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES APPLAUD BI-PARTISAN PROPOSAL FOR IMMIGRATION POLICY REFORM

CHICAGO, IL - The National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities (NALACC) thanked Senators John McCain (R-AZ) Edward Kennedy (D-MA) Representatives Jim Kolbe (R-AZ) Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) for proposing legislation aimed at reforming our unjust obsolete and ineffective immigration laws. The bipartisan proposals in both chambers of Congress represented a sincere effort to respond responsibly to the complex challenges presented by immigration issues. Our current system is both unjust and dysfunctional so it is great to see Republicans and Democrats joining forces to reform it," she added. Since February of 2004, NALACC has pressed policymakers to respond to key demands set forth by NALACC, including:

- Reduce the waiting period for immigration visas or citizenship requests to no longer than six months.
- A legalization program that would allow immigrants who live in the United States to become legal permanent residents and eventually have the option to become US citizens.
- Create a national immigrant communities integration initiative to help immigrants become full participants in the political, social, economic, and cultural fabric of the United States.

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CALIFORNIA BORDER POLICE AUTHOR POINTS TO NEW FEDERAL REPORT ON COSTS OF INCARCERATING ILLEGAL ALIENS IN STATE PRISON

SACRAMENTO, CA - The author of the proposed California Border Police Initiative says that two recent reports from the Government Accounting Office (GAO) bolster the need for California TO PATROL ITS OWN BORDER.

The reports, issued April 7, 2005 and May 9, 2005, state that California taxpayers spent $635 million imprisoning illegal immigrants in 2003. The federal government only reimbursed the state $77 million.

"This report is further evidence of the need for California to take the initiative and begin enforcing immigration law inside our border," said State Assemblyman Ray Haynes. "The federal government has not lived up to its responsibility to control the border and enforce the law, but we have the legal authority and the ability to do it ourselves and now is the time to start."

Haynes pointed out that the annual costs of incarcerating illegal alien criminals in California ($635 million) more than doubles the projected annual costs of $200 to $300 million of establishing a state police agency charged with immigration law enforcement. "It makes more sense, and saves millions of dollars, to stop illegal immigration at the border with our own state officers," said Assemblyman Haynes, who is the author of the California Border Police Initiative proposed for the June, 2006 ballot.

The GAO report stated that over 80 percent of the illegal aliens arrested for committing crimes in the United States reside in three states, California, Arizona and Texas, with 58 percent living in California.
SAN BERNARDINO BORN HISPANIC-AMERICAN FIRST T O HOLD HIGHEST POSITION IN TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD

By Henry De La O

Exclusive to the Inland Empire Hispanic News

Continued from page 1

James Ramos, second right, candidate for the San Bernardino Community College District, is joined by Congressman Joe Baca, right, and Assemblyman Joe Baca Jr. left, during the benediction by Reverend Reginald Beeman at a fundraising event held at the Orange Show Dome. The event drew a large crowd of diversified supporters from the college district area.

James Ramos, a Cal-State, San Bernardino graduate, is a local businessman, and attended Eisenhower High School in Rialto. He received his appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point while living with his parents in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He graduated from the Academy in 1975 with a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering.

Rodriguez grew up in a military family, and spent several years of his youth in the Inland Empire while his father served overseas in the Army. His father, Colonel Joseph C. Rodriguez, (Retired) born and raised in San Bernardino, was recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for extraordinary valor while serving in the Korean War.

"My wife and I are so proud of our son. We had to take a couple of deep breaths and realize it's for real," said Col. Joseph Rodriguez. "He really wants to serve his country, as well as represent Hispanics from the area," stated Henry De La O. Rodriguez's uncle, and retired San Bernardino County Division Chief. Vanjie De La O. Rodriguez's aunt, added. "He has made our family very proud. I remember his graduation from West Point and now he's about to become a two-star general."

Rodriguez has more than 30 years of commissioned service, including eight years of active duty with the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division and the 1st Armored Division in Germany.

Rodriguez is currently the Assistant Vice President for University Relations and Deputy Director of the Center for Public Health Preparedness and Biomedical Research at the University of Texas Health Science in San Antonio, Texas. He is married to Cappy Rodriguez, a 20-year retired commissioned officer of the United States Army Reserve. They are parents of son Christopher and daughter Johnee Marie.

Brigadier General Rodriguez will be promoted to the rank of Major General in the Army National Guard of the United States at a public ceremony at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, on June 12th. He will take command during the ceremony.

JAMES RAMOS RECEPTION DRAWS BIG CROWD

Wednesday, June 1, 2005

A POEM FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

By John P. Baca,
Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient

Continued from page 1

with their children about the dangers of underage alcohol use and be aware of the behaviors that often go hand in hand with abuse.

Currie added "Alcohol Screening Day is April 7, providing people who are age 18 or older the opportunity to assess their alcohol use. Information on screening sites across the country are available on the internet at nationalalcoholscreeningday.org or by calling toll free 1-877-311-NASD."

The report notes that 41 percent of youth who engaged in heavy drink-
Inland Empire Hispanic News

Wednesday, June 1, 2005

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The 2005-2006 Proposed Budget for the San Bernardino City Unified School District will be available for inspection from June 7, 2005 to June 21, 2005, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at The Board of Education Building, 777 North F Street, San Bernardino, CA 92410.

The 2005-2006 Proposed Budget Public Hearing for the San Bernardino City Unified School District will be held on June 21, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. at Board of Education, Community Room, 777 North F Street, San Bernardino, CA 92410.

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On the subject of underage drinking, kids consider parents their number one influence. So talk to your kids about underage drinking now. They'll listen. For a free "Family Talk" guide, visit familytalkonline.com or call 1-800-359-TALK.
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Date: June 28, 2005
Location: Pastoral Center, Diocese of San Bernardino
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