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Volume # 6 Number 6

A Bilingual Newspaper

September, 2005

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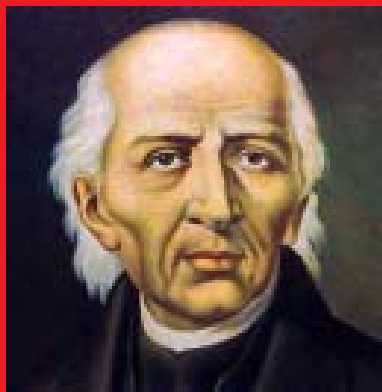
**Saludos by
Mary Castillo**

**En Palabras
Hay Poder**

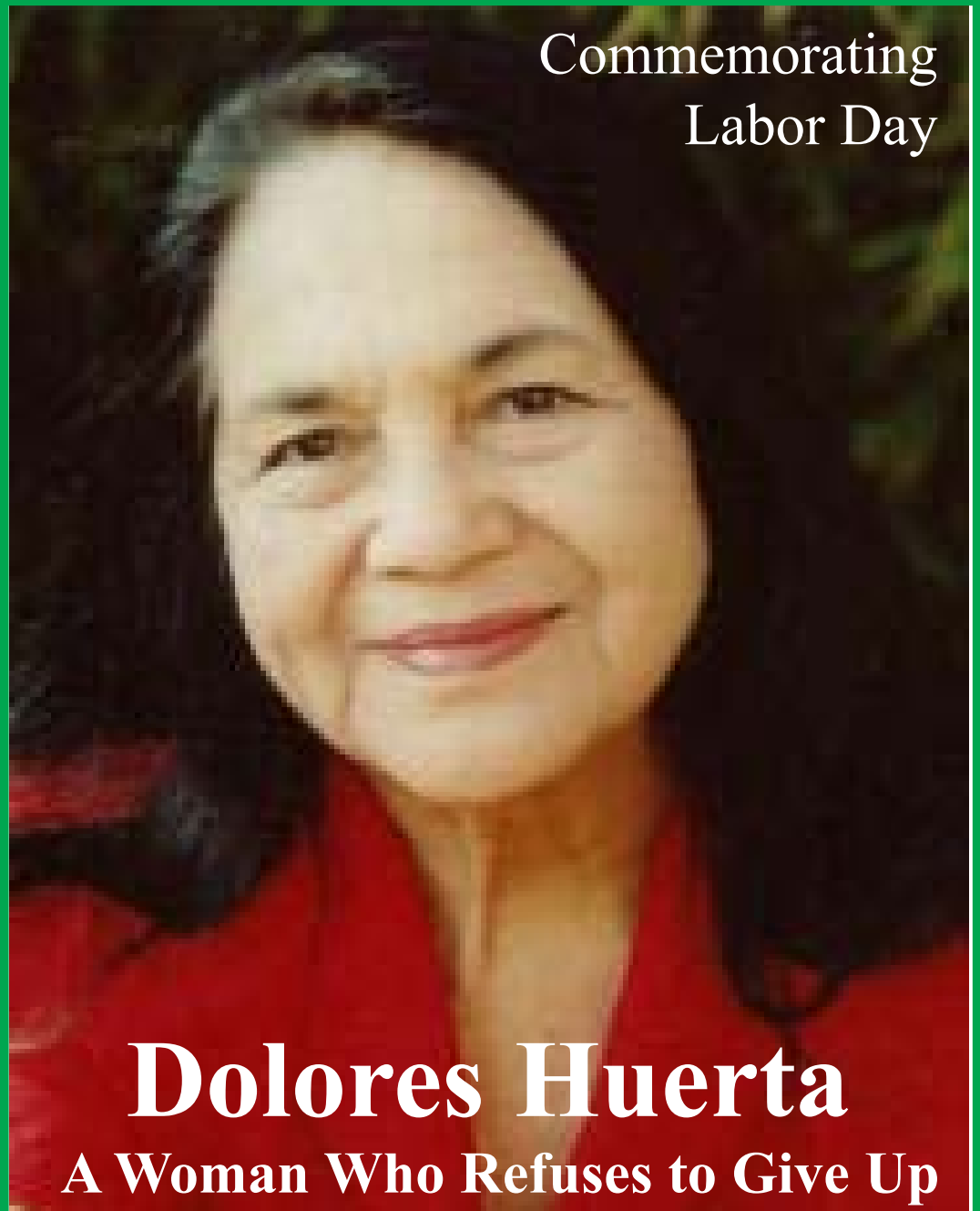
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People in the News



Dr. Alicia Cepeda Comes to the Univ. of Houston

Dr. Alicia Cepeda will be the 2005-2006 visiting scholar at the Center for Mexican American Studies University of Houston.

The Visiting Scholars Program is designed to generate research about the Latino community and attract scholars who may be interested in assuming a tenured or tenure track position at the University of Houston.

First established in 1986, the Visiting Scholars program has helped to grow the ranks of Chicano faculty at the University.

Dr. Cepeda earned her B.A. in sociology in 1995 from the University of Texas at San Antonio a masters from the same institution in 1999. In 2004, Dr. Cepeda went to New York where she earned

her PhD. at the City University of New York Graduate Center. Not surprisingly, Cepeda was the only Mexican American female in her PhD. program. After a year at the Center for Mexican American Studies she will assume a tenure track position in the department of sociology.



Teresa Sanchez Gets Her Wish

When Teresa Sanchez was crowned queen of the Feria de las Flores pageant recently, it was more than an accomplishment, it was the realization of a life-long dream.

"Since I was a little girl, I've always wanted to be part of the Feria de las Flores pageant," said Sanchez. "My family has always been involved with the League of United Latin American Citizens Council No. 1 (LULAC), so I attended all the pageants


and always looked up to the past contestants."

But the LULAC-sponsored gala is more than just a beauty contest. Prior to the pageant she and the other contestants were required to complete a six-month LULAC leadership program which involves many meetings, conferences and banquets.

Sanchez, who is pursuing a degree in business management at A&M-Corpus Christi, was assigned to study the state of Chiapas, Mexico and learn an authentic dance to perform in front of the judges in traditional costume.

Contestants compete in poise, beauty and onstage questioning as well. They also need to sell a minimum of \$1,000 in ads which goes to the LULAC scholarship fund. "It is much more than a pageant," she said. "I definitely saw a change in all the contestants, especially in myself, from when the program first started to the night of the pageant. We learned how to be confident and express ourselves in front of other people without getting nervous."

Sanchez is attending Texas A&M University Corpus Christi.



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La Voz welcomes letters to the editor on any topic.

Editorial

Then I'll say it!

CBS) The fact that many of those suffering most in the aftermath of **Hurricane Katrina** are poor, and black, has outraged a lot of people. Justifiably so, in the opinion of **CBS News Sunday Morning Contributor Nancy Giles**. Here is her commentary from Sept. 4, 2005:



Nancy Giles

After meeting with Louisiana officials last week, **Rev. Jesse Jackson** said: *"Many black people feel that their race, their property conditions and their voting patterns have been a factor in the response."* He continued: *"I'm not saying that myself."*

Then I'll say it. If the majority of the hardest hit victims of **Hurricane Katrina** in **New Orleans** were white people, they would not have gone for days without food and water, forcing many to steal for mere survival. Their bodies would not have been left to float in putrid water. They would have been rescued and relocated a hell of a lot faster than this. Period.

I mean, reporters and crews are getting to stranded people, and government and military agencies can't? Why doesn't **CNN** run **FEMA**?

When I saw pictures of black people taking things from stores, my first thought was: "How are those Air Jordans necessary for your survival?" Then it hit me: People needed shoes and clothing. Some escaped the floods with just the clothing on their backs. We have American citizens, not "refugees" from an underdeveloped country, **still** waiting for shelter.

Waiting. Waiting.

You leave children, pregnant women, the elderly, even the able-bodied, in a city destroyed with no help, no food, no water, no electricity for three, four, five days? What would you do if your family was starving, and you saw people dying in the street? And why didn't the stores in the disaster areas simply make their goods available to these desperate folks? Surely, they've got insurance.

Love thy neighbor. Didn't I read that somewhere?

The real war is not in **Iraq**, but right here in America. It's the War on Poverty, and it's a war that's been ignored and lost. An estimated 37 million Americans are living in poverty. **New Orleans** is one of the poorest cities in the country, with 40 percent of its children living in poverty. **Mississippi** has the highest poverty rate of any state. We've repeatedly given tax cuts to the wealthiest, and left our most vulnerable American citizens to basically fend for themselves.

The whole world is watching. And once again, a day late and a dollar short, words of wisdom from our president: "This is a huge task that we're dealing with." "These are tough times." "Give cash." Once again, he finds the photo op: Some black folks to hug, some white men in Mississippi to bond with. He flies over the messy parts of **New Orleans**, waves and leaves.

The president has put himself at risk by visiting the troops in Iraq, but didn't venture anywhere near the Superdome or the Convention Center, where thousands of victims, mostly black and poor, needed to see that he gave a damn.

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Did You Know?

MONTEREY JACK CHEESE

Who originated the cheese now called Monterey Jack?

Answer: Juana Cota de Boronda.

Why is it called Monterey Jack?

Answer: Because David Jack mass produced the cheese and gave it his name.

Background: That delicious white cheese, Monterey Jack, popular in Mexican food would probably have been called Cota Cheese if not for the unprincipled business

dealings of a certain David Jack living in Monterey, California. After Señora Juana Cota de Boronda's husband was crippled, she needed to find a way to support her

way to support her 15 children. Señora Cota was well know for her cooking skills, and especially for her famous cheese attributed in part to the fields in which her animal grazed. In the 1880s she was producing a high moisture cheese known as "queso de Pais." She was making small quantities of the cheese for local markets on her Rancho de Los Laureles in Carmel Valley.

In the 1890s David Jack, a wealthy community leader observed the success of the white cheese and also Señora Cota's methods for producing the delicious cheese. He saw an opportunity. In spite of the Cota's family situation, David Jack leased neighboring land and contracted with farmers to produce the cheese on a large scale for distribution statewide. He called the cheese Jack's Monterey cheese, which eventually evolved into Monterey Jack Cheese.

Source: California Historian, Dec 1992

Whitney's, who is usually credited with inventing the cotton gin. Eli Whitney's cotton gin was built in the United States in 1793. Defined as a "more practical" cotton gin, Eli Whitney soon became known as the inventor of the cotton gin.

Source: McDonald U.S. Hispanic Heritage Art Contest/Teacher's Resource Guide

LANGUAGES

How many active Indian dialects are spoken in Mexico?

Answer: 100

How many Indian languages have disappeared?

Answer: As many as 93

Mexico has between 8 to 10 million Indians divided into 56 recognized ethnic and language groups and speak daily over 100 different dialects, although some are spoken by only a few people. Some groups, such as the **Nashuas, Mayas, Zapotecs** and **Mixtecs**, number in the hundred thousands and dominate the population of entire regions of the country, though they are often fragmented into small communities. Others like the **Lacandones, Kiliwas, Cucapas** and **Paispais**, have been reduced to a few dozen families. Most have gradually absorbed features of the mestizo culture, but some still live in almost total isolation. "While millions of Mexican Indians primarily use their language in daily life, most also speak Spanish. Today, there are almost 100 active Indian dialects in Mexico. Only a few individuals speak some dialects. It is estimated that as many as 93 Indian languages have disappeared." The most commonly spoken Indian language is **Nahuatl**, the language of the **Aztecs**. The next most common languages are the **Mixtec, Mayan, Zapotec** and **Otomi** languages. These languages can be very different from each other, with many words bearing no similarities at all. "Government policy today no longer forces the Spanish language on the Indians.

Source: Mary Jo Reilly, Cultures of the World, Mexico, Marshal Cavendish, N.Y. (c)1991




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HISPANIC INVENTOR

Who built the first experimental cotton gin?

Answer: José Alzate

When did Eli Whitney build his cotton gin?

Answer: Twenty years later

Those inexpensive comfortable t-shirts that you enjoy might never have happened without an idea which first came to **José Alzate** of Mexico. The cotton gin started an industrial revolution all over the world. The design idea to build a machine to perform a task done through laborious hand work first came to **José Alzate** in the 1770's.

José built an experimental cotton gin model in 1773 in Mexico. The machine removed seeds from cotton after the cotton had been picked from bushes. Before the cotton gin was invented, workers had to use their fingers to remove the seeds. It was tiring work that took a long time.

José Alzate's experimental cotton gin was built 20 years before **Eli**

Commemorating Labor Day

Dolores Huerta

A Woman Who Refuses to Give Up

Dolores C. Huerta is the co-founder and First Vice President Emeritus of the **United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO** ("UFW"). The mother of 11 children, 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, **Dolores** has played a major roll in the American civil rights movement.

Dolores Huerta was born on April 10, 1930 in a mining town in northern **New Mexico**, where her father, **Juan Fernandez**, was a miner, field worker, union activist and State Assemblyman. Her parents divorced when she was three years old. Her mother, **Alicia Chavez**, raised **Dolores**, along with her two brothers, and two sisters, in the central **San Joaquin Valley** farm worker community of **Stockton, California**.

Her mother was a businesswoman who owned a restaurant and a 70-room hotel, which often put up farm worker families for free. **Dolores'** mother taught her to be generous and caring for others. Because of her mother's community activism, **Dolores** learned to be outspoken. After high school, **Dolores** attended **San Joaquin Delta Community College** and received a teaching degree.

"I couldn't stand seeing kids come to class hungry and needing shoes. I thought I could do more by organizing farm workers than by trying to teach their hungry children."

After teaching grammar school, **Dolores** left her job because in her words, *"I couldn't stand seeing kids come to class hungry and needing shoes. I thought I could do more by organizing farm workers than by trying to teach their hungry children."*

In 1955, she was a founding member of the **Stockton** chapter of the **Community Service Organization** ("CSO"), a grass roots organization started by **Fred Ross, Sr.** The **CSO** battled segregation and police brutality, led voter registration drives, pushed for improved public services and fought to enact new legislation.

Recognizing the needs of farm workers, while working for the **CSO**, **Dolores** organized and founded the **Agricultural Workers Association** in 1960. She became a fearless lobbyist in **Sacramento**, and in 1961 succeeded in obtaining the citizenship requirements removed from pension, and public assistance programs.

She also was instrumental in passage of legislation allowing voters the right to vote in Spanish, and the right of individuals to take the driver's license examination in their native language. In 1962 she lobbied in and **Washington DC** for an end to the "captive labor" **Bracero Program**.

It was through her work with the CSO that Dolores met Cesar Chavez.

It was through her work with the **CSO** that **Dolores** met **Cesar Chavez**. They both realized the need to organize farm workers. In 1962, after the **CSO** turned down **Cesar's** request, as their president, to organize farm workers, **Cesar** and **Dolores** resigned from the **CSO**. **Dolores**, single with seven children, joining **Cesar** and his family in **Delano, California**. There they formed the **National Farm Workers Association** ("NFWA"), the predecessor to the **UFW**.

In addition to organizing, **Dolores** continued to lobby. In 1963 she was instrumental in securing Aid For Dependent Families ("AFDC"), for the unemployed and underemployed, and disability insurance for farm workers in the **State of California**.

By 1965 **Dolores** and **Cesar** had recruited farm workers, and their families, throughout the **San Joaquin Valley**. On September 8th of that year, **Filipino** members of the **Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee** ("AWOC") demanded higher wages and struck **Delano** area grape growers. Although **Dolores** and **Cesar** had planned to organize farmworkers for several more years before confronting the large corporate grape industry, they could not ignore their **Filipino brothers'**

request. On September 16, 1965 the **NFWA** voted to join in the strike. Over 5,000 grape workers walked off their jobs in what is now known as the famous "Delano Grape Strike." The two organizations merged in 1966 to form the **United Farm Workers Organizing Committee** ("UFWOC"). The strike would last five years.

In 1966, Dolores negotiated the first UFWOC contract with the Schenley Wine Company.

In 1966, **Dolores** negotiated the first **UFWOC** contract with the **Schenley Wine Company**. This was the first time in the history of the United States that a negotiating committee comprised of farmworkers negotiated a collective bargaining agreement with an agricultural corporation. The grape strike continued and **Dolores**, as the main **UFWOC** negotiator, not only successfully negotiated more contracts for farmworkers, she also set up the hiring halls, the farm worker ranch committees, administered the contracts and conducted over one hundred grievance procedures on the workers behalf.

These contracts established the first health and benefit plans for farmworkers.

These contracts established the first health and benefit plans for farmworkers. **Dolores** spoke out early and often against toxic pesticides that threaten farm workers, consumers, and the environment. These early **UFWOC** agreements required growers to stop using such dangerous pesticides as **DDT** and **Parathion**. **Dolores** lobbied in **Sacramento** and **Washington D.C.**, organized field strikes, directed **UFW** boycotts, and led farm workers campaigns for political candidates.

As a legislative advocate, **Dolores** became one of the **UFW's** most visible spokespersons. **Robert F. Kennedy** acknowledged her help in



Photo of Dolores Huerta in 1970 in the farmworker newspaper, **El Malcriado**

winning the 1968 **California Democratic Presidential Primary** moments before he was shot in **Los Angeles**.

In 1973, **Dolores** directed the **UFW's** national grape boycott taking the plight of the farmworkers to the consumers. The boycott resulted in the entire **California** table grape industry signing a three-year collective bargaining agreement with the **United Farm Workers**. When the grape contracts expired in 1973 and the grape growers signed sweetheart contracts with the **Teamsters Union**. **Dolores** organized picket lines and continued to lobby.

In 1974 she was instrumental in securing unemployment benefits for farmworkers. The **UFW** continued to organize not only the grape workers but the workers in the vegetable industry as well until violence erupted and farm workers were being killed. Once again the **UFW** turned to the consumer boycott.

Dolores directed the east coast boycott of grapes, lettuce, and **Gallo** wines. The boycott resulted in the enactment of the **Agricultural Labor Relations Act**, the first law of its kind

Continued on page 7

Dr. Tatcho Mindiola Named Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Houston

Dr. Tatcho Mindiola has joined the exclusive ranks of fewer than one hundred individuals who have been chosen since 1949 by the **University of Houston's Alumni Organization** for the formal designation of a Distinguished Alumnus of the **University of Houston**.

The criteria for this prestigious award include an individual's contributions to society, his/her professional accomplishments, and the honor that their achievements have bestowed upon the larger world wide body of the **UH Alumni**.

In accepting this honor, **Mindiola** looks not only to his academic career, but also to the decades of work as Director of the **Center for Mexican American Studies**. It is during this time period that the Center has become known for achievements in its programs dealing with retention and recruitment of students, its publishing series, and its **Visiting Scholar Program**. One of the benchmarks of the Center's vision was the 2003 inauguration of the **Excellence Endowment Committee's** fundraising efforts that will enable future generations of Latino students, scholars, and faculty to thrive at the **University of Houston**, as the endowment becomes a permanent source of income.

As the **Endowment Committee** works toward its goal of raising five million dollars, there are few, if any, in the Latino community who would dispute the seriousness of the educational challenges facing Houston's growing Latino population. The solutions will require years of sustained efforts through successful programs, such as the Center has been implementing and funding.

Of course, it will take many members of the community uniting together to help raise the money for the **Endowment Fund**. For that very reason the Center has formed the **1000 Club** to allow the pledging of a minimum \$1000 to be paid over as long as twelve months. In this manner, all individuals can participate in supporting the Center's many successful



recruitment and retention programs for both faculty and students, as well as the publishing series and other research efforts. The **1000 Club** seeks to be a major unifying force in the Latino community as people unite to donate and help the Center in its goal of transforming lives through education – one person at a time.

In reflecting on the overall vision of the Center at this point in time, **Mindiola** adds, "*The Endowment Fund is a significant component of our vision, which also includes a major in Mexican and Mexican American Studies, a policy-making and analysis component, and our own building with unique artwork. Once these things have been put in place, the Center will be poised for even greater accomplishment.*"

As Mindiola reflects upon his designation as a Distinguished Alumnus, he says, "*Given our aspirations, there is a part of me that feels, perhaps, the recognition was somewhat premature. Our Endowment campaign is not completed, the Mexican and Mexican American Studies major is in draft form, and the policy center and building remain on the drawing board. However, I sincerely appreciate this honor even as I am mindful of what remains to be done.*"

Examen de la protata



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Commemorating Labor Day with a review of the life of Dolores Huerta

in the United States, which granted farm workers the right to collectively organize and bargain for better wages and working conditions.

At 75, **Dolores Huerta** still works long hours for the union she co-founded and nurtured. Many days find her in cities across North America promoting "La Causa" (the farmworkers' cause) and women's rights. For more than thirty years **Dolores Huerta** remained **Cesar Chavez'** most loyal and trusted advisor. Together they founded the **Robert F. Kennedy Medical Plan**, the **Juan De La Cruz Farm Worker Pension Fund**, the **Farm Workers Credit Union**, the first medical and pension plan and credit union for farm workers.



They also formed the **National Farm Workers Service Center, Inc.**, a community based affordable housing and Spanish language radio communications organization with five Spanish radio stations. As an advocate for farm worker rights **Dolores** has been arrested twenty-two times for non-violent peaceful union activities. In 1984 the **California State Senate** bestowed upon her the Outstanding Labor Leader Award. In 1993 **Dolores** was inducted into the **National Women's Hall of Fame**. That same year she received the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) **Roger Baldwin Medal of Liberty Award**; and the **Eugene V. Debs Foundation Outstanding American Award**, and the **Ellis Island Medal of Freedom Award**. She is also the recipient of the **Consumers' Union Trumpeter's Award**.

In 1998 she was one of three Ms. Magazine's, "Women of the Year", and the **Ladies Home Journal's**, "100 Most Important Women of the 20th Century". **Dolores** has received honorary doctorate degrees from: New **College of San Francisco**, 1990 **San Francisco State University**, 1993 **S.U.N.I. New Palz University**, 1999 Aside from currently serving as the Secretary-Treasure of the **United Farm Workers**, she is the **Vice-President for the Coalition for Labor Union Women**, the **Vice-President of the California AFL-CIO**, and is a board member for the **Fund For The Feminist Majority** which advocates for the political and equal rights for women.

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Top 10 Disasters

Number 1
Over a 2-year period circa 1960, roughly 40 million Chinese perished due to starvation in Northern China.

Number 2
In 1970, a hurricane ravaged the Ganges Delta Islands (Bangladesh), wiping out almost 1 million people. Back home, most people remember Hurricane Andrew that hit Homestead, Florida in August 1992, and caused over \$15 billion in damages. Andrew leaves a big tab everywhere he goes.

Number 3
The Yellow River (or Huang He) in China's banks burst in October 1887, and the ensuing flood took with it over 900,000 people. In 1950, about 900,000 dwellings were inundated when the Hwai and Yangtze rivers in eastern China flooded. What made matters worse was the 3.5 million acres that were destroyed for the rest of the harvest season. In 1978, a flood in India's West Bengal State left 15 million people homeless.

Number 4
Drought - Half a million people died of starvation in the Sub-Saharan African region of Sahel in the mid-1980s, due to the severe droughts that hit the region.

Number 5
Cyclone - Roughly 400,000 people died in November 1970 when a violent cyclone ravaged through East Pakistan (current day Bangladesh). Winds hit up to 150 miles per hour, and the 50-foot tidal wave slammed the coasts and raised the water levels of the numerous surrounding rivers.

Number 6
Volcanic Eruption - Just under 100,000 people died when the Tambora volcano erupted in Indonesia in April 1815.

Number 7
Tsunami - In 1896, a tsunami, which by the way is a very large ocean wave caused by an underwater earthquake or volcanic eruption, hit Japan's West coast and killed 27,000 people.

Number 8
Landslide - In May of 1970, Peru succumbed to a landslide along the slopes of Mt. Huascaran that took the lives of 18,000 people. No other landslide comes close in terms of casualties. However, when it comes to material damage, California suffered over \$140 million in losses in January 1969.

Number 9
Typhoon - At the turn of the 20th century in 1906, Hong Kong was ravaged by a typhoon that killed 10,000 people with wind gusts of up to 100 miles per hour. More recently in 1984, typhoon Ike hit the Philippines; while "only" 1,363 people lost their lives, over 1 million people were left homeless.

Number 10
It may turn out that Hurricane Katrina is going to be number 10

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Muchas Gracias!

"Greetings"

By: Mary Davis Castillo

What inspired me to be the person I am today? Back tracking at least half a century in time on Valentine's Day, in 1954, I was the first born daughter and the third child of a family of nine in the Davis Family. Being the first born female was a role that I would carry for the rest of my life. "You will be a role model and an example to your six younger siblings", my parents, Joe and Dominga said to me.

The person that made a great impact in my life is my momma. She has been my inspiration and my role model throughout my whole life and until today continues to guide me. She inspired me to preserve memories in photos and journaling. She helped me make important decisions in my life. She taught me to weigh out my options, rely on my faith and the rest will fall right in place.

Watching my mother preserve memories as I grew up gave me a desire to do the same and more. I remember she kept a special old trunk that she kept a few baby items that each of us nine children wore as babies. When time permitted she would take a few moments from her busy day of housework. You see she was what you now call a domestic engineer. She cared for nine children, and my father. Taking a breather from her full day she would sit in front of this memory trunk and take out all these baby items and tell us the story of each stitch of clothing or shoes in the memory trunk. This is a memory I can vividly still remember every time I think about it.

As a freshman in high school, I sought to join the journalism team. I was going to be helping put the school newspaper together. Wow!! I was so excited. I reported to school a week later due to the death of my grandmother. To my avail, I was notified that the class was full and that there was no room for me anymore. Needless to say I was heartbroken. So, I always thought about that day, but never pursued it again. Even though I didn't ever join the journalism class I carried it in my heart for many years.

Twenty five years later I was given the opportunity to join the journalism field again. This time not in the school news but for the Brazoria County community. In 1994, I wrote for "The Brazoria County Press". In 1999, I wrote for "La Comunidad Latina" out of Freeport. In 2000, Molly Santos Diaz invited me to join "La Voz". Once again I am delighted to be with the fine team of "La Voz de Brazoria County" and I invite you to contribute your opinions and ideas and possible topics you'd like to hear about.

"Saludes"

By: Mary Davis Castillo

Quien me inspiro ser la persona que soy ahora? Hase como un medio siglo en el dia de San Valentin, 1954, naci la primera nina en la Familia Davis, la tercera de nueve ninos. La primera hija—un papel que cargaria por el resto de mi vida. "Serás un ejemplo para tus hermanitos", me decian mis padres, Jose y Dominga.

La persona que hizo un gran inpecto en mi vida es mi mama. Ella ha sido mi inspiracion y mi modelo toda mi vida. Hasta hoy ella continua ha guiar me. Ella me inspiro ha documentar mi vida y reservar recuerdos. Me ensenio como hacer decisiones inportantes en mi vida y al presipio me ensenio que pensando todo bien y teniendo fe, es lo mas importante y que despues lo demas todo debe caer en su lugar.

Observado yo como mi mama guardaba memorias, yo queria ser igual y mucho mas. Me acuerdo que tenianos una castanaya donde ella guardaba memorabilia de nuestro ninese. Recuerdo cuando ella tomaba unos momentos de su dia lleno de trabajo, para sentarse y ver por todos los recuerdos de cada nino. Un vestidito, una camisitita, unos zapatitos. Tenia algo alsado para cada nino. Nos decia todas las historia de ese pedacito de recuerdo. Esta vivido todavia en mi mente.

Cuando entre al grado nueve en el colejo, desiaba mucho entrar al clase del periodico y lo intente. Que suave ser parte del periodico de la escuela! Reportanto una semana tarde a la escuela—porque en nuestra abuelita falleso, me dieron malas noticias. "No podras ser parte del periodico porque ya no hay lugar para ti en este clase". Mi corazon se rompio. Lo que mas queria yo era ser parte de ese clase. Todavia recuerdo ese dia. Nunca tuve exito a correr el camino del periodico devuelta, pero siempre lo truje en mi corazon por muchos anos.

Viente y cinco anos depues...La oportunidad broto otra vez. La oportunidad para ser parte de el periodico! Esta vez no el periodico de la escuela pero de la comunidad de Brazoria County. Acepte la oportunidad para escribe con "The Brazoria County Press" en 1994. Otra vez en 1999 por "La Comunidad Latina de Freeport". En 2000 Molly Santos Diaz me invito a ser parte de "La Voz". Estoy entusiasmada otra vez contribuir al periodico de la "La Voz de Brazoria County". Con carino los invito a que manden sus opiniones de mi columna y ideas que gustan oir.

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Sheehan vilified, but history will vindicate her

Cindy Sheehan is one of America's most vilified women. She has been accused of everything from being a traitor to the country to being a communist dupe to dishonoring her son's memory.

Her "sin"? Shining a spotlight on the fact that close to 2,000 American soldiers, including **Sheehan's** son, have died in a war that was waged on false pretenses.

Where is the treason in demanding that **President Bush** own up to the fact that the reasons we were given for going to war in Iraq - that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction and that there was a link between **Iraq** and **al-Qaida** - were plain false?

But history is a great vindicator. I have no doubt that **Sheehan** will be vindicated, just as the courageous stances and actions of other history-making women have been vindicated. (Space limitations allow for only a few examples.)

Susan B. Anthony had the temerity to insist that American women had as much at stake in the country and its politics as men did. This led her to launch a movement demanding that women be allowed to vote, which made her and her followers the targets of all manner of invective. Many were jailed. **Newsweek columnist Anna Quindlen** noted: "Those suffragists refused to be polite in demanding what they wanted or grateful for getting what they deserved."

Rosa Parks made many folks uncomfortable when she violated Southern protocol by refusing to sit in the "colored section" of the bus. She was verbally and physically abused, and her life was threatened. **Parks'** principled action launched the civil rights movement, which fundamentally changed our country.

Dolores Huerta is co-founder of **United Farm Workers**, known as **UFWOC** in its formative years. A teacher by training, **Huerta** left the classroom because "I couldn't stand seeing kids come to class hungry and needing shoes. I thought I could do more by organizing farm workers than by trying to teach their hungry children." With **César Chávez**, she led the famous "Delano Grape Strike" in 1965.

In 1966, she negotiated the first **UFWOC** contract with **Schenley Wine Co.**, the first time in U.S. history farmworkers negotiated a collective bargaining agreement with an agricultural corporation, setting the stage for many future contracts. **Huerta** has been arrested more than 20 times for her non-violent union activities.

were vilified in the newspapers, suspended from school and threatened with not being allowed to graduate.

The 1969 walkouts were a defining moment in the dynamics of the Mexican-American/Chicano community, changing fundamentally and permanently the education system in Tucson.

Another defining moment was the El Rio struggle, when the likes of **Josefina Noriega, Carmen Uruttia, Patsy Douglas, Victoria Fimbres** and **Mary Chiaffino** took on City Hall, demanding that the city keep its commitment to build a neighborhood center and park on the West Side.

After a long campaign that featured petition drives, marches, rallies and several arrests, the city built the first neighborhood center (El Rio) and regional park (Joaquín Murrietta) on **Tucson's West Side**.

What's the common thread? Women took a position on principle. They were vilified, threatened, sometimes jailed. They stood fast and withstood the abuse heaped on them. And they were vindicated by history. Just as I believe **Cindy Sheehan** will be. c/s

Salomón R. Baldenegro, of the University of Arizona Diversity Resources Office, is a political historian and activist. The "c/s" at the end of his column is a Chicano barrio term for "con safos," which has no literal translation but conveys closure: "that's it" or "that's my story, and I'm sticking to it."



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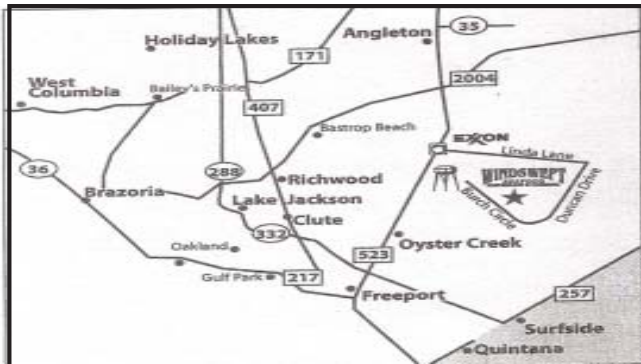
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