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Volume 17 Number 7 July, 2006
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$15.00 (5:00 p.m. To Midnight)

Friday, July 28th
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Brandon Rhyder 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Kevin Fowler
10:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.
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$9.00 Children (ages 6-12)
FREE Children (ages 5 & under)
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People in the News

Rosalie Ambrosino named provost at UTSA

Rosalie Ambrosino was selected to be the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs effective April 5, 2006. She has served as vice president for student affairs at the **University of Texas at San Antonio** since 2001. From 1999 to 2001, she was the university's vice provost for undergraduate studies and enrollment.

A social worker with a special interest in social welfare policy and multicultural education, **Ambrosino** directed the **School of Social Work** undergraduate program at the **University of Texas at Austin** prior to joining **UTSA**. She was one of the first 12 faculty members inducted into UT Austin's Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

Ambrosino holds a bachelor's degree in social work from the **University of Minnesota**, am MA in educational administration and multicultural education from **Antioch University,** and a doctorate in social work from **UT.**

Dr. Gary Keller-Cárdenas Named 2006 NACCS Scholar

Dr. Gary Keller-Cárdenas was named the **National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies** Scholar of 2006. This association of Chicano academics was founded in 1972 and has been active in bring Chicano Studies into a more prominent place in the university.

Keller-Cardenas is currently a Regent's Professor and member of the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies at the **University of Arizona.** He also is the director of the **Hispanic Research Center** located at **ASU**.

Among **Dr. Keller-Cárdenas's** scholarly and institutional achievements, are over 150 scholarly and creative books, and grant writing that has secured over $30 million dollars in federal and private funding. He earned his Ph.D. in Hispanic Literature and Linguistics from **Columbia.**

Luis Jimenez Passes Away in New Mexico

Luis Jimenez, noted Chicano artist and sculptor was killed in an industrial accident at his studio in **Hondo, New Mexico**. **Jimenez** and two others were moving a large sculptor with a hoist when something came loose and fell pinning his leg to a table.He was rushed to the hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

Stuart Ashman, secretary of the **New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs**, called **Jimenez** "the most important Chicano artist in the United States. His talents as an innovator, great draftsman and social commentator, particularly on social issues of the Mexican American Chicano community, made great contributions to contemporary art in America."

Jimenez was born in **El Paso, Texas** and graduated from **The University of Texas at Austin** in 1964. His works are on display throughout the United States.

Tapia- Ruano Elected President of Immigration Lawyers Group

Carlina Tapia-Ruano, an attorney from **Chicago, Illinois** was elected President of the **American Immigration Lawyers Association** during their 50th Annual convention in **San Antonio, Texas.** She is the first ever Latina to lead this 10,000 member organization.

Currently, she is the head of the Chicago law firm of **Tapia-Ruano & Gunn P.C**. and for 25 years has concentrated her practice in family and employment based immigration law and represents clients before the immigration and federal courts.

Tapia-Ruano is a native of **Cuba** who immigrated to the U.S. as a refugee. Prior to entering the United States, her father was an attorney and her mother worked as an administrator in the **Cuban White House**.

Tapia-Ruano received her BA degree magna cum laud from **Illinois Wesleyan University** and her J.D. from **DePaul College of Law.** She has written extensively on various topics related to immigration.

Cynthia Feliciano Explores the Aspirations of Immigrants in US

Dr. Cynthia Feliciano is currently an Assistant Professor at the **University of California at Irvine** in the Department of Sociology. Among her research interests is how immigrant children form educational aspirations and expectations.

Dr. Feliciano received her bachelor's degree in political science from **Boston University** and in 2003. a Ph. D. in sociology from the **University of California at Los Angeles.** Her dissertation title was, "Beyond Class: Towards Understanding Intra-ethnic Difference in School Achievement Among Immigrant and Native-born Minorities"

Over the years she has been active in a number of reserach circles and has also published several articles and book chapters on Asian and Latino immigrants, immigrant culture, and education.

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Happy 4th of July

Editorial

Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor and Publisher

In this issue of ***La Voz de Brazoria County*** we bring you a number of stories. As we usually do, we like to start page # 2 with a People in the News feature. Every month we search for Latinos who are making news. Sometimes, as in this issue, we bring the sad news of the passing of **Luis Jimenez. Mr. Jimenez** taught at the **University of Houston** but his art was seen all over the world.

We also found it noteworthy in this issue of **La Voz** to share with you the good news that **Rosa Rosales** from **San Antonio, Texas** was elected as the new **President of LULAC** (League of United Latin American Citizens). **Mrs. Rosales** has worked tirelessly over the years to fight for the rights of all people. Her election as the President of **LULAC** will permit her to ramp up her passion for justice. People should stand by for a very interesting year.

Elias Alonzo from **Watsonville, California** is the author of the story on page # 7. The title of this story (There is Nothing Illegal About Wanting to Feed Your Family) caught my eye and so I telephoned **Mr. Alonzo** in **California** to complement him on his writing. I also asked him if we could reprint it here in **Texas** and he immediately agreed. (It appeared first in the Watsonville Register-Pajaronian)

On page # 9 we thought it would be interesting to share with our readers some of the questions that people face when they make the big decision to become a United States citizen. Review the questions and then ask yourself, how many of these questions can you answer?

The rest of this issue is filled with interesting stories and as always, we hope that you enjoy reading each issue of ***La Voz de Brazoria County***. We also ask that you take note of all the businesses that advertise in ***La Voz.*** As you know, without advertisers a publication like ***La Voz*** would not be possible.

En este ejemplar de ***La Voz de Brazoria County*** le traemos varios historias. Como siempre, empezamos la pagina dos con Gente en las Nuevas. Cada mes buscamos por donde quiera a Latinos que estan haciendo cosas interesantes. A veces, como en este ejemplar, les traemos las noticias tristes del fallecimiento de **Luis Jimenez**. El **Sr. Jimenez** enseño en la **Universidad de Houston** pero su arte se vio por todo el mundo.

También encontramos de interes la noticia de que **Rosa Rosales** de **San Antonio, Texas** fue elejida como Presidente de **LULAC**. Sra. Rosales ha trabajado a tra vez de los años en la lucha por los derechos de toda la gente. Ahora como lider de **LULAC** le va permitir amplifiar us pasión por la justicia. Se puede esperar un años muy interesante.

Elias Alonzo de **Watsonville, California** es el autor del artículo en la pagina # 7. El título del artículo (No Hay Nada Ilegal en Querer Darle de Comer a Su Familia) me llamo la atención y por eso decedi llamarlo en **California** para decirle que tanto me gusto lo que escribo. También le pedí permiso para publicarlo en ***La Voz*** y el dijo que si.

En la pagina # 9 pensabamos que fuera interesante comparir con nuestros lectores algunas de las preguntas en el examen que uno tiene que tomar cuando se hace la gran decisión de hacerce ciudadano de los Estados Unidos. Revisa las preguntas y aver si se te hacen fécil.

El resto de este ejemplar contiene historias interesantes y como siempre, esperamos que a usted le da gusta leer ***La Voz de Brazoria County***. También le pedimos que se recuerdan de los negocios que apoyan a ***La Voz***. Sin ellos no fuera posible publicar esta publicación

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LULAC ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT ROSA ROSALES

The second woman to win office in LULAC's 77th history

Washington, DC – The **League of United Latin American Citizens** (LULAC) elects its new **LULAC** National President **Rosa Rosales** with over 70% of the vote by the delegates at the 2005 **LULAC** National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

"I am elated at being elected the new President of LULAC and I am ready to work with all groups to take LULAC to the next level of activism. I want to thank LULAC and all the past Presidents for all the work they have done. I want to thank all of the volunteers because that is what LULAC is all about. What makes LULAC so special is because not only do the volunteers work for free but pay dues," said **Rosa Rosales**, past Vice President of the Southwest and the newly elected LULAC National President.

Born April 7, 1944, in **San Antonio, Texas**, **Ms. Rosales** was among the first Mexican American women to become labor organizers in recent times. Active in **LULAC**, she was the first woman to hold the position of State Director of that organization. She received her B.A. in Liberal Arts from the **University of Michigan**. **Rosa** was recently on the National LULAC Board of Directors holding the position of National Vice President of the Southwest.

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization in the United States. **LULAC** advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health, and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 700 LULAC councils nationwide.

Jovita's Year Around Tamales

Jovita Gonzales is spreading the masa in the corn husks as part of the preparation for tamales. She learned the art of tamale making many years in the Rio Grande Valley and has brought this talent with her to **Angleton.** For tamales you can contact her at 848-8461.

Optimist or Pessimist?

It's early morning, a normal workday, the sun is shining, humidity is down. I'm running late, I have too many things to accomplish today.

What determines what kind of day we will have today?

Did you know that life is affected by the way we think?

Are you a optimist or a pessimist? This is what will help determine the outcome of your day.

An **optimist** is one whom expects the best possible outcome. A **pessimist,** is one whom seems to take the gloomiest possible view of a situation.

Positive thinking has many benefits and positive effects. It is a known fact that optimists are happier and healthier individuals. No matter what kind of downfalls they may experience, they always seem to look forward and keep going on a positive outlook.

Negative thinkers aren't aware sometimes that they even think negative. Negativity wears on you. It makes you unhappy and is contagious to family and friends or co-workers.

The journey to becoming a optimist doesn't come easy. As any worth while trait it takes faith, practice, and devotion.

Today let's try to be a optimist, for the benefit of our health and our families. And also thankful for all our countless blessings.

Try being a optimist-a positive thinker and let others see your joy. Your outlook in life will be so much better.

Mary Davis Castillo

Optimista o Pessimista?

Esta manana, un dia normal un dia de trabajo, el sol esta brillante, la humedad esta baja. Voy tarde, tengo muchas cosa que cumplir hoy.

Que determina que clase de dia vas a tener hoy?

Sabias que la vida es afectada por la manera que pensamos?

Eres tu optimista o pesimista? Esto es lo que ayuda determina su clase de dia.

Una optimista es una persona que espera lo mejor possible de una situacion. Un pesimista es una persona que piensa negativo y espera lo peor.

Pensando positivo tiene los mejores beneficios. En realidad los optimistas son mas feliz y mas sanos. Sin falta pueden caer y pasar por experiensias y ellos seguin positivos.

Pensandores negativos aveces ni se dan cuenta que asi piensan. Se siente triste y pasa su sentimentos a sus familias y amigos igualmente a su companeros de trabajo.

El camino de hacernos optimista no es facil. Como cualquier cosa se necesita fe, practica, y devocion.

Hoy vamos a tratar a ser optimistas por el beneficio de nuestra salud y nuestras familias. Al mismo tiempo dar gracias por todos las bendiciones que tenemos hoy.

Trata de ser optimista y deja que otros miren tu alegria. Tu vida sera mucho mas satisfecha.

Maria Davis Castillo

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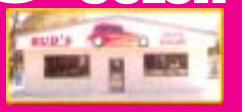
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Project Voice

Defending Our Rights and Dignity

What is Project Voice

Project Voice is a new initiative sponsored by the **American Friends Service Committee** (AFSC). Its purpose is to strengthen the voices of immigrant-led organizations in setting the national agenda for immigration policy and immigrants' rights, in order to foster a fuller integration of immigrants and refugees in their new communities. **Project Voice** combines local and national organizing, education, and outreach campaigns to achieve a strategic impact on key immigration and refugee issues, including legalization, abuse of authority, community relations, workers' rights, and other human rights issues.

Base building

An organized, mobilized constituency is essential to the success of the immigrants' rights movement. **Project Voice**supports the growth and development of immigrant-led organizations, through leadership development, technical assistance, and organizing support. New organizers in every **AFSC** region are supporting the formation of a network of "human rights committees," with the goal of bringing the voices and concerns of immigrant communities into policy debates at the local, state, and national level.

Alliance building

Now more than ever, no community and no constituency can "go it alone" in the struggle for rights and dignity. Labor unions, faith communities, communities of color, educators, and service providers are all key allies for immigrant communities. Through community education as well as media outreach, **Project Voice** works to build understanding of the immigrant experience and to foster cooperation between immigrant communities and potential allies.

Policy impact

Immigration policy is central to the quest for immigrants' rights. **Project Voice** brings together immigrant-led organizations with seasoned policy analysts and advocates, so that policy goals are workable and attainable — and directly responsive to the needs and concerns of the grassroots. The network of human rights committees, as well as networks of allies, will provide a powerful base of support for the project's policy initiatives.

Human rights documentation

AFSC pioneered the use of human rights documentation to support border crossers and border communities to challenge systemic abuses by the Border Patrol and other government agencies. **Project Voice** brings this wealth of experience to communities around the country, showing how documentation of human rights violations can serve as a powerful tool to challenge abuses — in employment, housing, education, and services as well as law enforcement.

ABOUT

The **American Friends Service Committee** carries out service, development, social justice, and peace programs throughout the world. Founded by Quakers in 1917 to provide conscientious objectors with an opportunity to aid civilian war victims, AFSC's work attracts the support and partnership of people of many races, religions, and cultures.

Contact Us

Phone: 215-241-7124

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Email: ProjectVoice@afsc.org

There's nothing illegal about wanting to feed your family

BY ELIAS ALONZO

He's about 5-feet tall, dark-skinned, with jet black hair. His barrel chest is ideal for the thin air in the high altitude of Oaxaca Mexico and his shoulders and strong arms make him fit for hard labor.

Maybe you've seen him at our Watsonville Plaza following the Sunday Mass at Saint Patrick's Church lying on the grass dreaming - for what else are thoughts if not day dreams - of Esmeralda his wife and their five children in Totontepec.

Octavio arrived in Watsonville in April and, because of the rain and the late strawberry harvest, was immediately out of work. He checked weekly with the ranch foreman, waiting for the earth to dry and yield its fruit.

"This year God sent us water for Easter," he said. "It's difficult to be without work, I'm in agreement with God's gift of water."

Octavio makes his way to the strawberry fields of Watsonville every year. In this sixth year, he crossed the border with a group of 20 men, women and children - a two-day desert hike. On one trip he and fellow sojourners where caught by the U.S. Border Patrol " la migra" they were treated well, given water, asked to identify the coyote in charge - a question they anticipated and sacrificed, by agreement, a volunteer who gladly spun a ridiculous story. Later a van, drove them to the Otay Mesa border where the migra smiled, wishing them better luck for tomorrow.

Imagine 20 men, women and children walking across the desert like quail in single file,

Some of the stories are harrowing. Imagine 20 men, women and children walking across the desert like quail in single file, helping one another to march in rhythm and stay together. They leave their homeland, their family, their culture and religion at great peril, transported by a chain of coyotes that begins in the pueblos of Oaxaca.

They descend 10,000 feet, cross three cultures and a national border; in all, a 2,000-mile trek. They cross the border on foot through jagged canyons and barren deserts, enduring the heat of day and cold of night.

They run a gauntlet, taking Word War One-like trenches and corridors, caring to avoid ground sensors, Klieg lights,

They run a gauntlet, taking Word War One-like trenches and corridors, caring to avoid ground sensors, Klieg lights, helicopter surveillance, four-wheel drive vehicles and armed border patrols equipped with night-vision goggles.

But the border patrol treats them kindly in contrast to a band of armed Cholo bandits on horses who announce themselves as "welcoming ambassadors," robbing, raping and maiming.

Once across America's southern Maginot line, they maneuver around checkpoints and continue north, staying in a series of safe houses. Finally, the comparatively easy last leg of the trip north, locked in a van for 10 hours with 12 others.

Once here, they work at menial, low-pay, hard-labor jobs, often cheated by the employer. Why do they risk and endure so much? This is a complex human tragedy with national and international implications. The undocumented Mexican population is not here to terrorize, plunder and steal, nor do they seek citizenship.

They are victims of a corrupt government that takes advantage of its people instead of working improve conditions for all.

Octavio, as many from Mexico, neither reads or writes. He has no ability or desire for American citizenry.

At worst, these folks are sojourners - visitors with a country of their own, which they love, flag, poverty and all. A family waits for their return. They are here to work, to earn dollars. They send half their earnings home just so mom and the kids will not starve to death. The more fortunate help harvest our crops in the Pajaro Valley, earning a bonanza of cash compared to wages of maybe $10 a day in Mexico.

They may not be here legally, but they need jobs we need their labor.

Unable to read and here for only seven months, Octavio is oblivious to the anti-immigration turmoil. Liberal Americans with a social justice frame of mind marched with millions of Mexican-Americans who fear the dreadful "migra" knock at the door, arresting and loading their not-legal parents onto a van bound for the border.

This new generation of Latinos marched in support of President Bush, Republicans and Democrats, men and women who were against what appeared to be racially-motivated legislation with the mindset "build a wall, jail them, deport them, fine and jail those who hire them as well."

America has changed and the flow of undocumented workers will continue, along with our need to keep America's economy moving. Illegal immigrants will stop filling low-tech, hard-labor jobs only when Mexico, a sovereign nation, cleans up its act, cooperates with our government and we, as a compassionate, understanding neighbor, give a helping hand as part of the solution.

Elias Alonzo is a Watsonville, California resident and community activist. This story was printed with his permission. It first appeared in the Watsonville Register-Pajaronian.

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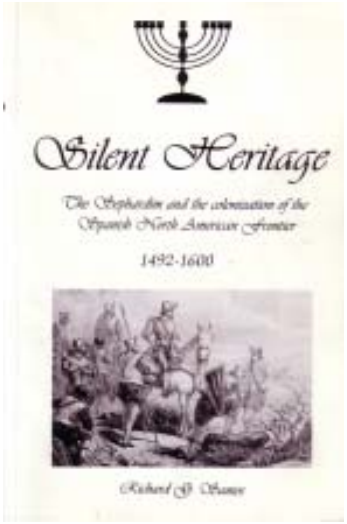
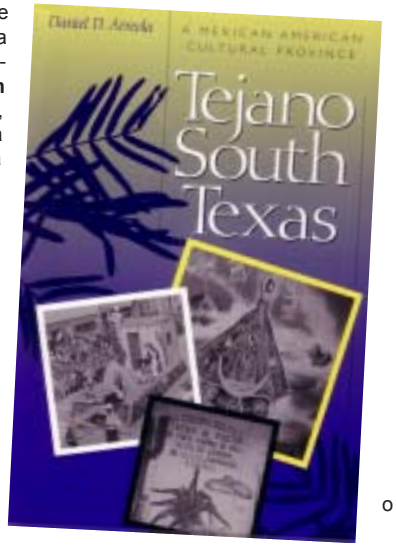
SUMMER READING



Silent Heritage is eye opening book for those who have never thought about how Jewish history impacted **Spain** and the development of Mexico. **Richard Santos** put 25 years of research into this book and it deserves the public's attention. **Santos**, was an English and History major at **St. Mary's University** in **San Antonio**. After receiving his degree he attended **Trinity University** where he received his masters degree.

Altogether, **Santos** has authored and co-authored over 30 books. He has also sritten and produced documentaries and has served as a consultant to a number of Texas state agencies.

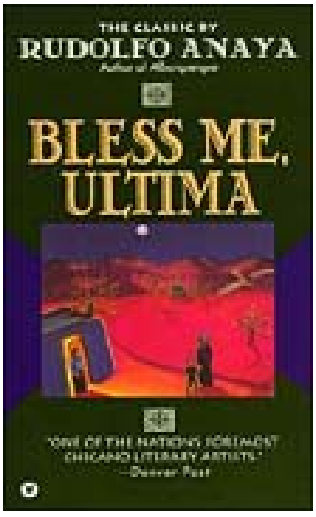
More recently, he has been splitting his time between **San Antonio** and **Crystal City, Texas** where he has spearheaded a drive to reconstruct the history and importance of the World Wat II internment camp that was used to house Americans of Japanese ancestry. His work on this project resulted in a large reunion of the children who spent time in the **Crystal City** internment camp during the 1940s. Santos also writes frequently for the **Zavala County Senitel.**



This is one of the best books to come out in a long time. Arreola, who is a geographer by training, presents an interesting point of view about **South Texas** through the use of maps, sketches, photos and tables. Using a cultural geography approach, **Arreola** shows the many ways in which Texans of Mexican ancestry established a cultural province in a part of Texas like no other in which Mexican Americans have ever settled.

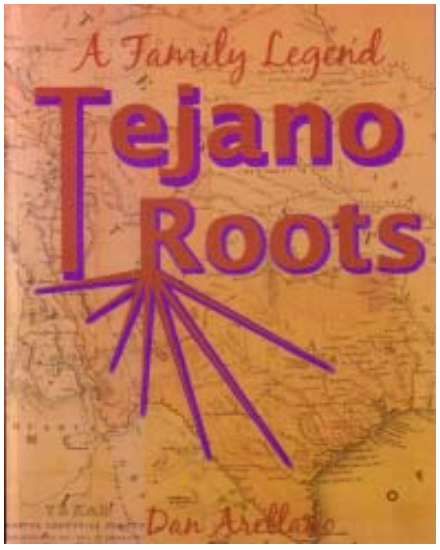
In the physical spaces of ranchos, plazas, barrios, and colonias, he shows how the cultural life of small towns and cities from **San Antonio** to **Laredo** and all places in between have a distinct character and attitude that contributes to the flavor of South Texas.

Daniel D. Arreola is a professor of Geography and an affiliate faculty member of the Center for Latin American Studies at Arizona State University. He received the Ph. D. in Cultural Geography from the **University of California at Los Angeles** and was born and raised in **Los Angeles, California.**



A talent for meaningful storytelling and exquisite prose has made **Rudolfo Anaya** a leading exponent of Chicano literature in English. Resonant with haunting beauty, rich imagery, and age-old narrative traditions, Anaya's work has won international acclaim, earning him a premier place in virtually every anthology of Latino writing. Winner of the PEN Center West Award for Fiction for his latest novel, *Alburquerque*, he is best loved for his classic bestseller, *Bless Me, Ultima*. Now, that masterwork is reborn in this beautifully illustrated special edition.

Antonio Marez is six years old when Ultima enters his life. She is a curandera, one who heals with herbs and magic. "We cannot let her live her last days in loneliness," says Antonio's mother. "It is not the way of our people," agrees his father. And so Ultima comes to live with Antonio's family in New Mexico. Soon Tony will journey to the threshold of manhood. Always, Ultima watches over him. She graces him with the courage to face childhood bigotry, diabolical possession, the moral collapse of his brother, and too many violent deaths. Under her wise guidance, Tony will probe the family ties that rend and bind him, and he will find in himself the magical secrets of the pagan past — a mythic legacy equally as palpable as the Catholicism of Latin America in which he has been schooled. At each turn in his life there is Ultima — who delivered Tony into the world — and who will nurture the birth of his soul.



Tejano Roots, by **Dan rrellano** is time trip through the historical events that helped to shape the places we call **Mexico** and **Texas.** Starting with the **Don Miguel Hidalgo** in **Guanajuato** in 1810, **Arellano** narrates in detail the reaction in Tejas to the parish priest's call for independence from Spain.

With a good feeling for the time, **Arellano** describes the uncertainty, betrayals, rumors and haste with which people made decisions to participate in social and political change that would change their lives.

If you thought you knew the basics of Mexican and **Texas** history, **Arellano's** book provides a lot of rich detail as to why some gamble with their lives on a future that would be called Texas. **Areallano** also shares with the reader his own reasons for digging deep into the making of Texas and shares with the reader is own personal pain of fighting for a place in society during the 1950s as a child growing up when Mexicans were not allowed to go into certain eating establishments. This book is definitely worth reading.