A FEW NOTAS ON THE 2012 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

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Hola Gente Querida:

On this, the inaugural newsletter for our section NOTAS, I want to relay to you how honored I am to be your chair for this academic year. Having this responsibility humbles me but I am happy and very much motivated to do what I can to help the section and the membership move forward. I really appreciate the trust you have placed in me. I am thankful to Nilda Flores for much needed support and to the council for their effort and expertise in so much out there. Together we are working to provide a sense of community for our section and bring programs and events to you.

Initiatives for this year include:

- A mentorship program for graduate students, Assistant and Associate faculty. Believe it or not many of us linger at the Associate level with additional service based workloads which consume our time without adequate support and mentoring. In order to increase the pool available to you, I have reached to Tanya Golash-Boza, chair of the Ethnic and Racial minorities’ section. This collaboration will result in a bigger network of mentors available to us all.

- We are planning on having a diversity-based reception this year in conjunction with Ethnic and Racial Minorities and the Asian and Asian-American sections. The idea is to have the opportunity to network and dance.

- We will support Nancy Lopez’s policy paper on the new census categorization, which makes us Latinos into a race. There are differing opinions on this change but one thing that is clear is that our section as representative of Latino (a) sociologists should make a policy stance on this categorization issue.

We have developed a good program for NYC with sessions on:

I. Immigrants, Legality and Belonging, organized by Roberto Gonzalez, School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago and Leisy Abrego, UCLA, Cesar E. Chavez Department of Chicana/o Studies. Joanna Perez from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champlain, will be the discussant.

II. Latinos, Intragroup and Intergroup Relations. Organized by Lorena Garcia, Sociology at the University of Illinois at Chicago and Elizabeth Aranda, Sociology, University of South Florida. The discussant will be Maura Toro-Morm, from Illinois State University

III. 3) Latino Section Roundtables- will be organized by Giovanni Burgos from Sociology at McGill and Chalane Lechuga, Sociology, University of New Mexico.

I am grateful to all the members who are volunteering to make our next ASA meeting the best…. Thanks to those that answered the call for Latinos and the election coming up. Please remember that I have challenged every member to get a member to join!!!!!
The Tossups | If you put the solid and leaning Democratic or Republican states into opposing bins, there are eight states where the election is likely to be decided.

Obama

**243**

ELECTORAL VOTES

Needs 27 to win

COLOR KEY

- Solid Obama
- Leaning Obama
- Tossup
- Leaning Romney
- Solid Romney

Calif.

N.Y.

Fla.

Wash.

Pa.

Fla.

Ohio

N.C.

Romney

**206**

ELECTORAL VOTES

Needs 64 to win

COLOR KEY

- Solid Obama
- Leaning Obama
- Tossup
- Leaning Romney
- Solid Romney

Leaning Democratic (6)

**Maine**

Maine has largely slipped from the ranks of top battleground states, with Democrats winning here in the last five presidential elections. The same could be true this year, considering President Obama won by 17 percentage points in 2008. But Mitt Romney’s Northeastern roots — and the state’s Tea Party strain — make it worth watching. The Romney campaign will try to seize at least one electoral vote since Maine is one of two states that divide their allotment.

**Michigan**

Mitt Romney was born and raised in Michigan, where his father was a popular governor. But the competition with President Obama will be rooted in the economy — not nostalgia — in this Democratic-leaning state. The government’s rescue of the auto industry, which Mr. Romney opposed, will be a central line of argument by the Obama campaign. Mr. Romney will likely fight hard in the state, given his family ties, but he has an uphill battle.

**Minnesota**

Democrats have won Minnesota in the last nine presidential elections — native son Walter Mondale claimed it as his only state victory in 1984 — so there is little reason to think that President Obama will struggle here. But the president’s campaign is organizing and not taking this Midwestern state for granted. If Mitt Romney is competitive here in the closing stretch of the campaign, Mr. Obama could face a very stiff re-election challenge.

Leaning Republican (2)

**Arizona**

The politics of Arizona are gradually shifting with its demographics. For now, Republicans believe their party has an advantage in presidential elections, even though they concede the rising number of Hispanic voters could give Democrats an edge. President Obama, who lost by 9 percentage points in Senator John McCain’s home state in 2008, is intrigued by the prospects in Arizona, and his campaign is registering voters and gauging its competitiveness for the fall.

**North Carolina**

North Carolina was always the most challenging battleground state for Democrats, but the party selected Charlotte as the site of their national convention to generate enthusiasm to help repeat President Obama’s narrow 2008 victory. Both sides have advertised heavily, but Democrats are starting to reduce their investment, which signals the state is likely starting to tilt in the Republican direction. Yet Republicans are keeping watch because early voting pushed Mr. Obama over the top four years ago.

Tossup (7)

**Colorado**

President Obama’s victory in Colorado was among his most prized accomplishments in 2008, after the state had voted reliably Republican in eight of the last nine presidential elections. A wariness of big government could test Mr. Obama in the Rocky Mountain West, but Mitt Romney faces his own challenge in appealing to independents and women, whose support was critical in a pair of Democratic wins in races for Senate and governor in Colorado in 2010.

**Florida**

The most famous battleground state in America could once again earn that title. President Obama carried the state in 2008, but a wave of home foreclosures and a sour economy has complicated his path to an easy victory. A growing number of conservative referees offer Mitt Romney hope, but the outcome could hinge on whether he can win over Hispanic voters, particularly younger Cuban Americans in southern Florida and Puerto Ricans in central Florida.

**Iowa**

President Obama has a sentimental attachment to Iowa for delivering his first victory in his improbable primary race four years ago. But the state presents a far bigger challenge this time. Mitt Romney and the full Republican field spent months attacking Mr. Obama in the Iowa caucuses campaign this year, which has kept the president’s poll ratings lower than other nearby states. In a close general election, these six electoral votes are critical to both sides.

see http://elections.nytimes.com/2012/electoral-map for other interesting scenarios of the 2012 Presidential Election
New Mexico

President Obama recorded a 15-point victory over Senator John McCain in New Mexico four years ago, a margin that belied the history of the state’s hard-fought presidential elections. While Republicans carried the state in 2004 and elected a new governor in 2010, New Mexico is still viewed as Democratic-friendly terrain. Mitt Romney will campaign here, but his advisers concede that it is likely not one of their best opportunities to pick up electoral votes.

Nevada

The economic outlook in Nevada declined considerably since President Obama won the state four years ago and has been slow to rebound. With the nation’s highest rates of home foreclosure and unemployment, Mitt Romney had a ready-made laboratory to argue that policies of the Obama administration have not worked. But a strong appeal to Latino voters from the Obama campaign, along with a major early-voting push, gives Mr. Obama an edge in the final days of the race.

Pennsylvania

For years, Pennsylvania has trended Democratic in presidential races, but that has not stopped Republicans from trying to make it competitive. Mitt Romney has traveled across the state and Republican groups have advertised, but so far there has been little headway. A new voter identification law raises concerns about a possible drop in Democratic turnout, but a Quinnipiac University/New York Times/CBS News poll gives President Obama an early edge of 11 percentage points. The state, once a Tossup, now leans Democratic.

New Hampshire

The White House has paid close attention to New Hampshire, sending Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. to the state repeatedly to make an argument against Mitt Romney, who has a vacation home in New Hampshire and is seen as a favorite son. The voters have an independent streak, but generally oppose what they perceive as government intrusion in their lives. It could be one of Mr. Romney’s best opportunities to win a state that Mr. Obama carried.

Ohio

There are few credible paths to the White House for Mitt Romney without winning Ohio, a well-established bellwether. The state has accurately picked winning presidential candidates in the last 12 elections. A steadily improving economy could help President Obama carry the state again. Large portions of the state remain conservative, but Republicans worry that Democrats may be motivated by a victory last year in which voters struck down a law restricting public workers’ rights to bargain collectively.

Virginia

As one of the nation’s newest battleground states, Virginia will be center stage in President Obama’s fight for re-election. The state is deeply conservative, but population shifts in Northern Virginia have changed the state’s political demographics. Mitt Romney’s argument against the expansion of government is complicated by the number of government workers in Virginia. The president carried the state by seven percentage points in 2008, but both campaigns agree the race will be closer this year.

Wisconsin

The addition of Representative Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin to the Republican ticket does not guarantee victory over President Obama, but it cements the state’s role as a true battleground. Democrats carried the state in the last six presidential contests – often narrowly – but Republican groups are advertising to try to push the Obama campaign to spend money. Still, Mitt Romney is at the top of the ticket and must show that he can make his own case here.
The rapid growth of the Latino population of the United States is a key feature of the American demographic and political landscape. Over the past several decades and in recent years this growth had been similarly due to immigration and natural increase; that is births exceeding deaths. The results of the 2010 Census revealed rapid demographic changes in the minority groups in the electorate. Figure 1 shows that the increase in the percentage of Black, Asian and Latino minorities among all voting age citizens. It also shows that the Latino percentage is increasing very rapidly. While much attention has been focused on immigration the Latino population would have grown rapidly even if the number of Latino immigrants had been zero.

One striking aspect of Latino population growth through natural increase is that there are now politically significant increases in the Latino citizen voting age population (CVAP) in areas that previously had few Latinos. North Carolina and Georgia are examples. Another aspect of this growth is that it can change the partisan balance in states that have long had an established Latino population, like Colorado. The political importance or significance of the Latino vote is determined by whether or not it makes a difference in electoral outcomes.

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This depends on the characteristics of the Latino population as well as all other aspects of the state’s political composition. The demographic data upon which this paper is based is a “guesstimate” for 2012 is based on the extrapolation of 2010 Census counts with Census’ published estimate of the population of the US and individual states for 2011. More detailed data will be released soon which will permit more careful estimate of the 2012 CVAP population by race.

**LATINO DEMOGRAPHICS**

The Latino population as a whole is growing rapidly and this is particularly true of the Latino CVAP. Voting is limited to US citizens over the age of 18. The key way in which the Latino CVAP changes is through the aging of the large number of Latino adolescents to age 18 and older. Latinos are a young population and almost all, 93%, of Latinos younger than 18 are US citizens compared to two-thirds of the older Latinos (Figure 2). So merely by becoming 18 the number of potential Latinos voters has increased by about three million between 2008 and 2012. There is a simple demographic explanation for the rapid increase in Latino CVAP. Latinos are a young population – a third (33.9%) of all Latinos younger than the minimal voting age of 18. Moreover, there is a large difference between the citizenship percentage of Latinos younger than 18 (92.8%) compared to those 18 years and above (64.1%). The future rapid growth of Latino CVAP is a demographic certainty. It does not depend on future immigration or fertility. It merely depends on the large number of Latino teen age citizens turning 18. African Americans also have a relatively large youth population but the citizenship differential is very small. So the black CVAP proportion will not grow as fast. Non-Hispanic whites have the smallest youth proportion and while they are still the CVAP majority their percentage will decrease as the non-white groups grow.

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In California, the minority electorate numeric growth was more than 300% greater than the white non-Latino growth! Much of this increase is due to young Latinos, 90% of whom are U.S. citizens, becoming age 18 and thus eligible to vote. In Texas, the Latino, Black and Asian CVAP increased by 50% more than the White non-Latino population between 2005 and 2009.

The political impact of this increase depends on a number of factors including the extent to which these young Latinos register and vote. For the 2012 presidential election, the impact of Latino demographics also depends on the partisan political balance and political participation of the electorate of each state. While we will not know any of these factors until after the election, it is possible to combine an analysis of the estimated 2012 demographics with a range of assumptions about participation and partisan preference based on recent elections. The 2010 election was very different from 2008. Turnout was much lower and the Republicans won a Congressional majority.

The main question that this analysis was designed to answer is, what will happen in 2012 with the same assumptions as in the previous analysis, with the exception that if the turnout rate will be the same as 2010? This paper will examine the electoral impact of the 2010 reapportionment of electoral votes as it interacts with changing demographics as well as the projected impact of the Latino vote on the election prospects for a few key states especially those known as “swing” or “tossup” states. Specifically, this policy forum will assess the impact of 2012 demographics combined with 2008 and 2010 turnout rates and 2008 political preferences on the 2012 presidential election.

Many things have changed since 2008 besides demographic composition and electoral vote distribution. Table 1 (not shown here) lists swing or battleground states identified by three different sources using three methodologies. At some future time this list may be the basis for further analyses.

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According to the U.S. Census, in the 2008 presidential election, Latinos represented 13% of all voters in Colorado, 14% in Nevada, 15% in Florida, and 38% in New Mexico. Those four states will likely be swing states again in 2012.

Reapportionment and Changes in Electoral Votes

The U.S. Constitution mandates the decennial enumeration of the population so that “Congressional Representation and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States…, according to their respective Numbers” (Article I, Section 2). The Census tabulations are also the basis for reapportioning the number Electoral College electors. In 2010, Texas gained 4 votes, Florida gained two, and Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, South Carolina, Utah, and Washington each gained one additional elector. On the down side, New York and Ohio, lost 2 electoral votes and Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania each lost one.

Results of Demographic and Electoral Data Analysis

The decision to concentrate on the potential impact of demographic change on the 2012 election will result in this paper’s focus on the Latino population because it is the group that is growing most rapidly and experiencing rapid changes in other areas pertinent to this analysis. Michael McDonald has written extensively on the estimating the voting-eligible population or VEP (See Michael P. McDonald and Samuel Popkin, 2001; McDonald, 2002; and, McDonald, 2008). The use of VEP is an effort to determine a better denominator for estimating population proportions of voters and registrants among the voting age population (VAP). Both VEP and CVAP control for the source of the largest factor between VEP and VAP, the non-citizen voting age population. VEP also excludes felons and parolees who are barred from voting and includes estimates of persons in the military or civilians living overseas. The CVAP estimates used here are made without correcting for these factors. However, McDonald’s VEP data does not identify racial or ethnic groups. Information on race and ethnicity provides a very important dimension of electoral analysis and will be the demographic basis of most of the data presented in this paper.

My analysis shows that this is indeed the case. My analysis is based on 2012 demographics and reapportionment of electoral votes which favored states that traditionally vote Republican. Taking all these factors into account, if the turnout rates and party preferences are the same as they were in 2008, Obama will easily win the electoral votes and popular votes to be reelected. Of particular note is the fact that the Latino vote put Obama over the top in the tossup states of Florida, Georgia and North Carolina. It also makes Colorado a statistical tie.

However, the 2010 election was very different from 2008. Turnout was much lower and the Republicans won a Congressional majority. The main question that this analysis was designed to answer is, what will happen in 2012 with the same assumptions as in the previous analysis, with the exception that if the turnout rate will be the same as 2010?

Under these assumptions, Obama still wins but by smaller margins. The Republican vote is now much stronger in Colorado. Under these assumptions, if there were no Latino vote, the Republicans would also win in North Carolina. Interestingly, in a number of states that do vote Democratic, the projected Latino vote provides the margin of victory.

Demographic changes have made the Latino vote a significant determinant in national electoral outcomes. Candidates and analysts, who ignore it, do so at their peril.

Conclusion

In 2008, more than two out three Latinos voted for Obama. If they express the same preference in 2012, Latino population growth should be good news for Obama. My analysis shows that this is indeed the case. This analysis is based on 2012 demographics and reapportionment of electoral votes which favored states that traditionally vote Republican. Taking all these factors into account, if the turnout rates and party preferences are the same as they were in 2008, Obama will easily win the electoral votes and popular votes to be reelected. Of particular note is the fact that the Latino vote put Obama over the top in the tossup states of Florida, Georgia and North Carolina. It also makes Colorado a statistical tie. Under these assumptions, Obama still wins but by smaller margins. The Republican vote is now much stronger in Colorado. Under these assumptions, if there were no Latino vote, the Republicans would also win in North Carolina. Interestingly, in a number of states that do vote Democratic, the projected Latino vote provides the margin of victory.

Demographic changes have made the Latino vote a significant determinant in national electoral outcomes. Candidates and analysts, who ignore it, do so at their peril.
Democracy is the foundation of the United States, a monument to the most sacred principles that Americans hold dear. It was created by the people, for the people, based on the premise that, in a democracy, everyone has his or her say. And, in the end, the ideas or candidates that gain the greatest amount of support reign.

Despite the ideals of liberty and equality inherent in our democracy, the reality is that some people are more equal than others, have weightier voices than others.

Many Americans have placed a veil over this secret, protective of our American mythology. Many people continue to believe that it is justifiable for a select few to be more equal than others, holding on to the possibility that they, too, will one day be able to join the select elite. The dominant ruling class protects its interest by indulging such views and espousing the belief that we live in a true democracy where everyone is equal and has identical weight in the political process. And an electorate, substantial portions of which don’t vote, further enables this farce.

As the nation’s demography has shifted dramatically over the last few decades with the disproportionate growth of nonwhites, especially Latinos and African Americans becoming the overwhelming majority of people in jails, prisons, or on parole or probation. The United States leads the world in incarceration rates, surpassing the levels in countries we commonly disdain as undemocratic. In many cities around the country, a majority of African American males are in the criminal justice system. Very conveniently, a criminal record is tantamount to disenfranchisement and a life of stigma that blocks people from employment, housing, and social opportunities.

Third, as the nation’s youth population is increasingly nonwhite, education has become a declining priority at the federal and state level. Instead of investing in our children as our nation’s future, we are undertaking draconian financial cuts in their schooling. In Texas, where Latino children now represent the majority of kids in public schools, the legislature gutted the state’s funding for public education by $5.4 billion in its last legislative session. This will undoubtedly exacerbate the low educational attainment level and high dropout rate among Latino youth.

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Fourth, states around the country, most notably Texas, have undertaken overt gerrymandering efforts with a variety of subterfuge to dilute the political potential of Latinos and African Americans, whose population growth outstrips that of whites. Nonwhites accounted for approximately 90 percent of the population growth of Texas between 2000 and 2010. Yet redistricting maps minimized the political influence of Latinos, as well as African Americans.

Fifth, numerous states around the country have passed legislation requiring photo identification for voting. The argument has been that there is a major problem with people taking false identities to vote. Empirical data indicate that this is not a widespread problem, involving a minimal number of such cases. It is ironic that in a country where such a small share of the electorate votes, barriers would be erected to keep people from exercising their democratic right to cast a ballot. Very conveniently, it is Latinos, African Americans, the poor, the elderly, and young people who are most likely to lack a government-issued photo identification. Telling is the fact that in Texas, a school photo identification card is not a valid voter ID.

These efforts, of course are not new in this country. People in power have long used a variety of measures to keep the marginalized from participating in a democratic society. The institution of slavery ensured that blacks were disenfranchised. The freeing of slaves following the Civil War resulted in the construction of Jim Crow to guarantee that blacks continued being separate, unequal, and powerless. Moreover, poll taxes, helped along by such institutions as the Ku Klux Klan and the Texas Rangers, were used to keep out and intimidate African American and Latino voters.

Contemporary efforts to shut out Latinos and African Americans and, more widely, the poor, contribute only the latest acid eroding our nation’s bedrock of democracy.
LA DEMOCRACIA ES LA FUNDACIÓN de los Estados Unidos, un monumento con los principios sagrados que los estadounidenses abrazan claramente. Fue creado por la gente, para la gente, basado en la promesa que, en una democracia, todo mundo tiene voz. Y, al fin, las ideas o candidatos que reciben más apoyo reínan.

A pesar de los ideales de libertad e igualdad inherente en nuestra democracia, la realidad es que algunas personas son más iguales que otras, tienen voces más poderosas que otras.

Muchos estadounidenses han puesto un velo sobre este secreto, protegiendo así nuestra mitología americana. Muchas personas siguen creyendo que es justificable que unos cuantos sean más iguales que otros, manteniendo viva la esperanza de que ellos algún día podrán ser parte de la élite selecta. La clase dirigente y dominante protege sus intereses, sosteniendo la creencia que todos vivimos en una verdadera democracia donde todos son iguales y tienen idéntico peso en el proceso político. Y un electorado, partes sustanciales de éste cuales no votan, promueve todavía más esta farsa.

Como la demografía de la nación ha cambiado dramáticamente en las últimas décadas con el crecimiento desproporcionado de la población de color, especialmente la población latina, el panorama político ha cambiado. No, no en la forma que hace casi una década el renombrado politólogo, Samuel Huntington, temía que los latinos eran una amenaza para la democracia estadounidense. Por el contrario, fuerzas anti-democráticas han diseñado una guerra política contra latinos y afro-americanos en un esfuerzo para minimizar su influencia política, que en un mundo ideal, acompañaría a su creciente presencia.

¿Cómo Ha Sido La Democracia Debilitada?

En primer lugar, el progreso mínimo que latinos y afro-americanos lograron después de legislación de derechos civiles, ha sido prácticamente eliminado por el envilecimiento de la Affirmative Action (el programa de acción afirmativa), realizado bajo el pretexto que actualmente es discriminación inversa. El resultado de esta denegación a nivelar el campo de juego —o hasta a lo mínimo reconocer que es desigual— ha sido que muchos latinos y afro-americanos han sido excluidos de la estructura de oportunidades estadounidense.

Segundo el establecimiento de leyes relacionadas a drogas y migración en las últimas décadas ha dado lugar en una expansión masiva de encarcelamiento en este país, con latinos y afro-americanos representando ahora la mayoría de personas en cárcel, prisiones o con libertad condicional o bajo palabra. Estados Unidos es líder en el mundo en tasas de encarcelamiento, superando los niveles en países que comúnmente desdeñamos como antidemocráticos. En muchas comunidades de este país, la mayoría de hombres afro-americanos están en el sistema penal. Convenientemente, la existencia de antecedentes penales es equivalente a la privación del derecho al voto y una vida estigmatizada que bloquea el acceso a oportunidades sociales y económicas incluyendo el acceso a empleo y vivienda.

Tercero como la población de jóvenes en los Estados Unidos está cada vez más compuesta por personas de color, la educación se ha convertido a una prioridad decreciente al nivel federal y estatal. En lugar de invertir en nuestra población infantil y adolescente como en el futuro de nuestra nación, estamos llevando a cabo recortes financieros draconianos en la educación. En Tejas, donde niños latinos ahora representan la mayoría de estudiantes en las escuelas públicas, en su última sesión la legislatura actual destinó con $5.4 mil millones el financiamiento estatal para escuelas públicas. El desprecio por educar a los jóvenes latinos y afro-americanos es convenientemente favorable para el deterioro de la democracia representativa, ya que personas con bajos niveles de educación tienden a no estar cívicamente comprometidos. En otras palabras, estas personas tienen una baja probabilidad de votar.

Cuarto estados alrededor del país, más notablemente Tejas, han realizado esfuerzos (conocidos por el término gerry-mandering) para dividir zonas electorales en favor del partido dominante en el estado con el resultado siendo la dilución de la fuerza política potencial de latinos y afro-americanos, cuyo nivel de crecimiento demográfico es superior al de la población blanca. Personas de color representan 90 % del incremento de la población de Tejas entre 2000 y 2010. Sin embargo, los mapas que establecen los distritos electorales basados en las cantidades de la población durante este periodo, actual minimizan la influencia política de latinos, así como de afro-americanos.

Quinto numerosos estados han promulgado leyes requiriendo identificación oficial con fotografía para votar. El argumento ha sido que existe un problema significativo con personas tomando identidades falsas para votar. La evidencia indica que esto no es un problema muy extendido, involucrando un número mínimo de tales casos. Es irónico que en un país donde solamente una porción pequeña del electorado vota, se colifiquen barreras para impedir que la gente ejerza su derecho democrático a votar. Convenientemente, son latinos, afro-americanos, gente pobre, ancianos, y jóvenes quienes tienen más probabilidades de carecer de identificación oficial con fotografía. Es extraño—pero dice mucho—que en Tejas, una tarjeta estudiantil con fotografía de identificación no es credencial válida para votar, mientras que una licencia para llevar arma representa forma de identificación válida. Últimamente, los tribunales federales decidirán la consti.
Edward Carey Kenney

Our condolences to Mary Kenney and her family on the recent passing of her father, Papa Kenney, 98 years of age. Edward Carey Kenney, a decorated WWII veteran, fondly known as “The Colonel,” created The McDonogh School’s visual arts department in 1947 in Owings Mills, Maryland and ran it until he retired from full-time teaching in 1980. He set the standard for McDonogh art teachers and was also a noted professional artist. Both Mary and her partner, Robin Kessler were part of the Esperanza community that filed a lawsuit against the City of San Antonio in August of 1998 when arts funding was denied by City Council. The all-women legal team that Mary was part of won our case in 2001 with a resounding validation of our first amendment rights [See articles in La Voz, June 2001]. Both Mary and Robin have since lived in Baltimore, Maryland but continue to live in the hearts of the Esperanza community. Thinking of you in this time of transition.

...Cambiares, demografía cont'd from pg 6

... Labor Day 2012 cont'd from pg 12

... the American labor movement must move left to go forward. This means revitalizing the use of the strike, boycotts and if needed, civil disobedience

cotts and, if needed, civil disobedience, a useful weapon against the increasing use of lockouts that employers find convenient to use. When union officials know about an upcoming lockout, workers must be prepared to occupy the factory, hotel, etc. and sit in. Current labor laws are set up to control and hinder us, not help us.

Consider this: had the minimum wage kept up with the pay CEOs receive, we would have a national minimum wage of around $23 per hour! The current $7.25 per hour is a very low given today’s outrageous cost of living.

While some are excited about the so-called Affordable Healthcare Act, the fact is most of the provisions don’t go into effect until 2014. The only saving factor is the prohibition of denying consumers coverage for pre-existing conditions. We need Medicare for All/Single Payer Healthcare, something over 400 U.S. labor organizations petitioned for and were conveniently ignored by both Richard Trumka and Barack Obama.

Labor must get serious and join nationwide efforts to organize and build a genuine people’s party free of corporate influence. Reforming the Democratic Party is futile as evidenced by more than 75 years of attempting to do so. Trade unionists must also demand that their leadership cease all ties to the The American Center for Labor Solidarity, a front of the CIA. Until this occurs, our labor movement will remain weak, continue to lose ground and never explore viable political alternatives —much less oppose current and future wars of imperialism and/or cease relations with the pro-Zionist AIPAC. We must all come to realize that the role of the ACLS is a dirty one and has severely hampered growth of the American labor movement.

Bio: Pancho Valdez is a veteran of 47 years of civil rights, labor and peace activism. He can be reached at 210-422-8000 or mestizowarrior59@yahoo.com.