

EL OBSERVADOR

Haunted Darkness to Freedom's Light



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE DAVIS

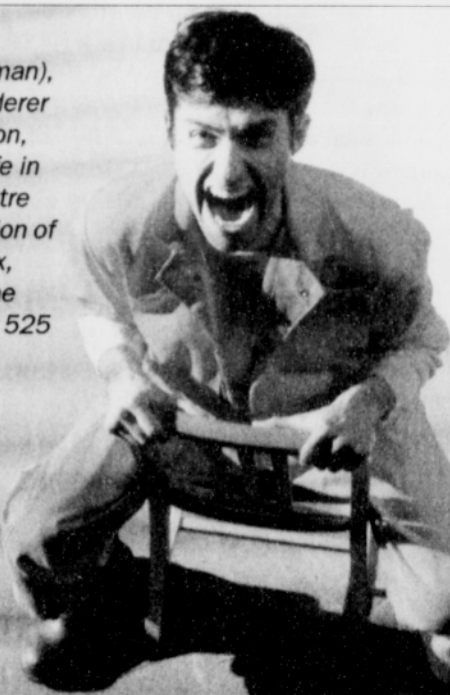
In an attempt to let go of their violent past, Lulu (Cristi Miles, right) and her mother María (Marjorie Tatum) visit Papo (Matthew Dieckman) on death row in Miracle Theatre Group's production of *El Grito del Bronx* by Migdalia Cruz.

El Grito Del Bronx Electrifies

Miracle Theatre Group presents "El Grito del Bronx," an electrifying story that will remind you of the power and im-

now. The play by Migdalia Cruz and directed by Antonio Sonera, opens on Lulu's wed-

Visions of Papo (Matthew Dieckman), a convicted murderer awaiting execution, are brought to life in the Miracle Theatre Group's production of El Grito del Bronx, now playing at the Milagro Theatre. 525 S.E. Stark St.



mediacy of theater to grab hold of your emotions and take you on a journey far way from the humdrum of here and

ding day. She stands tall in her beautiful gown, gazing into the mirror. But she cannot look beyond the reflec-

tion of her youth and the violent legacy of her brother, Papo.

Her memories race from childhood to death row, from white dresses to orange jump suits, from murder to redemption.

El Grito del Bronx is a shocking, shout out to hope that asks: How can we face the future if we can't release our ties to the past.

The play, presented in English, contains intense language, violence and adult situations, and is recommended for mature audiences.

Performances are scheduled through April 25; on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 and \$22 and can be purchased from milagro.org or by calling 503-236-7253.

Miracle (Milagro) Theatre, 525 S.E. Stark St., has been dedicated to bringing the vibrancy of Latino theater to the Northwest community and beyond for 25 years.

Census Challenge: Counting Hispanics

Groups step up for accuracy

(AP) -- What seems like a simple question — How many Hispanics are living in the United States? — has become surprisingly complex as the 2010 census approaches.

Hispanics and other minorities have historically been undercounted in the once-a-decade survey. Advocacy groups are now launching efforts to ensure an accurate count, but a variety of factors have created new problems for the painting of America's official portrait.

Activists and government officials say fears over immigration enforcement and government snooping are making people more reluctant to share their information. The economic and budget cuts during the Bush administration has slowed funding for the census. Millions of laid-off renters and foreclosed homeowners are also on the move.

There are more immigrants here, speaking more languages, than ever before. Some of those immigrants may not know what a census is, or may come from countries where such information is used against rather than for the people.

"This country is just much more complex now, on many different levels," said Terry Ao, director of census and voting programs for the Asian American Justice Center.

The 2000 census counted 35,305,818 Hispanics in the

United States. Hispanic groups estimate that several million more were missed. In 2007, the most recent year available, the Hispanic population had grown to an estimated 44,852,816.

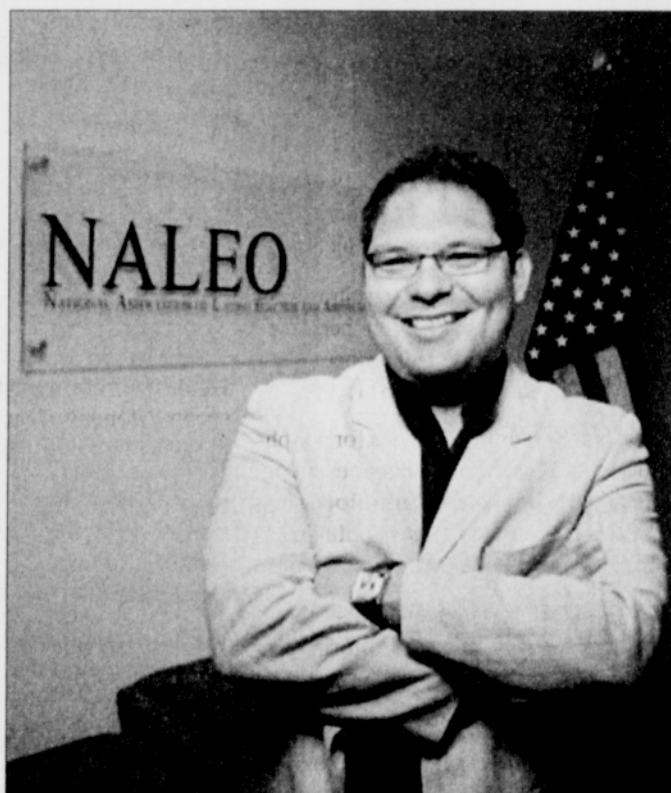
The Constitution mandates that every ten years, each person living in the country — regardless of citizenship or immigration status — must be counted.

The census results are used to draw congressional districts and allocate hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding for schools, roads and other services. The data also trickles down to state and local governments for determining everything from the size of hospitals to the placement of bus stops.

Hispanic groups are now at the forefront of a coalition spanning politics, social services and Spanish-language media that is planning a broad census effort.

They are hoping to partner with the Census Bureau on community-based programs, public service announcements and paid advertising. They also want minorities hired to plan the outreach and conduct door-to-door surveys in areas with high percentages of immigrants and other hard-to-count populations, such as black men.

"We're prepared to mount our own national campaign to count ourselves," Escobedo said. "We are going to motivate every ounce of people power that we



Efrain Escobedo of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials is overseeing a national campaign to get an accurate count of Hispanics in the upcoming Census.

have ... to let people know it's so critical for your child's education, and for your services in the community."

The Census Bureau seems receptive to these efforts.

For the first time, it will mail bilingual forms to 13 million homes this year. It has a more accurate database of addresses and demographic information thanks to the annual American Community Survey, which began in 2001. It is soliciting employees who can speak languages other than English.

In 1990, the census missed an estimated 8 million people, mostly immigrants and urban minorities, advocacy groups say, and it counted about 4 million whites twice, mostly college students and people who owned two homes. There was less of a minority undercount in 2000.

The impact of undercounting can be significant. For example, about 838,000 Californians went uncounted in 1990, which cost the state \$223 million in Medicaid and other federal programs, according to the GAO.

Major Drug Arrest

(AP) -- An heir to one of Mexico's most notorious narcotics empires was grabbed by police as he exercised in a Mexico City park, officials announced Thursday, shortly before U.S. and



Carrillo Leyva

Mexican Cabinet officials met to coordinate attacks on escalating drug violence.

Carrillo Leyva allegedly inherited a top position in the Juarez cartel from his father Amado Carrillo Fuentes, who was nicknamed "the Lord of the Skies" for sending jetliners full of cocaine to the United States.

The father was considered Mexico's No. 1 drug trafficker

when he died in 1997 during plastic surgery to change his appearance. The U.S. Embassy said Thursday that the embattled remnant of his cartel is still

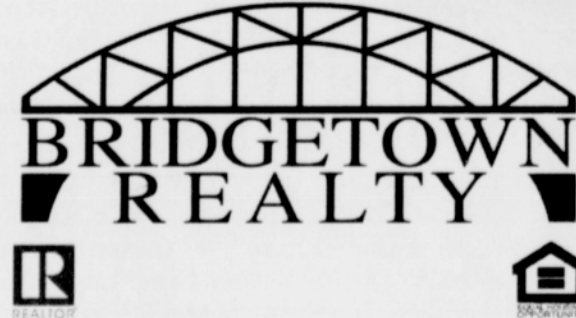
"one of Mexico's most ruthless organized criminal gangs, which controls one of the primary transportation routes for illegal drug shipments into the United States."

Prosecutors say Leyva, 32, was second only to his uncle Vicente Carrillo Fuentes in the gang, whose battles with upstart cartels have fed a bloodbath that saw 1,600 people killed in its home base of Ciudad Juarez last year.

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Housing Upgrades

Just over a month after President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban announced last week that \$3 billion will be spent on making significant improvements to tens of thousands of public housing units nationwide.

"President Obama has given us the mandate to put this money to work quickly so it can make a real difference in the lives of Americans," said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. "HUD is working overtime to get this money to our housing authorities so they can repair and produce critically needed affordable housing, create jobs, and improve the quality of life for their residents."

The stimulus more than doubles the department's annual support of local housing authorities to improve their public housing stock.

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