

The Village Drummer

Jefferson Park Neighbors Association

City Council District 10 Region 6



Public School Education: Correcting Dysfunction

By Luis South, M.A./PPS

In the June 2009 edition of Village Drummer there was an article titled “Expelling the BS in the Public’s Education.” This is the follow-up.

As you may recall, “BS” in this context stands for “Bogus Standards.” Jesus’ birthday is close so it’s best to clear the air on this matter before we continue.

Based upon the public discussion about education there’s generally agreement that sometimes dysfunction becomes abundantly evi-

dent. The easiest thing to do is point fingers, deflect blame from self. Some people may then conclude that we should forget about a public discussion to identify the problems why dysfunction exists in public schools. However, ugly situations don’t go away until we take the time and effort to identify precisely what conditions are causing the problems to exist. Typically teachers and students have gone through

(cont. pg. 2)

Where Are We in 2010?

By Ed Turner, UNNC Area 6 Rep.

As the Area 6 representative on the UNNC board there are a multitude of issues we have to deal with. However, I have the responsibility to communicate my focus in a concise manner. Our country is about to enter

a new phase in history. Like the rest of the civilized world, almost all Americans will be covered for health care in 2010. Jefferson Park Neighbors will continue to advocate for a universal healthcare for all citizens and legal

Jefferson Park Neighbors

Next Meeting
Focus: Food Distribution

Jefferson Park Library
10 a.m.– 12:00
2211 W. Jefferson BL.

Feb 27, 2010

Jefferson Park Neighbors

Dec ‘09—Jan 2010

See story on p. 2

Workers’ Unions

Make Jobs,

Not War

MERRY JESUS’ DAY!

HAPPY KWANZAA

JOYFUL NEW YEAR

(A free public ad)

Special Places in the Hood

Jefferson Library *
2211 W. Jefferson Blvd.

Ed Turner *
Area 6 Rep on the UNNC
(323) 394-0473

Trinity Baptist Church *
2240 W. Jefferson Blvd.

One Stop Market *
2115 W. Jefferson Blvd.

Smile Mart *
3115 S. Western Ave.

Say Yes to Life, Inc. *
7825 S. Western Avenue

* For More Info call
Luis South @ (323) 370-9140

residents because that is the only way to control medical costs and other massive systemic waste.

Locally, safety and food distribution will continue to be my main points of community advocacy and prayer.

Public School Education: Correcting Dysfunction

By Luis South (cont. from p. 1)

changes because the public school system needed “fixing.” The only thing that has not been altered is the management model that governs public school education. Administrators, too often, don’t account for their decisions and are allowed to remain defiant, openly holding on to their wrongdoing. This is at the heart of everything wrong about America’s public education system. To be fair, there are professionals as well as students who periodically do things that weigh against

improving public schools. However, large scale systemic dysfunction over many decades is the responsibility of public school administrators. Even when they point fingers at bad teachers that doesn’t excuse administrators from the responsibility of establishing a professional training process to help get the teacher better oriented as well as refer them to the Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) program set up in collaboration with the teacher’s union, UTLA. Trying to blame students

for the problems in education is ridiculous because they are the clients in need of the services schools have to offer. Not being allowed efficient access to those services causes problems with students to go on ad infinitum. Again, an administrative responsibility.

Change can come easy whenever elected officials can cross party line rhetoric to figure out legislation that works against genocidal practices of public school administrators that clearly prevent students from having “the good life” experience as stated within the American Constitution.

Students are constantly being shifted around, too often without proper procedures focused on serving their real needs well. The uneducated victims are not the cause of systemic dysfunction. The educated class must, at some point, face stringent personal penalties or the problems continue.

To be clear, not all administrators are bad. But in a newly developing multicultural setting there must be work done to make sure we’re not duplicating a past of prejudice and segregation when there was not multiculturalism.

College Counseling the Youth

By Frank Talk II

Kindergarten class is where career and college awareness need to start. American students are operating at a disadvantage when they leave high school without a clue about what they want to become. They are also at further disadvantage when they have no concept of “career path.” This is one area of concern where it will take the combined efforts of progressive educators working as a team. This

past weekend Tracie Matthews of Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church came to speak with Jefferson Park Youth and others. Tracie is the Director of Financial Aide in California State University Channel Island. What she started will continue to develop into a community process of college counseling for our youth k-12. Sheila Thomas is working for more to happen about this idea. More to come.

Teachers’ Union: A Cornerstone to Inner City Development

By Luis South

Unionized labor has always held a special place in 20th Century American history. To be clear, the difference between a union job and a “regular” job has everything to do with respect vs. slavery. Union jobs have a constant voice interacting with management on matters concerning pay increase and work environment. A union worker then

can concentrate on being an efficient professional while having peace of mind that their most important professional interests are being handled by competent, caring representatives. This is an ideal basic understanding offered here to help us distinguish union jobs from regular jobs.

A very important idea related to teaching is this phenomena of un-

ion organization. Especially, why are today’s teacher union efforts of any value to the future of children and other hardworking non-union adults experiencing inner city life? This article is the beginning of reasoning to help form a better communication line between educators (including genuine administrators) and community members.

(continued on p. 3)

Teachers' Union: A Cornerstone to Inner City Development

(cont. from page 2)

The particular focus of this article is on the common ground experience between educators from African American and Spanish speaking cultures and their place in the development of their respective cultural group's development. At every point in the history of African American and people from Spanish speaking cultures most unionized educators have performed as pillars in their communities, giving support to strengthen institutions such as churches, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and all other service organizations. It is the vigilance of union that has allowed teacher salary to barely keep up with the cost of living adjustments (COLA). It is time to bring forth the understanding that what educators do today will have a direct affect on our students' future. Every move we make to secure workplace integrity and a decent salary helps the present community circumstances as well as en-

ures a better future for young teachers, ranks that will have serious increases of professionals from African American and Spanish speaking cultures. These communities become economically stronger as a result of increased teacher salary. However, public school educators will be easier to embrace if the community gets a clear message that all union actions must have a sincere and evident push towards improving the delivery of educational services. The drive to improve education has to be clearly stated up front before we get thrown into a light where teachers and union seem only interested in their own pocketbooks. There must be a set of attainable goals leading to greater respect for the workers in the present and the future public schools.

Greens for Good Health

Tirhasi Kiflezghie, NP

Pray before you begin eating because it helps you to be calm, relaxed and focused.

If we are concerned about eating right it doesn't take a lot of thinking. Make sure to eat greens as much as possible. The cholesterol, sugar content, and salt are never factors that are found in edible

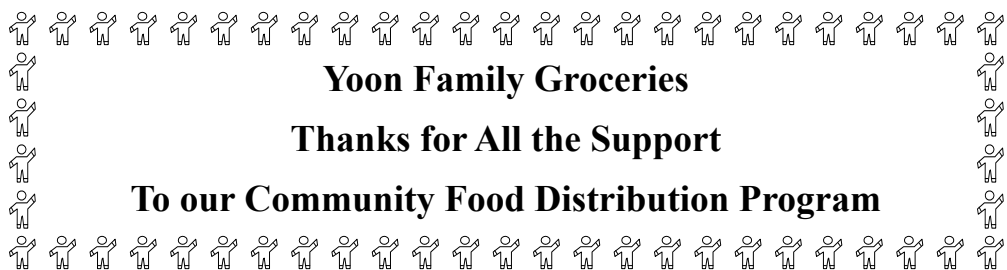
green plants typically served as part of the American diet. By including a lot of greens in each meal we greatly reduce the risk of developing diet related illnesses. Our internal systems also work and feel better.

Practice eating vegetables before going for that main course. If

MARIAN FOR FOOD
 2061 W. Jefferson Blvd.
 (323) 252-3828

NOTICE
Foster Children
 Programs Give us a
 chance to practice being family.
Love one another.
(A free public advertisement)

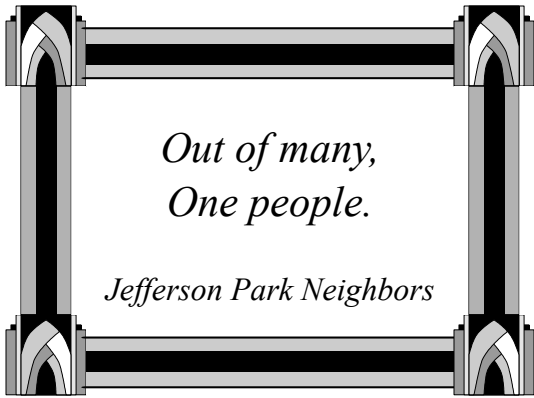
Union representation may consider it is high time to publicly share the reality that there has been, and continues to be, a constant need for public school educators of the historically disenfranchised African American and Spanish speaking cultures. This fact requires more guarantees focused on professionalism in our educational system.



Yoon Family Groceries
Thanks for All the Support
To our Community Food Distribution Program

you're thinking about losing a few pounds it helps to eat a lot of vegetable before starting that main course because those vegetables fill an otherwise empty space in your stomach and often serve to protect the lining of the intestines.

T.Kiflezghie works at County/USC



TLC

Jefferson Park Neighbors

Phone: 323-370-9140

Email: southluis@yahoo.com

FOR VOLUNTEERS ONLY

FOOTCARE & MASSAGE

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF
JEFFERSON PARK NEIGHBORS
YOU CAN GET A FREE THERAPEUTIC
FOOT MASSAGE

DONE BY AN EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONAL

Contact: LUIS (323) 370-9140

http://www.educounselor.com/images/sb40_ltr.pdf
Read the unanswered letter to Governor Schwarzenegger

Sharing the Garden

A continuing series focused on community development

“Pigs eat them.” That’s what my neighbor said years ago when I asked him why he let so many of his avocados rot on the ground beneath the big tree while there were people who would enjoy having some.

“But we live in the city, brother. Ain’t no avocado eatin’ pigs around for miles.” And so it would go. The spoiled fruit replenishing the earth below as neighbors walked by. I sometimes thought about that situation even after moving away from that place. I was an apartment renter then moved to become a home owner.

By chance, a fully grown lemon tree was there and there was ample land space to plant a small garden worked by me and my wife, Claire. It was great fun to see how many fruits and vegetables grow from one very small plot of land. So we would constantly share with our neighbors and they would always be joyful about the sharing.

Over time it also became noticeable that there were always neighbors who didn’t share their edible fruits from the land. But I soon found there were a variety of good reasons. Mostly it comes down to time and ability to do the

picking. I really didn’t suggest the idea to help with the picking and maintenance of the avocado tree with my first neighbor. As time has evolved I have had many neighbors happy to have me do the basic manual labor to get their fruits. Because of this Jefferson Park now has a network of home owners who have fruit trees and gardens. What we do is share the bounty. Call me to get on that list. (323) 370-9140. Let’s all be more aware of powerful group sharing.