

Barrio de Langley Park

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EUROS NOW A 'MINORITY'

Among Babies Now: Adults Mid-Century

For the first time since the arrival of the post-Columbus Europeans in numbers greater than Native Americans, so-called racial and ethnic minorities make up more than half the children born in the USA. Minority children born in the USA during the 12-month period that ended in July 2011 constituted about two million, or just over fifty per cent of all births. Two decades ago, the comparable 12-month period recorded minority births at thirty-seven percent of the total. Quite a change!

The shift is a combination of the higher percentage of minority women being in the prime child-bearing age

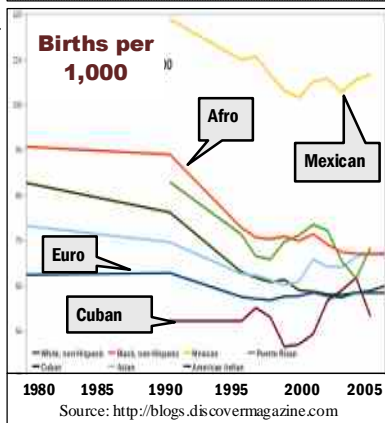
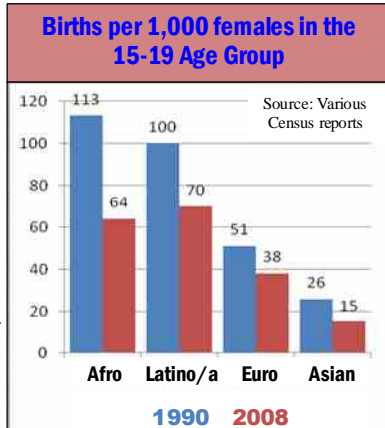
plus having more babies per woman—in contrast with the babies per Euro woman.

Suggestive is the chart (right) showing the live births for women in the 15-19 age group — per 1,000 women. The rate for all groups has fallen over the two decades, but there are still stark differences.

A longer-period of change is reflected in the second chart (right). It displays the fertility rate decline among the major groupings; it also shows that among Latinas, there are dramatic differences. For instance, the fertility rate among those with a Mexican heritage is much higher than comparative categories. There are two exceptions to the general downward trend: Cuban and Asian women.

Another way to portray fertility differences is births per female in the 15-45 age category. The differences are Euro not Latina = 1.8; Afro not Latina = 2.11; Asian = 2.06; and Latina = 2.99. So making babies is becoming a lost art among Euro women, but the art is still practiced by Latinas.

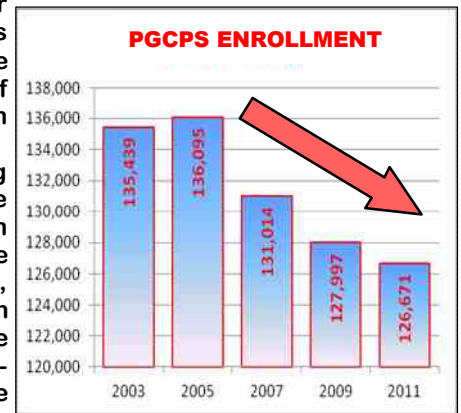
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ENROLLMENT DROPS IN THE COUNTY'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Once upon a time, there were more than 135,000 students enrolled in PGCPs, and now the number is close to 125,000, that is, a drop of about 9%. What's going on? Has the dropout figure increased? Have transfers to private schools or other jurisdictions increased? Is the drop a reflection of the decline in birth rates?

Checking school levels, the decline has taken place at all three levels: elementary, middle, and high schools. But there is a different pattern at the state level: after a decline, there has been an uptick—an uptick not seen at the county level.



What about the county's population? Here we find an answer. Between the 2000 and 2010 census (censuses), the county's population in the 5 to 14 age group has declined from 123,828 to 100,405 (10.8%)! And at the state level, there has been a decline from 783,453 to 745,897 (9.5%)! We are making fewer babies in the county and the state, and so the enrollments have declined. Thus our local jurisdictions are—not surprisingly—reflecting the national trends (as explored in the article on pages 1-2).

So we shouldn't worry about dropouts and transfers? Yes we should, because we want the county schools to be so appealing that students think twice before dropping out and the parent(s) think twice before moving to what they think is a better school system.

Why should we care? After all, a drop in the number of students means teachers can be dismissed or class sizes can decline. We should care for at least two reasons: (1) if the quality of the schools is a factor, then improvement is all the more important and urgent; and (2) a drop in enrollment means a drop in county funds, and that can trigger a self-reinforcing process of decline.

LESS EDUCATION ► LESS DEMOCRACY?

Having a large "underclass" with little formal education may have dire consequences for the long-term health of civic activities like voting and volunteering, according to a new report by ETS. For instance, in 2008 fully 83% of adults with advanced degrees voted, but only 39% of those who didn't finish high school voted.

NEWS AND NOTES

“NO” TO SECURE COMMUNITIES

But the Feds Say “No” to “No”

Vermont: "The federal government has introduced its Secure Communities immigration enforcement policy in Vermont, despite the state's so-called bias-free policing policy. Vermont officials say they won't make any changes to their policy despite the shift at the federal level. Public Safety Commissioner Keith Flynn says there's nothing in the new federal immigration policy that will affect how Vermont State Police work in this state. 'Our general policy is still going to be that detecting and apprehending individuals whose only violation of law is that they're foreign citizens present in the United States without authorization or proper documentation is not a law enforcement priority for the Vermont State Police.'" (Vermont Public Radio, 24 May 2012)



California: Last year, lawmakers in California were poised to pass "the trust act" to let local jurisdictions opt out of Secure Communities. But before final passage, federal officials rendered the bill moot by declaring that participation in the program was mandatory. Now, California lawmakers are considering a revised version of the bill that would minimize the impact of S-Comm by limiting the ability of local governments to detain immigrants on the federal government's behalf—that is, the new version would narrow the circumstances in which local jurisdictions could honor immigration "detainers" from the federal government. (Drawn from Ben Winegrad's article in immigrationimpact.com, 25 May 20-12)

And so in Prince George's County and many other jurisdictions, people without—and with—the necessary papers will live in fear, fail to take advantage of opportunities, avoid clinics when they are sick, and more. Clearly, some people will unnecessarily be victims of S-Comm.

Another View: Here's one counter voice: "In case there was ever any doubt that the open-borders gang consistently acts in bad faith, consider the issue of Secure Communities. Under that program, local officials fingerprint persons already in jail and check the prints with a Washington database to see whether the prisoner is an illegal alien. Common sense, right? No, in the minds of La Raza and similar fifth columnists. They would rather allow dangerous foreign criminals to stay (who often prey upon hispanics) than support public safety for all."* The big flaw in this view is the equating arrest and deportation with "dangerous foreign criminals"; the most recent data available to BLP indicates that a majority of immigrants turned over to Immigration were not dangerous foreign criminals. Some weren't foreign! Well, you know, mistakes are made.

*Source: <http://www.limitstogrowth.org/articles/2011/08/16/illegal-aliens-discourage-public-safety>

CUBA FINDS OIL

We now know that there are oil deposits off the shores of Cuba. That puts our ill-advised embargo front and center. First, we may not like Saudi autocracy with inequality but we befriend its leadership because we need its oil. (Prostitution has many forms.) Well, maybe we'll need some Cuban oil; so despite many of our leaders' dislike of the regime, we might befriend it. And we may be worried about environmental problems near the USA, so we might as a friendly act send some equipment and expertise to protect the waters. At least there will be change once the anti-Castro elders pass on.

DID YOU ENJOY?

The *Baltimore Sun* (24 May 2012) reports: "Las Vegas has served as a sort of glitzy Maryland West—with government and business leaders from the state attending the Global Retail Real Estate Convention in droves. ... This year, Baltimore City and Prince George's County sent the largest number of representatives to the conference: nine each. That's more than Gov. O'Malley's administration." It's encouraging that the county has the extra money for officials to spend time in Vegas. Oh yes, there will be enormous payoffs in the future. Maybe.

WHAT TO DO WHEN GROWN UP

Recently, a member of the ALP staff participated in a career day at a school that is about 80% Black or Latino/a but only 21% Title 1 (down dramatically from recent years). The visitor asked the young people in several classes what they wanted to have as a career. The leading answers were police officer ("cop"), member of the armed forces, and veterinarian. These are all good careers, but they are responses that contrast significantly from those in schools with different demographic characteristics. Where are the future medical doctors, professors, lawyers, scientists? Maybe those on both sides of the "career divide" should look across the dividing line.

IMMIGRANT CONTRIBUTIONS

Author Juliet Wittman, in a review of books about immigrant life for the *Washington Post* (27 May 2012), begins her thoughtful article as follows:

"Our national debate about immigration has become so two-dimensional, so relentlessly focused on economics and race, that we tend to ignore something harder to define and perhaps more important: the way that exiles and immigrants enlarge our understanding of the world and our place within it. They bring with them their culture—music, food, courtship rituals, child-raising patterns, ways of occupying and moving in space and of relating to other people, histories far differently shaped than ours, and a trove of memories that can be joyous, bitter, shadowed, mundane. ... Immigrants change our angle of vision and set everyday life slightly ailt; the breath of strangeness an immigrant carries just walking down the street is at once a challenge and an invitation."

A recent film, *The Visitor* (2008), captures much of the power for positive change provided to us by immigrants. Yes, its story is less sensational than ones about Einstein or Weill. The trailer is at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KY0FEt3mBog>. Of course, the great classic is Chaplin's *The Immigrant* which is now online free on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vWXovF61i4>.

PERSONS OBTAINING LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS	Newly Legal	1930-1939	1950-1959	1970-1979	1990-1999	2000-2009
The largest heritage groups in Langley Park are from El Salvador and Guatemala. So the BLP staff wondered about their trend in obtaining legal status over time. How times have changed in 80 years!	El Salvador	597	5,094	29,428	273,017	251,237
	Guatemala	431	4,197	23,837	126,043	156,992

“Minorities” continued from Page 1

Brookings’ Richard Frey comments: “We were already seeing a declining youth population in large parts of the country. Without immigrants, we’d be essentially

Census update:

Chocolate City?

Once upon a time, the majority-Black Washington DC was referred to as the “Chocolate City”. But now (as of 2011), DC is less than 50% Black!

youthless. We had a perfect storm. We got them all coming, younger immigrants having children, at a time when we really needed them.” So we have them, and increasingly they will be in positions of power. How well will they be informed and thoughtful as they exercise power?

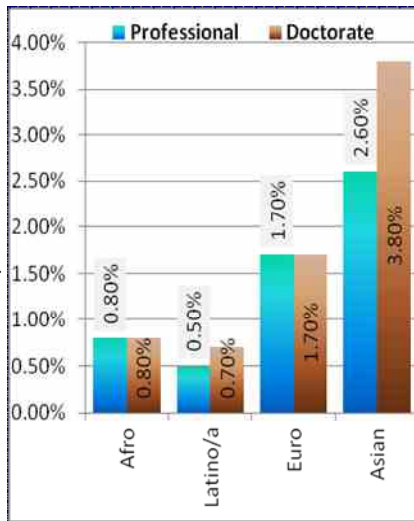
Another question about the future: How will Euros adjust to the changing circumstances? More t-parties, perhaps meeting in caves out of site as they stir their brew of fear? Let’s hope not!

What About Education?

By mid-21st Century, our so-called minorities are likely to be the country’s majority. And yet the Latino/as and African-Americans are poorly in our schools and colleges.

The graph (right) shows the per cent of those adults in the USA who hold professional and/or doctoral degrees. Asians are way ahead followed by Euros, but note the lagging African-Americans and Latino/as. They must become better educated as they increasingly gain leadership positions.

We’d better face the educational deficit soon or we’ll be in difficult sociopolitical times with comparatively better educated older Euros and Asians facing comparatively less-well educated younger Latino/as and African-Americans. Might we move in the direction of Apartheid in the USA? Of course, colleges and universities aren’t the prime locus of disparities. Rather, the disparities begin



early in life and are supported through primary and secondary school. So we’d better get serious about successful education for all. Well, say some, Antonio Villarigosa and Tom Perez and Luis Vicente Gutierrez and Bill Richardson and Deval Patrick and so many other Latino/as and African-Americans have been successful leaders, so what’s the problem. The problem is numbers; the top positions must be filled with qualified people, but so must the secondary and tertiary positions.

“The changes to the country may not be as huge as some people think. Immigrants will change our society, but our society will change the immigrants.” (Andrew Cherlin)

So education! Let’s raise all the boats up!

And let us not forget that the DREAM Act, for the USA and the Maryland version, will help to prepare many thousands of Latino/as for future leadership. In Maryland, there will be a referendum in November. The *Washington Post* (5 May 2012): “There will be no shortage of money or activists to oppose the Maryland Dream Act. The question is whether the advocates will put up a fight.” Yes!!!

LUZ LAZO ON THE QUINCEAÑERA

The *Washington Post* (26 May 2012) published a long article featuring the Langley Park (and elsewhere) celebration of the Latina becoming a young woman at the age of fifteen. The BLP coverage was in issue 238, and hours after it was “on the street,” the *Post* article appeared. The *Post* reporter is Luz Lazo, an up-and-coming Latina who knows the territory (in at least two senses) well.

“On a Saturday evening earlier this month,” she writes, “Maria and 12 other area teenagers wore long, beautiful dresses, impeccable makeup and silver crowns as they marked their quinceañera — a celebration of a Latina’s 15th birthday and coming of age. For the event, ... family and friends wore their best outfits in honor of a tradition that marks the traditional end of childhood for Hispanic girls.”

One of the young women was quoted: “I don’t feel any change in me. I still feel like I am a little girl. ... But now I know that if I try hard, I can accomplish my dreams.” May her dreams come true!

Be sure to read the *Post* article. It’s on line at http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-area-quinceaneras-get-dream-party-life-lessons/2012/05/25/gJQAC1Z0sU_story_1.html.

Language Barriers to Good Health

It was not much more than a decade ago that the issue of communication between health provider and patient was not a matter of serious consideration. And in localities such as Langley Park, children were (and still are) often held out of school to interpret for an adult in the family. But research was launched that showed that even if a professional interpreter were involved, a lack of medical knowledge would make the communication problematic. As a result, Harvard Medical School, Maryland School of Medicine, and many other institutions now offer “medical Spanish” to the future health professionals. So the situation has improved, although many gaps remain—gaps that might endanger the patient.

An article in a recent issue of the *Annals of Emergency Medicine* (12 March 2012) focuses on these issues. Here are several passages:

“Professional interpreters who received more than 100 hours of training in medical interpreting had nearly two-thirds fewer errors than those with fewer than 100 hours of training, and significantly fewer errors with medical consequences than ad hoc interpreters. ...

“Professional interpreters who received that much training on average had 12 errors while those with less training had 33. Patient encounters that relied on ad hoc interpreters or no interpreters had significantly more errors, including some with potential clinical significance, such as mistaking tablespoons for teaspoons of medicine. ...

“Our findings add to the growing body of evidence that paid, professional interpreters are essential for delivering high-quality health care to our patients.”



MONEY!!



THE COUNTY BUDGET

The county now has an operating budget; its total is \$2,700,000,000. What are the priorities? Here's the lead statement from a budget document: "Despite the challenging effects of the recession that continues to impact revenues and place tremendous pressure on our budget, we are committed to moving Prince George's County further along the 'Path to Greatness.' The FY 2013 budget follows the blueprint for transforming the County into a nationally recognized jurisdiction that has a thriving economy, great schools, safe neighborhoods, access to high-quality healthcare, effective human services for those in need, and provides a clean and sustainable environment through the oversight of a highly proficient and transparent government."

Sounds good; there certainly need to be significant upgrades in the school system, health services, safety, and more. Just check on class size to know how the difficult economic times are hurting school children.

In the budget, schools and safety get a slight raise, and other agencies have to deal with a near-flat allocation. One official comments: "It's getting very hard [to balance the budget] without impacting services." Part of the school's money will be used to help with pension payments because the state passed some of that responsibility on. The school system has a capital budget which might well help to meet some of the needs of the Langley Park area as articulated by the TNI and ALP agendas. (Well, we can hope, can't we?)

Somehow, members of the County Council found the courage to raise their salaries to \$99,695. And for some members, it's a part-time job. Note: According to the *Washington Post* (25 May 2012), council members Franklin and Olson turned back the \$3,278 raises and council member Lehman donated hers to a charity.

A RICH NEIGHBOR

Here's an interesting news item: "Godwin Corp. of Langley Park won \$492 million from the Fort Detrick Healthcare Acquisition Activity for physician, nursing and ancillary services." Wow, Langley Park? Well, almost; the Godwin Corporation is located at 1435 University Boulevard at the southwest corner of University Blvd. and Riggs Rd. Its self-statement: "Godwin Corporation provides experienced and committed health care personnel and related health care services to the federal government and private industry." So we have a rich neighbor! Hey, look our way with health care!

CAMERAS BRING DOLLARS

When we're driving along and see a flash, we know we're in trouble. It's a speed or red-light camera recording our imperfect driving. And the punishment is a "donation" to the local jurisdiction. A few dollars here, a few dollars there. But it's a much more serious and lucrative business. In fiscal 2012, the cameras in Prince George's County are expected to bring into the money chest close to \$9,000,000.



And the future is even brighter (brighter from the perspective of raising money for the county); the income might double or triple in a few years. So to keep one's money and to be safe, keep within the law. Or speed to donate money to the money-strapped county.

WHAT AND WHEN



Here we list upcoming ALP activities and other events that are called to our attention. Have an event to list? If so, send information well in advance to actionlangleypark@yahoo.com.

May 30: The Crossroads Farmers Market continues its weekly provision of good things to eat (at the market or after taking them home) while the music plays on. The market is near the southwest corner of University Blvd. and New Hampshire Avenue—in the back parking lot of 7676 New Hampshire Avenue. So circle Wednesdays this summer and early Fall to get the fresh vegetables, fruits, and more.

June 3: The Colours 20th Anniversary Party at Old Bowie Town Grill. Note: This event is being postponed out of respect for the loss of former Colours student Anastacia Smith on 18 May in a car accident. We expect a new date shortly.

June 16: Free Community Dinner & Food Distribution at St. Michael and All Angels Church, 8501 New Hampshire Ave. in upper Langley Park. From 5 to 6:30 p.m. This is a regular event on the third Saturday of the month. For information, call 301 434-4646.

August 7: National Night Out. In Langley Park, the Community Center is planning an indoor afternoon [not quite night!] event, 3:30-5 p.m., with a focus on children—including a film and ice cream. Some good bilingual police officers are likely to join the fun.

November 10: Health Check at the LP Community Center from noon to 3:30 p.m. There will be a wide range of health screenings plus information and counseling. Is your heart okay? Are you infected with HIV? How's your lung strength? Any problems with oral health? Et cetera!

EXPLORING AGRICULTURE: Interested in learning about Maryland agriculture, healthy eating, and environmental issues? The University of Maryland Extension AGspletion action team announces that they will be offering "Adventures in AGspletion" programs this summer throughout Maryland. Each will be a one-day educational program for youth who have completed 5th through 8th grade by the end of the school year. The cost for participation is \$15 which covers facility use, meals, field trip transportation, and event materials. Two of the programs are on (1) July 26 at the Montgomery County Extension Office, Derwood; and (2) August 2 at the Maryland 4-H Center in College Park. For information, contact April Hall Barczewski at 410.996.8134 or adhall@umd.edu.

MARY'S CENTER IS NOW OPEN!

The Mary's Center health clinic at 8908 Riggs Road in the Judy Hoyer Center (adjacent to Cool Spring Elementary School) operates Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The new site offers adult primary care, prenatal care, pediatric care, social services, and mental health services. For information or to make an appointment, call 301.422.5900.

The Mary's Center on Flower Avenue in Long Branch is still open, so there are several local choices available for good and affordable medical help.