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## Hispanics and blacks in the South seek common ground

Continued from page 18 according to the Census Bureau. (It counts Hispanics as people of any race whose ethnic background is in Spanish-speaking countries.) While blacks are still more numerous in the Southeast, except for Florida, a rush of immigrants from Spanish-speaking countries is chang-ing racial interaction across the region. Several Southeast, states now lead the nation in the growth of Hispanic resi-dents and illegal immigrants. In places like Houston and Los Angeles, where blacks and Hispanics have long lived side-by-side, the two groups most often fight for jobs, notably low-income jobs that were often held by unskilled black workers.

were often held by unskilled black workers An April 2006 Pew Research Center poll showed that more blacks than whites said they or a family member had lost a job or never got it because an employer hired an immigrant worker.

employer hired an immigrant worker: "When you get down to the nitty-gritty worker, the antag-onism still exists, while politi-cians talk about common areas and agendas," said Nicolas Vaca, author of "The Presumed Alliance: The Unspoken Conflict Between Latinos and Blacks and What It Means for America." That animosity endures in the South, where anti-immi-grant groups argue that Hispanic newcomers are will-ing to accept wages that oth-ers won't. Many Southern employers, especially farm-ers, however, say that there simply aren't enough local workers to harvest their workers to harvest their peaches and pluck their chick-

peaches and pluck their chick-ens. Is the job argument simply a new version of the "radal baiting" behind historic white-on-black discrimination in the South? Yes, said race relations historian John Inscoe, it's all too easy to stir up radia for ethine mistrust in poor people who feel outnum-bered in the fight for survival. Census figures show that across 11 Southern states, for-eign-born Hispanics have a substantially lower unem-ployment rate than blacks— less than 5 percent, compared to more than 9 percent for blacks in 2004—and earn more; their median household income of \$33,765 pine 2005 percent. income of \$33,765 (euro26,550) in 2005 was nearly 10 percent higher than that of blacks.

Further, research has found blacks feel threatened beyond

## Marrow donor awareness

Continued from page 1B

another minority blood dis-ease patient and to raise awareness of sickle cell dis-

ease. The Dancing for Life pro-gram features liturgical dance ministries and gospel artists who are coming together in support of National Marrow Donor Awareness Month.

support of National Marrow Donor Awareness Month. Seventy percent of patients are unable to find a donor match within their immediate family and must search the NMDP registry More diversi-ty is needed to increase the probability of finding a match for minorities. The groups of individuals identified by the NMDP for focused recruitment are. Blacks, American Indian or Alaska Natives, Asian, Hispanic or Latino, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders. volunteer donors who wish to join the marrow registry must be between the ages of 18 and 60 and in good health After completing a brief health questionnaire, volunteer donors sign a con-sent form and give a tissue sample by swabbing their inside check. To learn about the potentially life-saving process of marrow donation, voisit the NMDP website at process of marrow donation, visit the NMDP website at

the workplace by the influx of Hispanics in the South. Of the three metropolitan areas with booming immigrant pop-ulations surveyed in a study related to the April Pew poll, it's only in the Southerm one - Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina-that a solid majority of blacks favors cut-ting back on legal immigra-tion.

ting back or ega-tion. But some say it's precisely because of the history of strained race relations in the South, where institutional segregation was painfully dis-mantled, that the region can be integrate another comhelp integrate another com-munity into the American mainstream

mainstream "There's a very natural link-age between the African-American and the Hispanic communities," said NAACP President Bruce Gordon "There's a conscious effort to create animosity between African-Americans and Hispanics that takes our eye off the ball. There's an advan-tage to coalition, and we should find a way to take advantage of this opportuni-ty".

Angela Arboleda of La Raza agrees, though she notes black leaders have not always

ced the notion of soli-

embraced the notion of soli-darity among minorities, cit-ing as an example New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin's comment that he feared that dity would be "overrun by Mexican workers" during reconstruction after Hurricane Katina. In Georgia-home to many black leaders, one of the fastest-growing illegal immi-grant populations, and some of the nation's most stringent immigration laws - the grow-ipains in the developing black-Hispanic relationship have been acute. Both sides (blacks and whites) are waiting to see if Jations will define them-selves as black or white," said Dana White, a professor at Dana White, a p Since skin color is still a defin-ing issue in race relations, and most Hispanics in the U.S. are white, some argue that rather than joining a coalition of minorities, Hispanics will close ranks with white Americans and further marginalize blacks. In 2001, black Georgia law-makers fought legislation making Hispanic businesses eligible for a state program

designed to bolster minorit

designed to bolster minority enterprises, arguing it would weaken the state's goal of helping black businesses. However, last April some black leaders spoke of a shared cause against discrim-ination at a pro-immigration rally in Atlanta that drew 50,000 people, the kind of street demonstration typical of the civil rights movement defined by Atlanta son Martin Luther King Jr And it was in a majority-black county just outside Atlanta that Georgia's first bilingual public school, Unidos Dual Language Charter School, opened in

August. Yolanda Hood, who is black, enrolled her 5-year-old son in the school even though some relatives feared his English could be compromised. "We're more sensitive to the plight of Hispanics just because we dealt with so many prejudices," she said, explaining that her own edu-cational experience influ-enced her decision "I went to a predominantly black school, hen a predominantly white college and it was a shock to me-I didn't want my son to have that."

Overcoming mistrust and misunderstandings will take

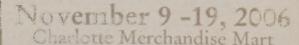
time, experts say. After the attacks in Tifton, seen though they were not officially termed hate crimes, the U.S Justice Department sent peacemakers to ease ten-sions, and police stepped up patrols to quell rumors of platols to quell rumors of platols to quell rumors of platols to quell rumors of measure of the stepped up patrols to quell rumors of platols to quell rum







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