

## Menu

- ★ [Home](#)
- ★ [Diaries](#)
- ★ [dKosopedia](#)
- ★ [Search](#)
- ★ [Create account](#)
- ★ [Login](#)
- ★ [Lose Your Password?](#)

wide  narrow

## Land of Enchantment's Blogroll

- ★ [Bag News Notes](#)
- ★ [Birder Blog](#)
- ★ [Border Ambassadors](#)
- ★ [ePluribusMedia](#)
- ★ [Grist](#)
- ★ [Indians.com](#)
- ★ [Juan Cole](#)
- ★ [TPM Muckraker](#)
- ★ [Wampum](#)
- ★ [World's Worst Places](#)

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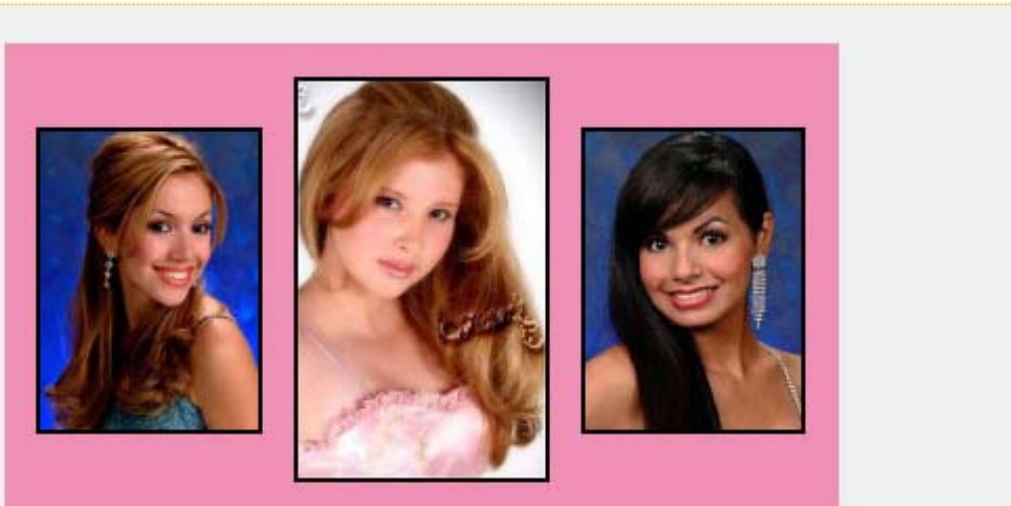
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## Beauty Queens Oppose Border Wall (w/pix)

by [Land of Enchantment](#)

Thu Aug 23, 2007 at 08:45:26 PM PDT

I'm a sucker for unconventional coalitions, so when I read [this](#), I was delighted, bemused and impressed:



**Organizacion Miss America Latina**, Inc. confirms the participation of several of its title-holders in the **Hands Across El Rio** project... It is logical that we would lend our voice to to this project, which stands exactly for what our organization has been promoting... the bonding of friendship and goodwill between the U.S. and Latin America."



### Land of Enchantment's diary :: ::

I'm not big on beauty pageants. The organizers say they give out scholarships as a redeeming virtue. But if every contestant put all the money they spend on competing into a college fund instead, there'd probably be more money available, in aggregate, for tuition. By a long shot. But I've broken one of the rules of successful coalitions: Bite your tongue about criticisms of other coalition partners. Stay focussed on the matter at hand. So, if you're opposing a pit mine in the neighborhood, keep any mention of abortion or other divisive issues off the agenda.

Coalitions gain power in direct proportion to the diversity of participation they attract. **Hands Across el Rio** has bird watchers and teen beauty queens amongst its advocates. You don't see something like that every day. So, three cheers for **Organizacion Miss America** for their participation. They'll attract media attention better than the birders will, and it's all towards the same end - so all the better. There's lots of others who are on board, but I want give the beauty queens a little more space first. The appearances will be:

- Miss Texas Latina Martha Barraza (right hand picture above) at El Paso, August 25th
- Miss Teen Mexico US Latina Breeana Shaw (picture left), also at El Paso
- Miss Teen US Latina Nicole Korrody (center) at Laredo, September 2nd
- Full itinerary [here](#)

Both Martha (21) and Breeana (16) are of Mexican descent, both born in the state of Texas, proud of their heritage and culture, bilingual, and outstanding students and role models...

National teen titleholder Nicole Korrody [(15) is] enthusiastically supported by her parents, successful business leaders in San Antonio who understand the adverse economic impact of separating communities across the Rio Grande.

★

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