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INLAND EMPIRE HISPANIC NEWS

Wednesday, 25¢
February 22, 1989
Volume 2, No. 9

First Latina in top "Demo" party post



Carmen Perez
Vice Chair
Democratic National
Committee

Carmen Perez, former Vice Chair of the State Democratic Party, was elected this past Friday to the office of vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee (DNC). The announcement was made by her Campaign Chair, Assemblyman Richard Polanco (D-Greater Northeast Los Angeles/Pasadena).

Ms. Perez made political history by becoming the first Latina from California to sit on the DNC's Executive Board.

The new DNC Vice Chair is the Assistant Chief Deputy to County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn and a long time activist in the Democratic Party both in California and nationally.

Perez stated that she was "absolutely overwhelmed by the victory" and was looking forward to working with the new Party Chair Ron Brown and other officers.

Perez sees her election as providing needed representation on the Executive Board, not only for Hispanic concerns,

but for the West and California as well. "It is important to have the West connection - the California connection (on the Executive Board)."

Of particular concern and priority for her as Vice chair is moving the California primary to an earlier date, as well as anticipating the upcoming census and the resulting reapportionment of districts nationwide.

"In the years to come, we will see an increase in Hispanic population in California and all over the nation, and we need to be prepared for that growth."

Perez emphasized that "we need to be participants in the arena - not just spectators. We must never lose sight of making certain that everyone who is eligible to vote, be registered and votes. Voter registration and education are important because that translates into political effectiveness in the decision-making process."

Managing her campaign for National Vice chair was Assemblyman Richard Polanco, who had managed her suc-

cessful campaign for State Chair eight years ago. Polanco coordinated the four month campaign as well as floor strategy at the DNC meeting.

Polanco noted that "her election represents a victory not only for Latinos, but Southern California and the West. She brings years of grass roots activism and experience to a position that will ultimately influence national politics."

Carmen Perez received enough votes to beat out the Mayor of Little Rock, Arkansas and an incumbent State Senator from Colorado.

Aurelio De La Torre, County Democrat Central Committee Chairman stated that he was very pleased that Ms. Perez was elected to this high office. She is a very capable person and has been involved in the Democratic party for a very long time. Perez will be the highest ranking Hispanic in the National Democratic Party. She will be able to voice Hispanic concerns at that level.

PIONEER INLAND EMPIRE MINORITY PUBLISHER

Art Townsend will be long remembered !

City Candidate Forum

A candidate forum for all City of San Bernardino candidates for the office of Mayor and City Council has been scheduled for 6 P.M. on February 27th at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

The forum is sponsored by the Interface Council for Greater Civic Participation and will be hosted by Pastor John Beckly of Loveland Church and Father Ray Rosales, Pastor of Guadalupe Church. Everyone is invited to attend.

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A great voice in the Inland Empire has been still. A voice that fought for equality and progress for all minority citizens.

Art Townsend, founder and Publisher of the Precinct Reporter, died Monday morning, Feb. 13, from respiratory failure due to complications of pneumonia.

He will long be remembered for his tireless efforts to improve the condition of Blacks, Hispanics, laborers and women. He proved on many occasions that the pen is truly mightier than the sword.

What he enjoyed most was walking with the people who really make things happen - those that kept in touch with grassroot concerns.

He was an organizer. He was the founder of the Inland Empire Black Caucus and the California Federation of Black Leadership. He was a charter member of the Congress of Racial Equality, San Bernardino Juvenile Commission, and the West Coast Black Publishers Association. He was a great supporter of the Leagues of Mothers, from which evolved Operation Second Chance.

Art Townsend was born in Daytona Beach, Florida where he attended Thune-Cookman College. He joined the U.S. Navy and served honorably during World War II. He graduated with a degree in Political Science at UCLA.

He established the Precinct Reporter in July 1965. It is the largest weekly newspaper and the oldest Black-owned publication in the Inland Empire. He had received national recognition for the quality of the newspaper and in fact various articles have been entered into the U.S. Congressional Record. He also founded the Tri-County Bulletin, the only weekly Black news publication in Orange County in 1984. He was serving as President of the West Coast Black Publishers Association at the time of his death.

Art Townsend will be sorely missed. His friends will miss his quick wit, his caring ways. Even his enemies will miss him, for he was a foe deserving of respect.

Whether fighting for equal privileges in downtown businesses during the 1960s, or protection from police brutality in the 1980s, Art Townsend was



Art Townsend
Founder and Publisher
Precinct Reporter

not afraid to take a stand. He did not buckle under pressure from elected officials.

Art Townsend was a crusader. He championed civil rights and economic progress, and maintained a vigilant watch for those who would take that away.

Business of the Week

Chapala Restaurante

Reflections from Lake Chapala

The Chapala Restaurant, 673 N. Mount Vernon Avenue, San Bernardino, is the newest family operated restaurant in the Westside and is owned by Alfredo and Rosario Enciso.

Mr. Enciso is a member of the well-known Enciso family who have been involved in business enterprises since 1914. The well known establishment, Esperanza Markets was first started by the Enciso family in Colton in 1929 and in San Bernardino in 1932. Both markets were sold in 1936. The San Bernardino Esperanza Market was re-established in 1950 and was sold again in 1987 (George Aguilar, Mr. Enciso's nephew, was the last family owner of the market).

Mr. Enciso, Senior, came to the United States from Chapala, Jalisco in 1914, starting various businesses, returning to Chapala, but eventually settling in the United States in 1929. He, again, started a number of businesses in various locations in California. The Enciso family finally settled in San Bernardino in 1932. There are four brothers and four sisters still living who are involved in some type of business venture. Mr. Enciso, Senior, died in 1953.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfredo Enciso retired in 1985, but the business instinct was too strong and they began looking around for a new business enterprise. Mr. Enciso owned the business property where the restaurant is located and when the lessee was unable to continue the business, Mr. Enciso and his wife decided to take over the restaurant.

The restaurant is very clean and compact. Mrs. Enciso is the cook, with daughters Teresa and Marta working

as waitresses, and Mr. Enciso handling all the additional operational responsibilities.

The food is very delicious, with a wide variety of Mexican items on the menu. The specialty of the house is Menudo and Posole.

It was obvious why the the Encisos named the restaurant Chapala Restaurant. Mr. and Mrs. Enciso indicated their affection for the area where they were born, and which they frequently visit in Mexico.

Mr. Enciso is very community-oriented. He has been involved with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce since 1964. He was appointed director in 1965 by the late Salvador Rodriguez, Mitlas original owner, one of the founders of the Chamber. He has been president five times, vice-president twice, treasurer five times and director twice. He was a charter member of the Greater San Bernardino Kiwanis, member of the Elks, Eagles, Knights of Columbus 905, Lions, and the Boys Club for eight years.

Mr. Enciso has been involved with the Republican Party since 1965. He considers himself a conservative. He has served as County Hispanic Republican Chairman in 1970 and 1984, and was invited to the Presidential Inaugurals in 1970 and 1984. Mr. Enciso is currently first ward chairperson for the Holcomb Campaign.

In closing our visit, Mr. Enciso said "I invite all my friends to visit our restaurant and enjoy our food. We are here to serve everyone in the same way that the Enciso family has served the community since 1914."



Rosario and Alfredo Enciso serve good food and great hospitality.

Norton closure data requested

Congressman George E. Brown, Jr. (D-San Bernardino, Riverside, Ontario) today cosponsored legislation which requires the Executive Branch to provide Congress with additional information concerning the decision to close Norton and George Air Force Bases. "The full range of details and data which led to the decision to close Norton and George Air Force Bases must be examined," says Rep. Brown. This bill, called a resolution of inquiry, would direct the Secretary of Defense to provide, within seven days, all the information produced by the Commission during each phase of the decision process with regard to its recommendation to close Norton. "It is essential for me to receive all relevant information so that I can judge for myself whether

the recommendation to close Norton will truly save money and improve the value of our military base structure."

The legislation would require similar information for the military bases in the congressional districts of the bill's other cosponsors, which include Reps. Larry Hopkins (D-KY), Jerry Lewis (D-CA), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), and Robert Matsui (D-CA).

Brown is a senior member of the House Committees on Agriculture and on Science, Space, and Technology, and chairs the Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations, Research and Foreign Agriculture. He is

also a member of the congressional Office of Technology Assessment executive board.

Senator Bill Leonard

Lower blood alcohol limit proposed

Senator Bill Leonard (R-Upland) has introduced a bill which would lower the blood alcohol level necessary for presumption of drunken driving. Senate Bill 408, introduced February 7, would prohibit a person from driving if his

blood alcohol level was .08 percent or more, rather than the current .10 percent.

"Drunk driving is something we can no longer tolerate. This bill will give our law enforcement officers and the courts more flexibility in arresting and prosecuting drunk drivers," Leonard said.

"This bill will allow us more opportunities to prosecute people who really are driving at the dangerous level of .10 percent," Leonard said.

"My hope is that we can reduce the number of deaths and injuries caused by drunk drivers. I would like this bill to be a reminder to people that driving after drinking any alcohol is unsafe and deadly," Leonard concluded.

Holcomb: Why I'm Running!

For four generations the Holcomb family has had a love affair with San Bernardino. In the late 1800s my great grandfather, Billy Bob Holcomb, discovered gold in Holcomb Valley and served as the County's Tax Collector. His son, my grandfather, served as the County's Deputy Sheriff, and when I was growing up, my dad was Mayor of the City. These men established a family tradition of public service which I have had the privilege of upholding.

During my lifetime, I have had the opportunity to serve as Mayor, as Chairman of the Water Board and as head of numerous community organizations. Among my most satisfactory projects I count the securing of a low cost water supply for our citizens, the recruitment of San Bernardino State University, the building of a massive regional waste treatment plant without spending a dime of taxpayer money, and the designation of San Bernardino as one of the few American cities honored as an "All American City".

I am running for Mayor now, and for the last time, because I believe that in the next four years, the combination of the Norton Closure and the rapid influx of new population, will present San Bernardino's leadership with make or break decisions which will determine our community's future for generations.

Having had a great deal of experience in handling such crises in the past, I would like the opportunity to do my part to make sure we make the right decisions at this critical time.

INLAND EMPIRE
HISPANIC NEWS

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SAN BERNARDINO MAYOR EVLYN WILCOX

"We are winning the fight against drugs, gangs, and crime."

Gangs And Drugs Are Bad Business And Bad For Business

By Mayor Evlyn Wilcox

A survey of San Bernardino residents in January of this year revealed that their number one concern was drugs. We all know that this is not a problem for any single group or age. It affects us all. Drug and alcohol abuse cost businesses many millions of dollars each year; through absenteeism, accidents, poor workmanship, and reduced productivity.

Those are the obvious costs. The hidden costs are much, much more. Gangs, crime, and violence follow the drug trade at every level.

Young lives are blunted before they have a chance to bloom, marriages are destroyed, and careers ruined.

And finally a city overrun with drugs and gangs does not attract quality businesses. If the presence of drugs and the criminal gangs selling them are ignored, a city is on the path of decay.

When I assumed office, I found that Los Angeles gangs had been invading our city for a number of years and crack and crystal methamphetamines were being sold openly on street corners.

I knew this problem had been ignored too long so I formed partnerships between citizens and elements of city government. The following are the results of this concerted effort:

- Created a strong Drug Suppression

Unit that keeps the heat on drug dealers. So far we have already confiscated hundreds of thousands of dollars in illegal drugs and other assets from the drug dealers.

- Established a nine-member police task force to stop Los Angeles gang members from further infiltrating and terrorizing our community.

- Doubled the number of Drug Awareness Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) officers to help educate our young people about the tragedy and dangers of drugs.

- Increased our police personnel assigned to the Vice and Narcotics Division of the Police Department.

- Held twenty-three Blue Ribbon Committee public hearings in all seven

wards of the city to enhance and improve the methods by which our police officers interact with all segments of our community.

- Enhanced the Community Oriented Policing (COP) Program. In the past nine months, this unit has made approximately 200,000 San Bernardino citizen contacts. This resulted in reducing burglaries 16% in 1987.

- Created the City's first Drug Task Force that united the entire community in the war against drugs.

Together we are winning the fight against drugs, gangs and crime. If all elements of the city continue to pull together, we will serve as a model for the rest of the state.

UCR

Hispanic named financial aid director

RIVERSIDE - James W. Sandoval has been appointed financial aid director at the University of California, Riverside, it was announced today (Tuesday, Feb. 7). He is currently serving as assistant director of financial aid at UCI.

The appointment of Sandoval formally takes effect March 6, although he will begin on a part-time basis today.

Sandoval fills the position left vacant by the death of Marilyn Ballance last June. Acting financial aid director since then has been Chris Villanueva.

"Mr. Sandoval is very experienced in the University of California," said R. Fred Zuker, associate vice chancellor for Enrollment Management. "He knows the most up-to-date financial aid processing technology, plus he is sensitive to the needs of all students. He is a man of energy and insight, and has the respect of his peers and the students with whom he has worked."

Sandoval will direct a staff of 14 in the administration and disbursement of more than \$18.7 million in student financial aid. The total includes funds from federal and state grant programs, guaranteed student loans, and university - and privately-funded scholarships. About 61 percent UCR's students receive financial aid of some kind.

Among the programs and scholarships administered by the Financial Aid Office are the federal Pell Grant program, Guaranteed Student Loan program, work study program, Cal Grant program, and a number of university and private scholarships.

Sandoval said he plans to speak frequently in the community about college financial aid opportunities and related issues.

Since last April, Sandoval has been assistant director for fiscal operations in the UCI Financial Aid Office, responsible for monitoring financial aid expenditures totaling more than \$14 million. Since 1985, he has also served as assistant director for counseling in the Financial Aid Office at UCI.

Sandoval is a member of the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

He earned a master's degree in public administration from California State University, Fullerton in 1985 and a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in sociology from the University of San Diego in 1982.

Sandoval lives in Orange.

Más de Un Empleo-Verifique Su Retención de Impuesto

Los trabajadores que tuvieron dos o más empleadores en 1988 y recibieron salarios superiores a \$45,000 deberán ver si tienen derecho a un crédito por exceso de retención de contribuciones al seguro social, aconseja el Servicio de Impuestos Internos.

Toda retención para contribuciones al seguro social que rebase la cuantía de \$3,379.50 puede aplicarse como un crédito a cuenta del impuesto sobre el ingreso únicamente si el contribuyente tuvo más de un empleador.

Sin embargo, advierte el IRS, los que presentan declaraciones conjuntas no pueden añadir la cantidad retenida por concepto de contribuciones al seguro social del ingreso de un cónyuge a la cantidad retenida del otro cónyuge para determinar el crédito. El crédito tiene que calcularse separadamente para cada cónyuge.

Los que tuvieron únicamente un empleador y una cantidad retenida superior a \$3,379.50 no podrán reclamar la cuantía excesiva como crédito a cuenta de su impuesto sobre el ingreso. El empleador deberá reajustar ese exceso de retención, nos explica el IRS.

Para ayudar a calcular el crédito, véanse la hoja de computaciones y las instrucciones incluidas en el juego de formas e instrucciones o consúltese la Publicación 17, "Your Federal Income Tax" (Su impuesto federal sobre el ingreso).

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California Conservation Corps

MARIO PORRAS: A Quality Life



Mario Porras is retired but still very active.

By: Graciano Gomez

As I sat in the office waiting for Mr. Mario Porras to conclude insurance business with a client, I glanced at plaques covering the major portion of the office walls. Although I had been in the office on previous occasions, I had not paid too much attention. I slowly counted them: 47 plaques; I recounted the plaques, separating them by categories: 22 awards from the American National Insurance Company and professional organizations and 25 awards from community and political organizations, (Mr. Porras later indicated that other plaques were in his home). The obvious conclusion was that here was a person that had worked very hard at his professional career while simultaneously having a dedicated commitment to his community. I was eager to interview Mr. Mario Porras.

Mr. Porras was born in El Paso, Texas, in a upper middle class family, his father being a mining engineer. He attended the Catholic school system and after graduation, had planned to continue his education. Due to the depression he worked and saved money, and was able to attend the University of Texas at El Paso for two years. He quit the University and worked in mining in Mexico until he contacted a tropical fever and quit in 1939. He was later employed as superintendent in a mining company in Chihuahua, Mexico until 1943 when he was drafted. He was

discharged from the Army Air Corps (now known as the Air Force) in December, 1945.

Returning to El Paso, he held various sales jobs in which he earned high commissions. In 1949 he was hired as an insurance agent for the American National Insurance Company and in 1952 was the 11th highest in national sales. Promoted as recruiting and training director, he and four salespersons sold two million dollars of insurance.

He was offered an agency in Los Angeles, but opted to come to San Bernardino in 1954. He is proud of the fact that during this period of his life, he was one of two Hispanics who were general agents, the other being Mr. Ralph Gallegos in New Mexico. Mr. Porras recalls that during this period, (September, 1954) he stopped to eat at Mitla's Restaurant and met Mr. Salvador Rodriguez, the original owner of the well-known restaurant and one of the founders of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Porras indicated that he has been very dedicated to his business and has worked very diligently in the San Bernardino and Riverside area and as a result has been very successful. He owned the current office building, but recently sold it. He is semi-retired due to illness.

Sister City Committee; Tournament of Roses; to name a few. He was also the recipient of the 1980 Citizen of Achievement Award from the League of Women Voters.

Interspersed with community activities, Mr. Porras has also been involved in the political area, including the In-

"Mario is our elder statesman in the city's Hispanic business community and that makes him one of those vital human bridges who knit multi-ethnic cities together."

*Ed Maul
The Sun*

As a result of hard work and success in the insurance business, Mr. Porras has been recognized and awarded national sales and quality awards, and several national and state professional awards. He was president of the County Life Underwriters Association and General Agents and Managers Association.

After meeting Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Porras became involved with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce which he has continued to the present time, being a charter member and past president. Other community involvements include the San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce, where he was previously on the board of directors and past

land Empire Democratic Club (founder and first president in 1960) which was involved in campaigns of Assemblyman Quimby, Senator Nisbet, Congressman Dyal, Governor Pat Brown, Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, Ruben Ayala, Mayors Ballard and Holcomb; and a member of the State and Central Democratic Committees (10 and 12 years respectively).

Mr. Porras is especially proud of his family. Mrs. Porras and he have been married 47 years. They have five children: Mario, a doctor, Victor, a computer operator, Armando, a building contractor, Armida, a housewife and secretary and David, an attorney.

Mr. Porras concluded by saying "In the total sum of my life and experiences, my family has always come first, my professional life has always been very important and I have always been committed to my community, especially the Hispanic community. I will continue, within my power, to pursue my endeavors to improve the quality of life."

Perhaps the best description of Mr. Porras is the statement by Ed Maul of the Sun-Telegram, who on Mario's 70th birthday, stated that "Mario is our elder statesman in the city's Hispanic business community and that makes him one of those vital human bridges who knit multi-ethnic cities together."

"In the total sum of my life and experiences, my family has always come first, my professional life has always been very important and I have always been committed to my community, especially the Hispanic community. I will continue, within my power, to pursue my endeavors to improve the quality of life."

Mario Porras

chairman of the Military Committee. Other community services include: The Optimist Club (35 years); the Neighborhood Housing Service; American Cancer Society; Catholic Scholarship Association (past director); Knights of Columbus (35 years);



Mario Porras sits surrounded by awards and trophies.

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Health Insurance Counseling

HICAP, the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program, is here in Riverside, San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono counties. This program provides free counseling to answer questions and to provide general information on Medicare and related issues. This service is available to all Medicare beneficiaries and persons 60 years of age and older. HICAP is funded by the California Department of Aging and does not sell, recommend or endorse any insurance policy or health plan.

In October of 1988, a savings of over \$26,000 in Medicare related costs was made for 25 seniors who requested assistance from HICAP counselors. These counselors undergo an intensive 3-day training session before providing seniors with neutral, non-pressure assistance in dealing with their health insurance problems.

One-on-one counseling provides assistance to seniors in understanding Medicare, Supplemental Insurance, Long Term Care, HMO's and the new Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act. HICAP also conducts free community education workshops on these topics.

If you are interested in a HICAP presentation for your group or want information about seeing a counselor, please call us toll free at 1-800-634-0917.

Below is a list of counseling sites in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Fontana:
Jessie Turner Community Center
6396 N. Citrus Avenue

Fontana, CA 92336
(714) 350-6786

3rd Monday, 10am-2pm

Highland:
Highland-Del Rosa Senior Center
3102 East Highland Avenue
Highland, CA 92346
(714) 862-8104

Tue., Wed., Thurs. 12-4pm

Ontario:
Ontario Multi-Purpose Center
225 East "B" Street
Ontario, CA 92764
(714) 988-9841

1st & 3rd Wed. 11am-1pm

Rialto:
Rialto Senior Center
214 North Palm
Rialto, CA 92376
(714) 820-2616

Every Tues. 11am-12pm

San Bernardino:
Senior Citizens Service Center
600 West 5th Street
San Bernardino, CA 92410
(714) 384-5364
2nd & 4th Mon. 10am-2pm
Westside Drop-in Center
1505 West Highland
San Bernardino, CA 92411
(714) 384-5428
Mon.-Fri. 8am-4pm

HISPANIC LINK

Reagan court legacy haunts Hispanics

Reagan Judiciary Leaves Latinos With Lasting Hurt

By Darryl Lynette Figueroa

An informal survey of Hispanic civil rights activists and lawyers finds them in agreement that former President Ronald Reagan's conservative appointments to the judiciary will have a lasting negative impact on Hispanics. The Latino leaders are, however, split on expectations of a more moderate court evolving under President George Bush.

According to a survey just conducted by the Washington Post, only 15 (3.4 percent) of Reagan's 379 additions to the bench were Hispanic justices; only seven (2.1 percent) were black. This compares with 16 Hispanic judges (6.2 percent) of the total 258 named during the one-term administration of Jimmy Carter. Thirty-seven (14.3 percent) of the justices appointed by Carter were black.

University of Houston Law Professor Michael Olivas voiced his foremost complaint to the Reagan appointments. "They were even whiter than we had reason to expect them to be."

Mark Gallegos, president of the National Hispanic Bar Association in Miami, criticized Reagan's cadre further. "A large number of them are individuals who have no record of participation or association with a minority community, more specifically with the

Hispanic community.

"(The judiciary) doesn't represent the morals, opinions and ideas of the diverse community that it is charged to reflect ... and their lack of insight is reflected in their decisions."

Some Latinos speculated that Bush will do better than Reagan did in naming women and minorities to the bench. They even considered the "exciting" possibility of a Hispanic being named to the U.S. Supreme court, noting that three of the high court justices are in their 80s and may retire during the next four years. If Bush were so inclined, they said several Latinos are capable of stepping into such slots, namely the five Hispanics currently serving as state supreme court judges in Texas, New Mexico and New York.

But to Rubén Franco, president of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, the key is ideological bent, not racial or ethnic background. "I want to see people who are going to do justice to our community, not necessarily just dark faces. We're so wrapped up with numbers ... we forget ... some of Reagan's Latino appointments have burned us."

Hugo Rodríguez, counsel to FBI Agent Matt Pérez in his successful discrimination case against the bureau, said that even among conservative judges, Reagan's appointments stand out for following a "judicial restraint" rather than "activist" pattern. He illus-

trated the difference as "being able to see just black and white, while the latter sees also gray."

Interviews with several Latinos revealed a split between those taking a "wait and see" attitude on the course Bush would take and those who feel he has already indicated an intention to complete Reagan's judiciary agenda.

Franco, for example, said Bush's pledge on the campaign trail to appoint "strict constructionists" was alarming. "Those are code words for judges who will think and rule similar to Reagan's appointments," said Franco.

In agreement was Antonia Hernández, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund president, who noted that Bush spoke of seeing Roe vs. Wade overturned on his first day as President.

With Bush expected to begin to fill 40 current judicial vacancies later this month and 160 more over the next four years, the effect of his choices will continue well into the next century. Said Hernández, "If he follows the Reagan pattern, we will be seeing a closing of the judiciary as an avenue of redress for minorities ... for the next 30 years."

(Darryl Lynette Figueroa is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C.)

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Governor Appoints Hispanic Physician to Medical Review Board

Governor George Deukmejian has appointed Dr. Rene A. Vega of San Diego to the Fourteenth District Medical Quality Review Committee, Board of Medical Quality Assurance.

Vega, 34, replaces Dr. Valeriano L. Jamora of El Centro, who resigned.

He is a physician for the Scripps Clinic of Escondido, a position he has held since 1987.

From 1985-87, Vega was the medical director for the Porterville Family Health Center.

He is a member of the California Medical Society.

Vega received his bachelor's degree in biology and psychology from Occidental College in 1976 and his medical degree from Stanford University in 1981.

Correction Policy
The Inland Empire Hispanic News will publish any corrections regarding factual errors or misleading information.

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San Bernardino Department of Mental Health
Alcohol & Drug Program

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES CITED**Minority populations hit hard by AIDS**

By Daniel Gleason
Dept. of Mental Health

While the number of AIDS cases appears to be leveling off among homosexual men, both nationally and in California, AIDS among intravenous drug users continues to rise, leaving the minority communities particularly hard hit. Intravenous drug users have been implicated in nearly 80% of the HIV transmission to heterosexuals and newborns. (HIV is the virus that causes AIDS.) Center for Disease Control statistics show:

- Among children with AIDS
 - Blacks represent 53%
 - Latinos represent 23%
 - Asians or Other represent 1%
- Among women with AIDS
 - Blacks represent 52%
 - Latinas represent 25%
- Among all AIDS Cases
 - Blacks represent 25.6%
 - Latinos represent 14.6%

These statistics are particularly troubling when one considers that Blacks represent only 11.7% and Latinos represent only 6.4% respectively.

A number of hypotheses have been offered to explain why AIDS has slowed among gays and failed to do so in the minority community:

Many point to the mobilization of the gay community, both locally and nationally, around AIDS issues for the

recent plateau in HIV infection rates. Initially, gay grass roots groups organized to explore the causes of AIDS, provide services for AIDS, to develop education program to decrease further transmission of the virus and to generate funding to finance this work.

All forms of the gay media were used to alert their community to the dangers of AIDS. Articles on AIDS frequently appeared in newspapers and magazines, which became resources for safe sex workshops, support groups, testing and AIDS education. Posters and brochures exhibiting explicit AIDS information were loaded into gay bars, clubs and community meetings. Before long, the AIDS message in the gay community was hard to miss.

Although minority communities are well organized politically, socially and through religious groups, minority leaders have been reluctant to adopt high profile AIDS positions, advocating safe sex campaigns or needle cleaning information for fear they may be perceived as condoning activities which minorities have traditionally opposed i.e., homosexuality and illegal drug use. No such reluctance exists in the gay community due to the fact that sexual preference is the principal element which unites that community.

Those people in the minority community willing to address AIDS issues have trouble finding funding. The

Center for Disease Control, which monitors AIDS cases nationally, did not classify AIDS cases by ethnicity until 1985, making it difficult for minority groups to demonstrate a need for funding. Minority groups were dependent upon gay, white-oriented organizations for their funding.

Another concern is the lack of appropriate and culturally sensitive materials specifically designed for minorities. During the initial phase of the epidemic, AIDS was thought to be a gay white male disease; in fact it was called GRID, Gay Related Immune Deficiency. This left Latinos and Blacks who were participating in risky behavior with a false sense of security. Today AIDS education materials no longer address "risk groups" but discuss which are the behaviors likely to put one at risk. The change in terminology is also due to cultural differences which permit members of certain ethnic groups to participate in homosexual relations and not be identified or perceived as homosexuals.

AIDS funding for minority groups is increasing and research into AIDS and minority issues is beginning. More culturally appropriate pamphlets, videos, posters and educational materials are available. In addition to ensuring continued Federal and State funding and assistance, we must generate greater interest and awareness in the minority community, to facilitate AIDS intervention, because this disease will be with us for years to come.

Redlands Community Center Winter Schedule

Redlands Community Center Winter Class Schedule

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Ballet For Beginners

Ages 7 - Adult. Cost is \$18.00 per month. Instructor, Twila Peters. Classes meet Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m. Learn techniques of ballet. Recitals possible.

Ceramics For Adults

Ages 18 and up. Cost, \$15.00 per month. Instructor is Ron Adams. Class meets every Tuesday, 7 - 9 p.m. FREE firing included.

Swap Meet

Every fourth Saturday of the month. Booth spaces are \$6.00 each. Add \$4.00 for use of a table. Booths are set up on the Community Center lawns. Call for reservations or come the morning of the Swap Meet.

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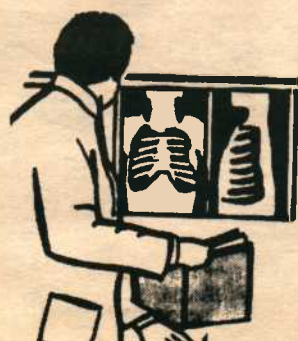
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New Mexican border ditch at Nogales no problem

NOGALES, Ariz. (AP) - A 540-yard ditch dug by the U.S. Border Patrol for \$200 is working as an effective deterrent against vehicles carrying drugs or aliens into the United States, an official says.

"For the purpose that it was dug, to restrict vehicular traffic of any kind, it's been a hundred percent (effective)," John Poole, patrol agent in charge at Nogales, said Friday.

Poole said he doubts there have been any attempts to cross the 8-foot wide, 2 1/2-to-3-foot deep ditch with vehicles since its Jan. 17 completion.

As for daredevil crossings, "Evel Kneivel maybe, but I don't think any-

body with less talent than he has would want to venture," Poole said.

The ditch is just west of the U.S. Customs Service's Mariposa commercial truck crossing between the United States and Mexico, west of Nogales. The area is the only flat land for perhaps 25 to 30 miles to the west, Poole said. Officials have said the ditch was unrelated to Border Patrol plans to dig one four miles long at Otay Mesa, south of San Diego, which has drawn significant criticism.

Jorge Rico Rangel, Mexican consul in Nogales, said his government is not insulted by the Nogales ditch. The United States has a right to fight crime at its border, he said.

The consul was reassured the ditch "was just a local decision," Poole said, and that "we weren't even aware of anything taking place in the San Diego area" when it was talked about.

He said smugglers had benefited from the area's proximity to the city limits, to a good highway in Mexico close to the Mariposa gate, and to Arizona 189, or Mariposa Road, from the gate to Interstate 19.

Civil engineers attached to National Guard duty used a Border Patrol bulldozer to dig the ditch over five or six days last month. The only expense was \$200 spent for the bulldozer's diesel fuel, Poole said.

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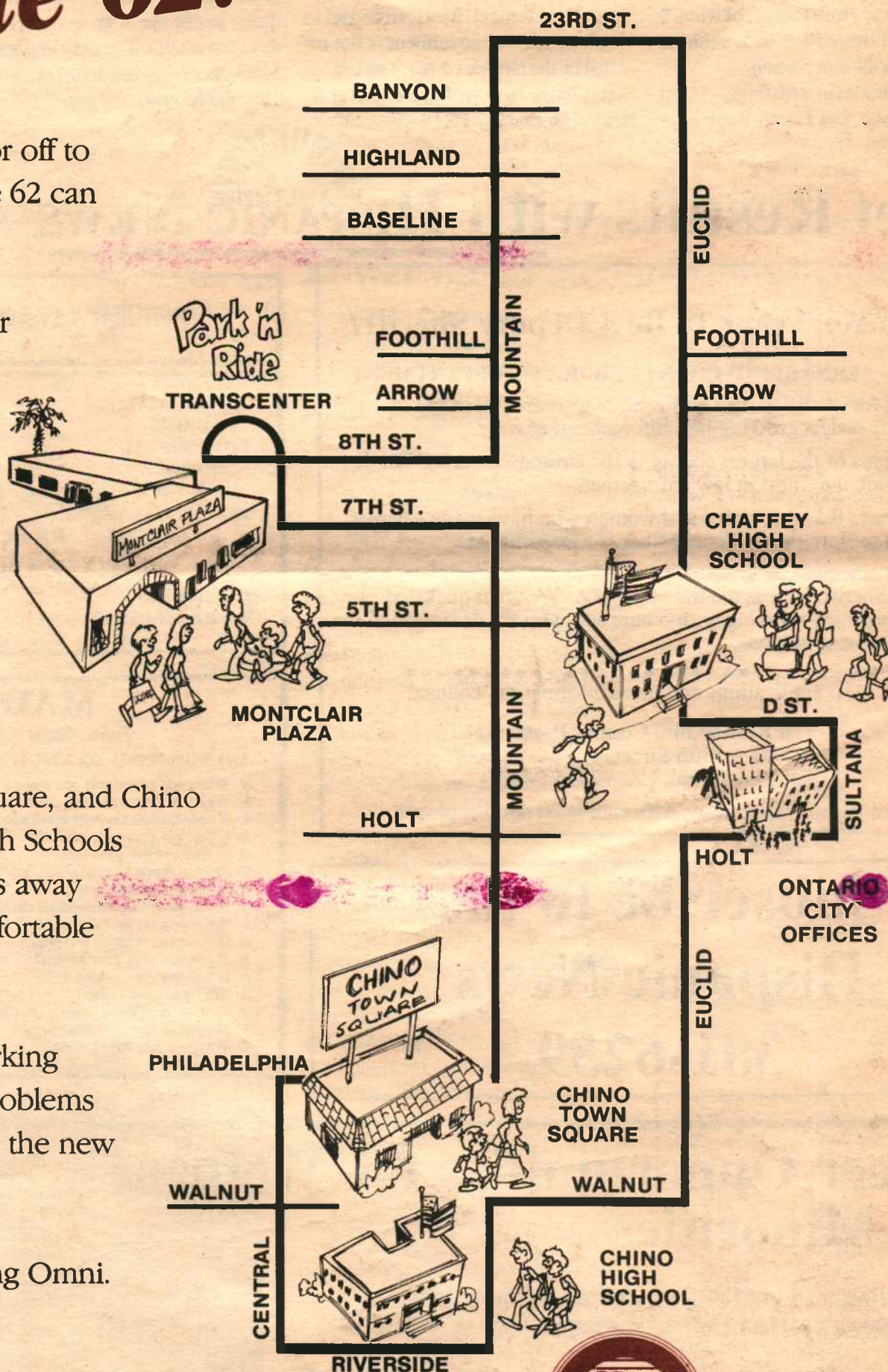
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