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BE PART OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS – MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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HISPANIC NEWS

The Inland Empire's only Hispanic-owned English language newspaper

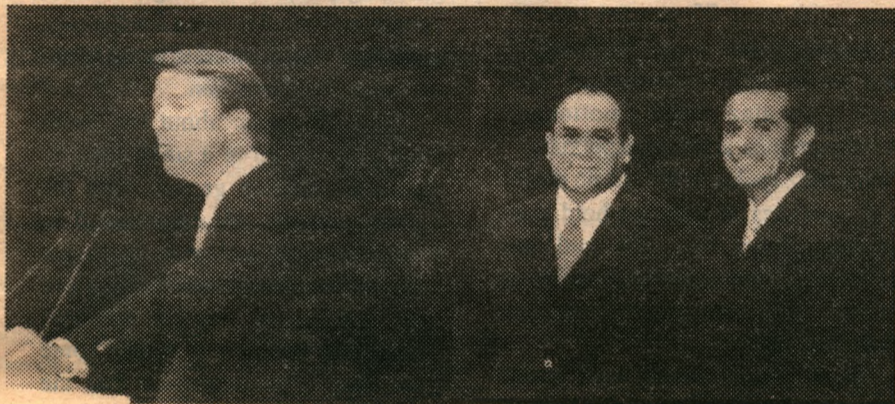
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SVREP CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF ACTIVISM

Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project celebrates its 30th anniversary at the Latino Vote 2004 Banquet at the Hilton Universal, honoring its founder Willie Velázquez.



Senator John Edwards was keynote speaker at the SVREP 30th Anniversary/Latino Vote 2004 Banquet at the Hilton Universal Hotel. At right, Los Angeles City Councilperson Antonio Villaraigosa and SVREP President Antonio Gonzalez.

Photo by IEHN

They came from throughout the Southwest—California, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of one of the foremost organizations in the United States involved in voter education, voter registration and get-out-the-vote, and to honor its founder, Willie Velázquez.

Over 900 dinner guests, elected of-

ficials, community activists, civil rights organization representatives and young adults at their first political activity, attended the beautiful Hilton Hotel combined ballrooms at Universal City. The audience heard Latino political luminaries, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, State Senator Richard Alarcon, Supervisor Gloria Molina,

Continued on page 2

I.E. DELEGATES DEPART FOR DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION



Inland Empire Democratic delegates posed prior to departing to the Democratic National Convention in Boston. Back row (l to r) Patrick Kahler, 41st C.D., Bill Gonzales, 43rd C.D., Tim Prince, 41st C.D., Joe L. Mlakar, 43rd C.D., Jesus Muñoz, volunteer, front row (l to r) Fran J. Givens, 43rd C.D., Viola Muñoz, volunteer, Nancy White, 41st C.D. and Nancy Koller, 41st C.D. Delegates are members of the San Bernardino Democratic Central committee.

Photo by IEHN

RIALTO MAYOR GRACE VARGAS SEEKS SECOND TERM



Rialto City Mayor Grace Vargas is a candidate for re-election at the November 2 general elections. Grace Vargas is the first Hispanic woman to be elected councilperson and mayor in the City of Rialto. She is a successful businessperson and has a record of volunteerism in many businesses and social groups in the Inland Empire.

Photo by IEHN

Grace Vargas, who made dual history in Rialto as the first Hispanic woman to be elected councilperson in 1998 and two years later elected mayor of Rialto in 2000, is seeking reelection in the November 2 general election.

"Rialto has grown in the last four years, with new businesses throughout the city and continued planned development along the I-10 and extension of the 210 to attract other businesses. Our city is the continuation of the growth pattern occurring in the Inland Empire from Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga and Fontana. We will continue to grow and attract businesses and we will become a model for others in the area. Our increased tax revenues will help our city increase our services to our residents," Vargas

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WILLIAM C. VELÁSQUEZ-FOUNDER OF THE SVREP



William "Willie" Velásquez, founder of the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Program in 1974.

Photo courtesy of SVREP

William C. "Willie" Velásquez, Jr. founded the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project (SVREP) in 1974 and was an influential participant in other leading Latino rights and justice groups, including the Mexican American Youth Organization and the Mexican



Mrs. Jane Velásquez, widow of William "Willie" Velásquez, receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award from President Bill Clinton for her late husband at the White House in September, 1995, with Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton witnessing the ceremony. Velásquez was the second Latino to receive the honor.

Photo courtesy of the White House

American Unity Council. His role in MAYO was the predecessor of the La Raza Unida Party. Other roles were the boycott coordinator for the United Farm Workers that he organized in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, followed as founder and director of the Mexican American Unity Council in San

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SVREP CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF ACTIVISM

Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project celebrates its 30th anniversary at the Latino Vote 2004 Banquet at the Hilton Universal, and honoring its founder Willie Velázquez.

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Jesse Valenzuela, Congressman Joe Baca's Representative enjoys the evening with Attorney Russell Jauregui and Realtor Toni Palacios at the SVREP Latino Vote 2004 banquet



Rialto Mayor Grace Vargas was one of the many elected officials from the Inland Empire attending the SVREP Latino vote 2004 banquet. Photo by IEHN

Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa, and Senator Barbara Boxer extolled the importance of the Latino Vote in 2004, the Latino voting bloc that may be the most decisive factor in the presidential elections, and the many state and local candidates and importance initiatives that may be decided by the power of the Latino Vote, not only exclusively in the Southwest but in the Northeast and Southern portions of the United, as recent demographic results have shown, stated by some speakers.

SVREP President Antonio Gonzalez spoke on the tremendous progress the voting rights organization has made since its founding by Willie Velázquez in San Antonio in 1974. "As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the SVREP, we must never forget how Willie Velázquez never gave up in mobilizing the Latino population in registering the voters and getting out the vote throughout the Southwest. He saw the great potential for change. He knew that the growing Latino community could have a bright future but was politically powerless. We have the expect-



Senator Nell Soto, Fontana Councilperson Josie Gonzales, candidate for the 5th Supervisorial District and Joe Baca, Jr. candidate for the 62nd Assembly District, attended the SVREP Latino Vote 2004 banquet at the Hilton Universal Hotel. Photo by IEHN



Jose Medina, Riverside Community College Trustee and fiancée Linda Fregoso, were in the audience of over 900 attendees at the SVREP Latino Vote 2004 banquet. Photo by IEHN

tation to reach 10 million registered voters, with over 75 percent turnout. We, the Latino voter, will determine the victor in the 2004 presidential elections," Gonzalez stated emotionally with tremendous audience applause.

Gonzalez spoke on the Latino power voters now lies in how we hold government accountable. He said that Latinos need commitments from President Bush and Senator Kerry before the presidential elections.

"These commitments must stress measures that will improve the lives of Latino families in their neighborhoods, schools, and jobs. And yes, Latinos want to support our troops in Iraq-by bringing them home now," he emphasized with a prolonged applause from the audience.

The keynote speaker, presidential candidate John Edwards, was greeted with a standing ovation. In the Kerry campaign to reach out to Latinos, following complaints from Latino leaders that this important voting group was receiving very little attention, Edwards spent 24 hours in the Los Angeles area,

greeting people, visiting different venues and involved in a fundraising event that was planned to bring in approximately \$1 million.

Edwards spoke about his childhood growing up in a small town to equate a common ground with the Latino audience. He emphasized on a -hypothetical- mother struggling to keep the family together, holding two jobs, and waiting for her National Guardsman husband to return home from Iraq. His contention that the nation had become divided into 'two Americas One America that does the work, another America that reaps the rewards.'" He said that his hometown of Robbins, North Carolina, had recently increased with a large Latino population.

He said that Americans, and specifically Latinos, were generally not progressing in America. He supported changes in immigration to allow persons, and particularly farmworkers, to reside in America.

Edwards received a standing ovation at the conclusion of the ceremonies.

NATION'S WELL-BEING NEEDS A DOSE OF CARE FROM PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

By Dr. Elena Rios

WASHINGTON - As the presidential race heats up this summer, the candidates might want to consider the changing landscape of our nation and how one out of every six children is Hispanic.

What might be of particular interest to them is how that statistic will rapidly change to one in five. If the candidates are going to continue to cultivate new voters, they also might want to consider the research that is needed to keep that voting block healthy.

Although we as a nation spend more on health care than any other nation, that doesn't necessarily transcend to better health for Hispanics.

Just ask working Hispanics in South-Central Los Angeles who can't even afford to have their children vaccinated. Or Hispanics in El Paso, TX, who have cancer but ignore the symp-

toms and wait too long to see a doctor. Those are some of problems that could be eliminated with community-based research on Hispanics. Until researchers know the underlying causes at work, the medical community can't remedy them.

It's time for leadership. The presidential candidates should support increased funding for research on Hispanics. From that, they can develop a vision for programs and treatments that work and are unique to the Hispanic community. Given limited resources, a targeted strategy is necessary where the need is greatest - in the surging Hispanic population.

We hope the candidates will take a closer look at some of the bills before Congress and support them. Those bills promise to expand programs that address diversity, require

federal agencies to gather and report data on race and ethnicity and create minority health offices. Bills - in particular by Sen. Bill Frist (R-TN), Sen Tom Daschle (D-SD) and Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD) - seek to eliminate Hispanic Health disparities and call for providing community-based Hispanic health research.

The National Hispanic Medical Association applauds those efforts, because if these disparities continue, they could affect the health, productivity and well-being of future generations.

Understanding our Hispanic communities and their concerns begins with research that includes Hispanics, who now make up the largest minority group in the United States and could become the majority as early as 2025. Research including Hispanics

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HISPANIC NEWS

The Inland Empire's only Hispanic-owned English language newspaper

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RIALTO MAYOR GRACE VARGAS SEEKS SECOND TERM



Many officials attended the opening of the Rialto Boys and Girls Club. Pictured (r to l) Rialto Mayor Grace Vargas, Rialto Chief of Police Michael Meyer, Fontana City Councilperson Josie Gonzales, candidate for the 5th Supervisorial District, Senator Barbara Boxer, Congressman Joe Baca and Joe Baca, Jr. candidate for the 62nd Assembly District. Photo by IEHN

Continued from page 1

stated in an interview with IEHN. Vargas mentioned big stores like Target and other big businesses that will create thousands of jobs, and the citizens passing Measure J and K, an 8 percent utility tax that has added police and fire department employees.

Vargas said that as a councilperson and mayor, she worked hard to improve the city's neighborhoods and has supported the police and fire departments. At present in the city, there has been discussion at the city council level regarding law enforcement being contracted with the Sheriff's Department. "I strongly support our local police officers and will fight every day to keep our public safety officials in Rialto. As your major I will continue to provide the resources to our police to fight the gangs, keep drugs away from our community and make our streets safe," she said.

During her tenure as a city councilperson, Vargas organized groups to clean up neighborhoods and was actively involved with other projects to improve the quality of life in different areas of the city. "I have always been involved in my city and proud of what has been accomplished," she emphasized.

Born and raised in Yuma, Arizona, Vargas has been a resident of Rialto since 1971. Employed by the City of Rialto in 1977, Vargas held positions of clerk, clerk/cashier, notary public/registrar of voters, and licensing inspector, resigning in July, 1979.

Vargas started a realty business and became very successful. In 1992, she was named Rialto's Citizen of the Year, and in 1996, was named Rialto Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year.

Always involved in her community, Vargas has been a member of the Rialto Chamber of Commerce, Colton Chamber of Commerce, In-

land Empire Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, San Bernardino Board of Realtors, and Kiwanis Evening Club, and has worked in many committees within the business groups.

She previously served in numerous advisory boards: Alcohol Problems Committee, Cottage School Scholarships, Volunteers-In-Probation, Board of Realtors MLS Committee, Rialto Housing Strategy Advisory Task Force, Rialto Clout Legislative Action, among other appointments.

Vargas has been recognized for her volunteer work: BHG Top Listing Agent of the Month; American Cancer Special Appreciation for Volunteerism; Rialto's Chief of Police Certificate for Fight Against Drugs; Rialto Youth Accountability Board's Certificate of Appreciation; California State Assembly Certificate of Appreciation; Top 100 Women-owned Businesses in the Inland Empire; etc.

Vargas stated that Rialto and adjacent cities are faced with perchlorate contamination and has been working with federal and state officials in resolving the serious threat to the residents of the city. "I am proud to say

that Rialto and neighboring communities will be receiving over six million dollars in federal grants to clean our water supply in the Inland Empire through the efforts of Congressman Joe Baca. I will continue to work with Congressman Baca and Senator Diane Feinstein to ensure a safe and healthy community for our children and residents," she said.

As a business owner for over 25 years, Vargas stated that she is aware of the challenges facing the local business community. "As mayor, I will continue to make it easier for businesses to work in partnership with the city. As city officials, we must provide a business friendly environment for businesses to succeed."

Vargas has struggled all her life and raised seven children and is proud of their accomplishments and work ethics. She recently lost one of her daughters to cancer, however, she said, her responsibilities as mayor are to continue to work for the people of Rialto.

"I have invested a major portion of my life to our city and will continue to work toward the betterment of our residents. I am proud of my city and if reelected mayor, will put forth my efforts to continue to improve our quality of life."

Vargas has been endorsed by Congressman Joe Baca, Senator Nell Soto, San Bernardino Mayor Judith Valles, Rancho Cucamonga Mayor Bill Alexander, Colton Mayor Deidre Bennett, Colton councilperson Kelly Chastain, 63rd Assembly candidate Joe Baca, Jr., Colton Councilperson Ramon Hernandez and many others.

HISPANICS RESPOND TO KERRY/EDWARDS MESSAGE

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Hispanic voters support John Kerry over George W. Bush by a two-to-one margin, according to a new poll conducted by Univision, the Washington Post, and the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute. John Kerry has a 30-point advantage over George W. Bush (Kerry 60% - Bush 30%) in the poll, published Thursday as Democrats head into the 2004 National Convention with the largest Hispanic delegation in the Party's history.

Bush's dismal 30% of the Hispanic electorate falls 5% below what he received in the 2000 election. Only 34% of Hispanics polled approve of his performance as President and 62% disapprove of Bush's handling of the war in Iraq.

In contrast, the Kerry-Edwards ticket is receiving broad support from Hispanic communities. "It is no surprise," Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe said. "Like all Americans, Hispanic communities across the country want an America that embraces inclusion and equal opportunity, which means good jobs, access to quality education for our children, and a living wage for workers. That's the vision that Democrats offer for America."

Since Bush took office, Hispanic unemployment has risen by 23 percent and the typical family's income has decreased \$1,400 under and Bush. He is the first President since Herbert Hoover to preside over a net job loss during his administration, leading two

Continued on page 6

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REP. BACA ANNOUNCES \$6.5 MILLION FOR INLAND EMPIRE PERCHLORATE CLEANUP

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The House – Senate Conference Committee approved \$6.5 million for perchlorate contamination cleanup Wednesday as part of the Defense Appropriations for fiscal year 2005. Rep. Joe Baca (D-Rialto) requested the funding, along with Senators Boxer and Feinstein.

The Conference Committee report includes spending for perchlorate clean up projects, including \$4 million for a bioremediation demonstration project in Rialto, through the Environmental Security Technical Certification Program; and \$2.5 million for the Inland Empire Perchlorate Task Force request or well-head treatment.

"This funding will bring immediate financial relief for a problem that has plagued our communities for too long," said Rep. Baca. "This will provide our families with the safe and healthy drinking water they deserve. I am glad that Congress has finally acknowledged a problem that has been an economic burden and a health threat to our communities."

Now that the funding has passed the conference committee, it has gone to the House and Senate for their vote.

"This funding is only the first step. We need long-term relief. That is why I am urging Congress to pass the Southern California Groundwater Remediation Bill, which I introduced. My bill will more than quadruple the funding the committee approved today," said Rep. Baca.

Rep. Baca's bill will create a fund administered by the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, that will assist in the funding and implementation of groundwater remediation. It will support areas covered by the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority. Rep. Baca's bill will alleviate the economic burden of perchlorate cleanup on the community. It has been approved by the House Resources Committee, and now must go to the House floor for a vote.

Perchlorate is a chemical that is a main ingredient in rocket fuel. It has been found in 20 states, including California. It has been linked to thyroid damage and may be especially harmful to infants and developing fetuses. Perchlorate in water supplies is left over from former military sites, defense contractors and other industries.

ANTONIO GONZALEZ-PRESIDENT OF SVREP



Antonio Gonzalez, President of the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Program and the William C. Velázquez Institute. Photo courtesy of SVREP

Antonio Gonzalez was appointed President of the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project in 1994, the largest non-partisan Latino voter participation organization in the United States.

Prior to his current tenure as president at SVREP, Gonzalez served as organizer from 1984 to 1990, and policy program director from 1991 to 1994 with the William C. Velázquez Institute (WCVI), a non-partisan research and policy institute.

Gonzalez and SVREP have been the catalyst in the growth of Latino political participation across the country. He was the central architect of the Latino Vote USA in 1996 and Latino Vote 2000 campaigns that mobilized record numbers of new Latino voters across the

United States.

Gonzalez is currently leading a Latino coalition effort in several states that is providing fair redistricting plans using 2000 Census data to state legislatures and local governments in order to increase opportunities for Latino and other minority communities to elect representative of their choice to public office.

He is also a respected analyst of Latino voting characteristics and tendencies. In that capacity he assumed the presidency of WCVI in 1994.

Gonzalez has put WCVI on the map as the first Latino organization to include U.S.-Latin American relations in the U.S. Latino Agenda. Initiatives have included sending delegations to observe the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran elections in 1990 and 1991; leading the Latino Consensus on NAFTA movement; creating the three billion dollar North American Development Bank in 1993; and promoting greater dialogue between the U.S. and Cuba.

Gonzalez has traveled extensively in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, and has lectured and written on U.S. Latino voting behavior, as well as Latino participation in U.S.-Latin American policy.

Gonzalez attended the University of California, San Diego as a student in undergraduate work in 1975-1977, graduated from the University of Texas, San Antonio with a B.A. in United States History, and received a M.A. in Latin American History at the University of California, Berkeley in 1982.

NATION'S WELL-BEING NEEDS A DOSE OF CARE FROM PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

By Dr. Elena Rios

Continued from page 2

has not kept up with population's growth. We need researchers who will pay more attention to cultural, language, immigrant and generational statuses.

Even now there is concern for alarm. The World Health Organization ranked the United States first on health care spending but 37th in supplying overall health care for its residents. Hispanic Americans didn't fare as well. In addition, there are more than 100 medical schools in this country today but very few of them devote enough attention to research on Hispanics.

As a result, we encourage Congress to enlist NHMA, its foundation and research networks to develop training and culturally appropriate research methods, and to include Hispanic populations in clinical trials.

With more research, we can better understand health disparities. For example, Hispanics are nearly twice as likely to die from diabetes as non-Hispanic whites and Hispanics have a lesser cancer rate but are more likely to die from it.

Language, socio-economic prob-

lems and culture all can play a role in the breakdown in delivering adequate care to Hispanics.

Health literacy also matters. Doctors who understand the differences of Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, South Americans, Cuban Americans and other Hispanic groups can better treat their patients.

Our nation's leaders - and future leaders - must call for research on Hispanics so doctors can better treat this growing population of patients, and so they can better understand the differences among Hispanic populations if we are to end racial disparities in health.

Dr. Elena Rios is president of the National Hispanic Medical Association, a nonprofit group representing Hispanic physicians in the United States. She is also chief executive of the Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools Inc., a nonprofit that seeks to increase Hispanics in the medical professions. Readers may write her at NHMA, 1411 K St. NW, Suite 1100, Washington DC 20005.

"Community College is changing my life."
- Fernando Santana -

Fernando Santana's family couldn't be more proud of him - he is the first to graduate from high school and go to college. He attributes his success to Valley College where his experience and teachers have kept him focused on learning and good grades.

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FIRST 5 SAN BERNARDINO INVESTS \$2.2 MILLION IN LOCAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Commission Launches Community-Driven Strategies to Benefit Children's Lives

In a demonstration of their ongoing commitment to improve the lives of children, the Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino County today approved a \$2.2 million investment over the next three years in First 5 San Bernardino programs serving local kids ages 0 to 5 and their families. In Keeping with their goal to create positive change or the children and families of San Bernardino County, organizations were asked to submit applications focused on two of the Commission's strategic priorities -- Family Resource Centers and Parenting Education.

First 5 San Bernardino is committed to investing in high-quality programs that are specifically designed to meet local needs and enhance the lives of our county's youngest residents." Said Don Larkin, executive director of First 5 San Bernardino. "These organizations will measure success not by the number of classes or activities they have, but by the amount of human gain achieved. The

bottom line is the benefit received by the community and, most importantly, by the children."

The Request for Applications was announced on April 8, 2004. More than 70 applications were received totaling more than \$68 million in investment requests. Seven were initially selected to receive an investment -- a total of \$2.2 million over the next three years. Additional programs are expected to be approved at the next Commission meeting scheduled for August 4, 2004.

Agencies that did not receive an investment were offered one-on-one sessions to receive feedback about their applications. This free technical assistance is designed to assist agencies in developing and collecting knowledge for future investment opportunities. Agencies interested in researching other funding resources may contact Mary Jaquish, Community Resource Specialist at (909) 386-7706, extension 241.

Research shows that a child's brain

develops most dramatically in the first five years and the choices made by parents and caregivers during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact on the child's chances and potential throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 to 5. First 5 San Bernardino receives approximately \$24 million per year in Prop 10 revenues to invest in programs and services that meet local needs.

For more information, contact First 5 San Bernardino at (909) 386-7706, or visit their Web site at www.first5sanbernardino.org.

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Questions? Call Jewel Rabb at (909) 887-3570

WILLIAM C. VELÁSQUEZ-FOUNDER OF THE SVREP

Continued from page 1

Antonio. He later became field director of the Southwest Council of the Raza.

Since the 1960's until his death in 1988, Velásquez helped Mexican Americans and other Hispanics become active participants in American political life. Though still insufficiently appreciated, Velásquez holds a unique status in the pantheon of modern American civil rights figures.

Velásquez' work on voter rights and registration triggered an unprecedented mobilization of Latino voters in pivotal electoral states across the U.S., such as New York, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, and North Carolina.

His vision involved more than just getting Latinos to the ballot box. Velásquez sought to bring into the democratic process an active and informed Latino electorate.

Charted in 1984, the Southwest Voter Research Institute was established to seek the opinions of the Latino electorate and to make those findings known. He felt Latino leaders should be held accountable to their constituencies. As part of the Institute, he set out to collect and distribute information on public policy issues ranging from income and poverty to U.S. and Latin American relations. In 1997, The Institute was changed to the William C. Velásquez Institute as a way

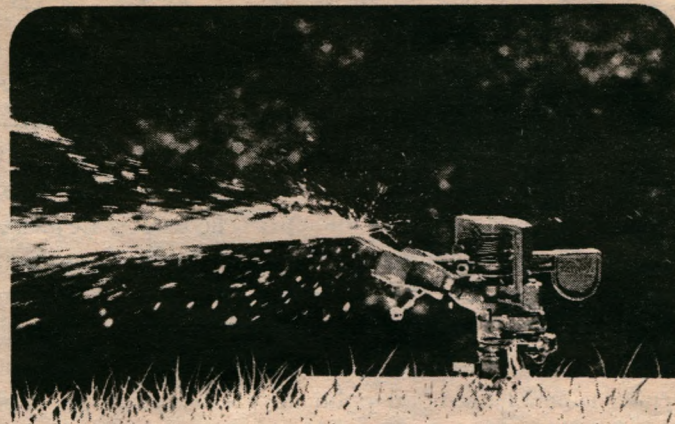
to honor and perpetuate Velásquez vision and legacy.

Hispanic Americans political influence, drawing on Velásquez' legacy can only become more significant in the years to come. Former Rhodes Scholar and Velásquez protégé Juan A. Sepúlveda, Jr., biography (The Life and Times of Willie Velásquez) provides a first, definitive glimpse into Velásquez' life. Based on Sepúlveda's close relationship and exchanges with Velásquez during the SVREP founder's final years, and over a dozen years of research and writing, the book chronicles Velásquez's influences, his landmark contributions to American civic culture, and his enduring legacy.

Velásquez did not get to see the fruits of his dreams, he passed away on June 13, 1988, of complication from kidney cancer.

In 1995, President Bill Clinton awarded Velásquez the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor any civilian can receive -- and only the second Latino ever to earn that honor.

Next Issue of the
**Inland Empire
Hispanic News**
will be August 11th



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THE STATE OF AMERICA'S CHILDREN 2004: A CONTINUING PORTRAIT OF INEQUALITY FIFTY YEARS AFTER BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) has released *The State of America's Children 2004*, which provides a comprehensive examination of how children are faring in our country. The book paints a troubling picture—based on the most recent statistical data and analyses—of an unacceptably high number of children who are still being left behind.

One in six children in the United States continues to live in poverty. One in eight—9.3 million—children have no health insurance. Three out of five children under six are cared for by someone other than their parents on a regular basis. Only 31 percent of fourth graders read at or above grade level. An estimated three million children were reported as suspected victims of child abuse and neglect. Almost one in ten teens ages 16 to 19 is a school dropout. Eight children and teens die from gunfire in the U.S. each day—one child every three hours.

"Fifty years after *Brown v. Board of Education* and 40 years after President Johnson declared a War on Poverty, many minority and lower-income children still lack a fair chance to live, learn, thrive and contribute in America," said Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of CDF. "The great unfinished business of our nation in this first decade of the 21st century is to open wide the doors of equal education and economic opportunity to every child in America. It's time to build a powerful 22nd century movement to emancipate our children from racial injustice and poverty. We must summon the moral, political, and financial courage to make sure that we truly leave no child behind."

The State of America's Children 2004 features the most recent data available on our nation's children and reviews developments in family income and child poverty, hunger and food assistance, child health, child care, Head Start and school-age care, education, children and families in crisis, and juvenile justice and youth development. Charts along with the latest and most compelling statistics clarify the status of children in several key areas.

Family Income

- Three out of four poor children live in families where someone worked and one in three poor children lives with a full-time year-round worker. More than 5.1 million children live in extremely low-income households spending at least half of their income on housing.

- Twenty-two million adults and 13 million children live in a household suffering from hunger or "food insecurity without hunger."

- The richest one-fifth of households made 10.7 times as much in median income as the poorest one-fifth, the widest gap on record from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Child Health

- 9.3 million children lack health insurance, yet six million of these uninsured children are eligible for Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) under current law.

- The number of overweight children has more than tripled since 1980. Almost nine million young people are overweight—over 15 percent of children and adolescents under age 19.

- The number of children participating in Head Start has more than doubled during the past three decades, but currently the program only serves three out of five three- and four-year-olds.

Education

- Seven out of ten fourth graders cannot read nor do math at grade level.

- Ninety percent of the nation's children attend public schools. Children in the poorest families are six times as likely as children in more affluent families to drop out of high school.

- Three-quarters of the nation's public schools are in need of repairs, renovations, and modernization. The average school building is more than 40 years old. Yet, states spend on average almost three times as much per prisoner as per public school pupil.

Children and Families in Crisis

- Three million children in a year are reported abused or neglected and referred for investigation or assessment, close to 900,000 of them are confirmed as victims of child maltreatment.

- Child abuse and domestic violence co-occur in an estimated 40 to 60 percent of the families where there is some form of family violence.

Juvenile Justice and Youth Development

- The national crime rate has dropped nearly 25 percent since 1993, but more than one-quarter of violent crime victims known to police in the U.S. are juveniles Youths ages 16 to 19 currently experience overall violence, including rape and general assault, at higher rates than people in all other age categories.

- Two-thirds of youths in juvenile justice system have one or more di-

agnosable mental health disorders. Girls are the fastest growing segment of the juvenile justice population: The arrest rate for females under age 18 increased more than 14 percent between 1993 and 2002, while the rate for males under age 18 decreased.

- More than six million school-age children are left alone after school without supervision. The average child watches 28 hours of television a week and by age 18 will have seen more than 200,000 acts of violence and 16,000 simulated murders depicted on the TV screen.

The mission of the *Children's Defense Fund* is to *Leave No Child Behind* and to ensure every child a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start*, and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

For additional information, please contact CDF's Press Secretary, John Norton, at (202) 662-3609 or to order the publication online, go to <http://www.cdfwebstore.com>.

HISPANICS RESPOND TO KERRY/EDWARDS MESSAGE

Continued from page 3

out of three Hispanics to disapprove of the President's handling of the economy. "Hispanic voters are disappointed with George Bush's record of broken promises and empty rhetoric," said McAuliffe.

Meanwhile, John Kerry and John Edwards support increasing the minimum wage, have a comprehensive plan to create 10 million American jobs, and will offer a "New Bargain for America's Children and Teachers" to employ and retain 500,000 teachers over the next four years.

"We are going to take back the White House in November for a very simple reason," McAuliffe concluded "George Bush has ignored America's families and led the country in the wrong direction on vital issues. George W. Bush has tried to run away from his record, but we will embrace ours. The Kerry-Edwards team is going to earn the Hispanic vote in this election because of his solid record fighting for the Hispanic agenda—which is an American agenda."

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County of San Bernardino
Department of Economic and Community Development

2000-2005 Consolidated Plan and 2004-2005 Action Plan - Substantial Amendments

NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, August 17, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in the Chambers of the Board of Supervisors, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor, San Bernardino, CA. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the proposed substantial amendments to the County's 2004-2005 CDBG Action Plan listed below, and to solicit citizen comments regarding these amendments.

BACKGROUND: Each year since 1975, the County of San Bernardino has qualified to receive federal housing and community development grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funds are to develop viable communities by providing decent housing, suitable living environments and expanded economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. In 2002, HUD renewed the County's qualification to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Act (HOME) programs for Fiscal Years 2003, 2004 and 2005. The CDBG funds are for eligible projects in the unincorporated communities and 13 cooperating cities. These cities are Adelanto, Barstow, Big Bear Lake, Colton, Grand Terrace, Highland, Loma Linda, Montclair, Needles, Redlands, Twentynine Palms, Yucaipa, and the Town of Yucca Valley. For the purpose of these grant funds, this area is referred to as the "County Consortium."

To receive the 2004-2005 CDBG, ESG, and HOME grant funds, the County prepared a consolidated grant application. The consolidated application was a part of the County's updated 2000-2005 Consolidated Plan and 2004-2005 Action Plan. On April 13, 2004, the County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors approved the proposed Consolidated Plan and Action Plan. Upon completion of the public review period and after all comments were received and considered, the final Consolidated Plan and Action Plan was prepared, and submitted to HUD on May 28, 2004 for funding approval.

PROPOSED CDBG SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS: The following proposed amendments would substantially change the CDBG portion of the 2004-2005 Action Plan:

As requested by the Lucerne Valley Domestic Violence Services organization, cancel their Court-ordered Youth Counseling Services program as a CDBG funded activity, and reprogram its \$5,000 allocation to unprogrammed funds for the First Supervisorial District.

Due to a determination made by HUD that this project would not meet CDBG eligibility rules, cancel as a CDBG funded activity, the "Visit Our Mountains" Economic Recovery Publicity Campaign - Mountain Communities Chambers of Commerce project, and reprogram its \$150,000 to the Countywide Business Expansion (BusEx) revolving loan fund.

Initiate for implementation during Fiscal Year 2004-05, the Second District Graffiti Removal Services Program, utilizing \$55,000 from unprogrammed funds for the Second Supervisorial District.

Cancel the Chino Graffiti Removal project as a CDBG funded activity, because other non-CDBG funds were used for that project, and reprogram its \$10,000 CDBG allocation to unprogrammed funds for the Fourth Supervisorial District.

Modify the scope of the existing CDBG-funded Al Shifa Health Clinic Facility Rehabilitation project to include facility improvements to establish a new dental office at the Al Shifa Clinic in Muscoy, utilizing \$20,000 of CDBG funds from unprogrammed funds for the Fifth Supervisorial District.

Initiate a new project for construction of improvements to the Blake Little League Baseball facility, utilizing \$4,132 of CDBG funds from unprogrammed funds for the Fifth Supervisorial District, and \$30,868 from the Fifth District Hazardous and Abandoned Buildings Demolition program.

Initiate a new project for installation of pipeline improvements to the Arrowhead Valley Mutual Water Company water system in the unincorporated Arrowhead Suburban Farms community, utilizing \$35,000 of CDBG funds from unprogrammed funds for the Fifth Supervisorial District.

Initiate a new project for construction of kitchen improvements to the Temple Community Outreach Center in San Bernardino to serve senior citizens and at-risk youth from Muscoy and other nearby unincorporated communities, utilizing \$67,075 of CDBG funds from unprogrammed funds for the Fifth Supervisorial District.

Initiate a new project for construction of youth recreation facility improvements to the Boys and Girls Club of San Bernardino Center in San Bernardino, utilizing \$36,200 of CDBG funds from the unprogrammed funds for the Fifth Supervisorial District.

ADDITIONAL SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT PROVISION: Items may be added or deleted from this list of Proposed Substantial Amendments at the Board of Supervisors hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT: For a period of thirty (30) days beginning on August 3, 2004 and ending on August 31, 2004, the public is invited to submit written comments on these proposed amendments. Comments received after 5:00 p.m. August 31, 2004 cannot be considered in the preparation of the amended Consolidated Plan. Send comments to County ECD at the address shown below.

Those individuals wishing to express their views on these substantial amendments may be present and be heard at the public hearing or may, prior to the time of the hearing, submit writing, comments to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, Second Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0130.

If you challenge any decision regarding the above proposal in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Board of Supervisors at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Due to time constraints and the number of persons wishing to give oral testimony, time restrictions may be placed on oral testimony at the public hearing regarding this proposal. You may make your comments in writing to assure that you are able to express yourself adequately.

San Bernardino County
Department of Economic and Community Development
290 North "D" Street, Sixth Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0040
Attn: Program and Compliance Section
or call (909) 388-0959

DENNIS HANSBERGER, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

J. RENÉE BASTIAN
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

HOUSE REPUBLICANS SAY NO TO FUNDING FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND HISPANIC STUDENTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Republicans voted to deny funding for civil rights and Hispanic programs under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). On a 205-209 party-line vote, Republicans narrowly defeated an amendment to the Agriculture spending bill that would have provided nearly \$4 million in funding for civil rights programs, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and outreach to minority farmers. [RC vote #366, 7/13/04]

The programs are necessary because the USDA has paid out nearly \$1 billion in racial discrimination complaints for failing to provide equal opportunities for minority farmers.

House Republicans claim to support the goals of the Hispanic community but their voting record proves otherwise. Under this amendment, Republicans could have improved opportunities for Hispanic farmers and students at 350 colleges and universities," said Rep. Robert T. Matsui (CA), Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) supported the amendment because it "contains record new USDA funding for our Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), which serve the largest concentrations of Hispanic higher education students." Also, the "amendment provides our HSIs welcome access to new federal funding resources and a greater opportunity to become actively engaged in USDA research, scholarship, internship, teaching and collaborative research programs." [HACU letter to Reps. Baca, Kildee and Thompson, 7/12/04]

Rep. Robert T. Matsui (CA), Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee said, "Racial discrimination complaints against the USDA have cost the American people over \$1 billion. The programs funded under Baca-Thompson-Kildee amendment would have gone a long way to reduce those complaints by creating programs that truly meet the needs of minorities. The reality is that either the agency will pay now via responsible funding and programs, or pay later on discrimination settlements. It is ridiculous that Republicans would rather wait for people of color to suffer injury than act to avoid it."

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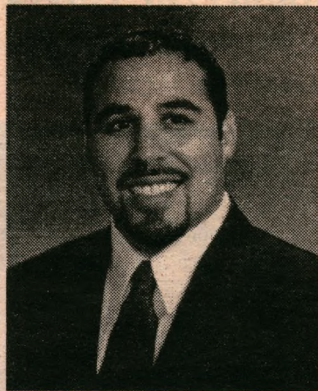
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