December 11th 1996

Hispanic News

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HOME OF NEIGHBORLY SERVICE MEETING TO DISCUSS
Controversy brewing over proposed "Clean and Sober" apartments at Mt. Vernon and Union Streets in S.B.

Pictured above is the proposed "Clean and Sober" Living Community on the corner of Mt. Vernon and Union in San Bernardino.

The Home of Neighborly Service (HNS), 839 N. Mt. Vernon Avenue, San Bernardino has invited the public to a meeting on Sunday, December 15th, 1996 at 2:00 PM regarding the proposed City of San Bernardino's amendments on properties on Mt. Vernon Avenue between 8th and 9th Street and a proposed plan by former Councilwoman Valerie Pope-Ludlam to establish a "clean and sober" apartments project on the corner of Mt. Vernon Avenue and Union Street.

Residents living adjacent to the proposed project are against the use of the "dilapidated" apartments, according to Mary Frances Aguilera, who lives across the street. "We don't want whatever is being planned to be in our neighborhood. Myself and others are vehemently opposed to it. Many parents are concerned about their children with that kind of project being put there." Aguilera and other block leaders circulated a petition against the plan which has been signed by numerous residents in the area.

Aguilera said, "That building should have been demolished a long time ago. Other buildings on Mt. Vernon have been torn down and the one across the street is a lot worse than the others." Paul Mordy, President of the HNS Board of Directors, said in the invitation letter that HNS has not taken a position on the issue. However, a petition was circulated by the San Bernardino West Side Community Development Corporation, signed by Cynthia Boyde, HNS executive director, supporting the proposed plan. Since that time, Boyde has resigned.

The petition states that the San Bernardino West Side Community Development Corporation, signed by Cynthia Boyde, HNS executive director, supporting the proposed plan. Since that time, Boyde has resigned.

Cruz Bustamante sworn-in as California's first Latino Speaker

December 2, 1996, Assemblyperson Cruz Bustamante, 31st Assembly District, broke tradition and was elected the first Latino to the Speaker of the California Assembly!

As the Clerk of the Assembly announced the result of the 43 Democrats to 35 Republicans vote, the subdued and emotionally-controlled audience in the balcony broke out in a thunderous applause. The ovation continued for close to five minutes.

Bustamante spoke to the Assembly and audience about his background. "My grandparents immigrated to the United States to improve their economic status and to give my parents an opportunity to seek a better way of life. I wish that they were here to witness the results of the right choice made a long time ago."

Cruz Bustamante just after being sworn as Assembly Speaker

Bustamante elaborated on his political philosophy and stressed the importance of serving the people.

El Dia De La Virgin De Guadalupe

The above is an artist's rendition of the Paseo Las Placitas Specific Plan for Mt. Vernon Avenue.

The Job Corps provides training at one of several Centers located in the Western states. Training is offered in automotive trades, bigyss and clerical, computers, construction trades, food services, nursing and other medical occupations, electronics, and cosmetology and many other trades.

Students live in a dormitory setting complete with cafeterias, recreational facilities, and medical care. The average stay in the program is six months to one year.

To be eligible applicants must be from a low-income family, between 16-24 years old and not attending traditional high school (high school graduate, continuation school, high school drop out).

Applications are taken by appointment only. Enrollment is year round. Young women interested in the program can call (909) 888-8128 or 1-800-Job-Corp.

After acceptance into the program, the Job Corps provides tuition-free training in 130 trades. Students can also receive high school equivalency certificates, room and board, medical and dental care, spending allowance, a savings account and job placement upon graduation. This is a free program to qualified applicants. There are no loans to repay.

Enter the "Age of Elegance..."
...when the 60 member Southern California Young Artists Symphony holds a special concert with the San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra on December 14, 1996

Call (909) 381-5388

Gala New Years Eve
Dinner Dance
December 31, 1996
National Orange Show
Banquet & Conference Center
(formerly known as the Orange Show Cafeteria)
Mill St. & Arrowhead Ave, San Bernardino
Featuring The Big Band Sounds of the Fabulous

Latin Society

No Host Cocktails 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Buffet Dinner 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Dancing 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

*Dinner includes Tossed salad (3 dressings), fresh vegetable soup, season fresh fruit tray, Impeccable & Domed chees, baked meatloaf, rice pilaf, rolls & butter, vegetables, London broil, Teriyaki Chicken, assorted desserts, beverage (coffee or tea).

$45.00 PER PERSON

Limited seating, so get your tickets early. Contact:

Senorita Hilda L. Soils was elected to the newly re-apportioned 24th Senatorial District in November of 1994. Upon her election, Soils made history by becoming the first Latina to ever serve in the State Senate. Prior to being elected to the upper house of the Legislature, Soils served in the Assembly from 1992 through 1994 where she represented the 57th Assembly District.

The communities in her Senate District include Alhambra, Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bassett, Belvedere, City Terrace, East Los Angeles, El Monte, El Sereno, Hacienda Heights, Industry, Irwindale, La Puente, Monterey Park, Rosemead, South San Gabriel, Valinda, and portions of North Whittier, South El Monte, Temple City, West Covina and Glendora.

Soils serves as chair of the Senate Industrial Relations, Committee and is a member of budget and fiscal review; finance, investment, and international trade; health and human services; judiciary; public employment and retirement committee, select committees on bilingual education, citizen participation in government, higher education, work force preparation; subcommittee No. 3 on health, human services, and labor; and the special committee on critical thinking and problem solving in our schools. She is also chair of the subcommittee on the underground economy and the work force and the co-sponsored by:

Santa Barbara, California

The communities in her Senate District include Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Solvang, and Carpinteria.

Upon returning to California, she served as a Director of the California Student Opportunity and Access Program representing several Los Angeles and Orange County School Districts. She was elected to the Rio Hondo Community College Board of Trustees and served two terms from 1985 through 1992. Under her leadership, Rio Hondo Community College saw its student enrollment grow, its academic program enhanced, and fiscal soundness achieved. In 1991 Soils was appointed by Supervisor Gloria Molina to serve on the Los Angeles County Insurance Commission.

During her tenure in the Legislature, Soils was named Freshman Legislator of the Year by the California School Board Association and the California League of Conservation Voters. She has demonstrated a rare willingness to take on tough issues. Soils has focused her energies on improving the quality and access to our education system, addressing urban environmental issues, creating better access to health care for under served communities, and improving protection for victims of crime.

Soils has authored landmark legislation in the areas of domestic violence, labor, environmental protection, education and crime. She has been a strong advocate for women's rights and a leading author of measures pertaining to women's health, restraining orders and spousal rape.

Upon retiring as a lifelong resident of the San Gabriel Valley, her parents still live in the house where she was raised, and her husband Sam is a small business owner who has been working in the community for over 10 years.

The San Bernardino Symphony, conducted by Stewart Robertson, will perform a New Year's Eve program featuring the music of the Fabulous Salon Orchestra and presents a champagne celebration followed by door prizes.

The Radisson Hotel Balloon Room 295 North Street San Bernardino, California

9:00 Dinner and Dancing
7:30 No Host Cocktails
9:00 Dinner and Dancing

A benefit for the San Bernardino Symphony and the Symphony Guild Education Programs. Call (909) 381-6181 for reservations before December 15.

The San Bernardino Symphony and for the Symphony Guild Education Programs. Call (909) 381-6181 for reservations before December 15.

8:00 Concert
9:00 Dinner and Dancing

A benefit for the San Bernardino Symphony and for the Symphony Guild Education Programs. Call (909) 381-6181 for reservations before December 15.
El Dia De La Virgin De Guadalupe

On December 12 Hispanic Catholics throughout North, Central, and South America pay special tribute to Mary, Mother of Christ, by celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe—the beginning of the preparation for Christmas.

Juan Cortez is honored as "La Reyna de Miehe manufacturing to California from Mexico, she was laughed at because she spoke a different language. Her color was his language.

Coarse garment. Her color was Juan's.!?inkng Day is (I to r) Cheryl Anstein, Randy Anstein, Narciso Tafolla, Henry Calderilla, Betty Cook and Ray Abril, Jr.

The year was 1531. Columbus discovered the "New World" just 39 years before, planting the flag of Spain and the Cross of Christ in America. For 10 years, the proud Aztec nation conquered by the sword of Hernando Cortez, had been suffering under the sword of oppression. Their spiritual world, their temples, and their way of life had been destroyed. To the Aztecs, it seemed as though hope were lost.

On December 12, Mary appeared to Juan Diego, an Aztec convert to the Catholic faith who was very poor. She commanded Juan "to go," inform the Bishop that a church be built among the Indians. She said, "I ardently desire that a temple be built here so that I show and give all my love, compassion, help and defense." The Bishop did not believe Juan Diego. Juan pleaded with Mary to agree to give all my love, compassion, help and defense." The Bishop did not believe Juan Diego. Juan pleaded with Mary to agree to give all my love, compassion, help and defense." The Bishop did not believe Juan Diego. Juan pleaded with Mary to agree to give all my love, compassion, help and defense." The Bishop did not believe Juan Diego. Juan pleaded with Mary to agree to give all my love, compassion, help and defense." The Bishop did not believe Juan Diego. Juan pleaded with Mary to agree to give all my love, compassion, help and defense." The Bishop did not believe Juan Diego. 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The article is about an exhibition of Latino artists at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands from December through January 11, 1997.

The show is curated by David Rosales, a multimedia artist born in Loma Linda, California, who is known for his culturally-inspired paintings and constructions. The art work in this show reflects the diversity and varied content of Latino art being created in Southern California today, stated Rosales. We are creating art work that is about growing up Latino in California. This is truly regional art work that could have only been created in American cities by people who sometimes don’t feel completely American.

Artists represented in the exhibit are Jacalyn Lopez Garcia, Danielle Segura, Esther Salazar, Maria Montoya Santillanez, John Garcia Y Robertson, Raphael Garcia, Kevin Aguilar, Diego Rosales, and David Rosales.

Jacalyn Lopez Garcia is a Riverside photographer who works for the Chicano Student Services Department of the University of California, Riverside, where she is concluding her B.A. in photography.

Danielle Segura is a painter from Redlands. She earned her B.A. from Loyola Marymount and studied Loyola University in Rome and the Parsons School of Design in Paris, France.

Esther Salazar, from Rialto, paints mythological images for the modern woman. She recently traveled to Mexico for the Dia de los Muertos festivities to gather inspiration and folk art.

Maria Montoya Santillanez, from the Pomona valley, creates her work from family photographs and collected images. She works in many different levels, from personal recollections of her family to universal themes of love and the human family.

Paul Santillanez, husband of Maria Montoya Santillanez, sculpts in mixed media to create work that reflects his experiences in construction and building.

John Garcia Y Robertson is an artist who lives in Santa Maria. He is also a practicing doctor. His paintings and mixed media pieces reflect Latin themes, including references to Catholic images and the Dia de los Muertos skeletons of Mexico.

Raphael Garcia is a painter who lives and works in San Bernardino. His monu­mental style, best described as “por­table murals on canvas,” incorporates Chicano art images of the boxing ring, Kevin Aguilar, from San Bernardino, earned his B.A. from the Pasadena Art Center. He is known for his air brush paintings of cactus plants.

Diego Rosales is a sculptor from San Bernardino. He has lived in San Bernar­dino County since 1919 and has been carving since the 1940s. His works reflect the serious and the whimsical: his saint carvings reflect his Catholic be­liefs, but his dog carvings reflect a sense of humor that works itself through the paint and the wood.

David Rosales, a painter and cura­tor of the exhibit, is from San Bernar­dino. He earned his B.F.A. from the San Francisco Art Institute and currently works as an instructor at San Bernar­dino Valley College. His work reflects the influence of Mexican folk art and he often works in the Mexican theme of the Dia de Los Muertos holiday.

San Bernardino County Museum is in Redlands, at the California Street exit from Interstate 10. General admi­ssion is $3 (adults), $2 (seniors and stu­dents) and $1 (children 2-12) ($4, $3, and $2 respectively during the special exhibit ’Model Circuses’ from Dec. 14 through Jan. 5). Museum members are admitted free. Free parking; handi­capped accessible. The Museum is open Tuesdays-Saturdays from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. Parking is free, and the facility is handicap accessible. For more in­formation, call (909) 798-8570.

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**El Dia De La Virgen De Guadalupe**

From page 3

kind of Spanish "I was a housewife, and had no time to go to school. I had to learn English by myself," said Domitila. Parishes throughout the Diocese of San Bernardino will have special reli­gious activities on this occasion, either on the weekend prior or on December 12. Persons interested in participating in the activities may contact the nearest Catholic Church.

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**Rialto Schools seek nominations to name new "East" Middle School**

The Rialto Unified School District Board of Education is accepting nomi­nations for the naming of “East” Middle School. The new middle school is scheduled to begin construction in March, 1997 with an anticipated opening of September, 1998. The new school will be located on the corner of Randall and Eucalyptus.

Letters of nomination are currently being accepted in the Superintendent’s office. Nominees should possess the following:

1. A background of direct involvement with the Rialto Unified School District.
   a. an employee for at least 25 years, and/or
   b. a member of the board of education for at least three (3) terms, and/or

2. A volunteer who has given personal time and effort to the district related to activities for at least ten (10) years.

3. Each letter of nomination should include a brief biography illustrating why the person should receive this honor.

Nominations will be mailed to: Superintendent’s Office, Rialto Unified School District, 182 East Walnut Avenue, Rialto, CA 92376-3598. Dead­line is January 17, 1997.

Questions regarding the nomination should be directed to Marilyn Cardosi, Communication Specialist, (909) 820-7700 ext. 123.
Cruz Bustamante: California's first Latino Speaker - From P. 1

of a moderate leadership to include a nonpartisan approach to the issues and problems that are currently facing the state.

He introduced his wife, the former Arcelia De La Peña, three daughters, Leticia, Sonia and Marisa and grandson, David.

The oldest of six children, Bustamante was born in Dinuba, California. His parents, Dominga and Cruz Bustamante, Jr., raised the family in Tulare and Fresno Counties.

Robert Castaneda, previous councilperson for the first ward, said the apartments should have been demolished at the time when the owner abandoned the property. "The proposal for those apartments is inappropriate for the neighborhood. There are many residences close by and Mt. Vernon school is too close. Besides, school buses pick up students on the corner of Mt. Vernon and 9th. There are many empty buildings in San Bernardino suitable for that type of project. The Board of Education should not ignore what is being proposed at the site and should have sent a strong letter of protest to the city to ensure against potential violations occurring in the area," he said.

The Paseo Las Placitas Specific Plan which Ross refers to in her memo is the result of action by former councilpersons Esther Estrada and Jessie Flores in July 20, 1989 to form the Mt. Vernon Corridor Redevelopment Project, extending from Baseline Avenue south to the San Bernardino city limits. Mayor Bob Holcomb, on August 21, 1989, appointed councilpersons Estrada, Flores and Valerie Pope-Ludlam to serve on the Mt. Vernon Task Force.

A Project Area Committee was organized with 14 community representatives with Graciano Gomez as chairperson. The Redevelopment Agency provided the technical and supportive staff, and with contracted planning consultants, worked with the PAC until the PLPSP was adopted by the mayor and council on June, 1990.

Gomez stated, "The PLPSP was the result of commitment by the city and its support staff, councilmembers, PAC members and the consultants to develop a comprehensive plan to revitalize the Mt. Vernon area with commercial and business enterprises.

"The current plan to deviate from the PLPSP will be a disastrous move which will discourage future commercial and business development. In addition, the concerns of residents regarding the type of site and proximity to school and buses that board children is certainly a major factor for the city to reject plans for a "clean and sober" site."
A HIGHER EDUCATION FOR HISPANIC PARENTS

By Ernest Sandoval

As parents, my wife and I work hard to provide the best life possible for our children. We strive to provide them with all the "breaks" to increase their chances of success. A college education is a critical element to their individual success — and to ours as parents.

A college education forms the golden bridge to a world of success. My parents understood this clearly. And any parent who wants the best for their children must begin to understand and embrace the parental realities, demands and responsibilities attached to their child's college life.

Today, after graduating from college, I am a successful entrepreneur, owner/operator of eight McDonald's restaurants in San Diego, California employing 400 people. My success is directly attributed to my commitment to education which led to a college degree and support of my family.

Motivated young adults should be allowed to pursue their goals and tackle new responsibilities with confidence. College is an opportunity for them to develop their talents to the fullest, whatever they may be.

More important, with parents supporting, motivation, and guidance, a university degree is an accomplishment that will insure your children's success in all they do.

A higher education does not have to fail completely on parents or students. There are a wealth of federal and state aid programs, corporate, private, and nonprofit financial aid resources that can help parents financially support their children's golden dream of a higher education.

One such source is the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund (NHSSF), the country's largest and oldest nonprofit Hispanic scholarship granting organization. Since 1975 NHSSF has been dedicated to the mission of getting Hispanic students into college. To date, their efforts have helped 28,000 students with more than $38 million in financial aid. For more information on NHSSF scholarships and financial aid, call 415/892-9971, or write to P.O. Box 728, Novato, CA 94948.

For graduating high school seniors, one of the nationally-funded scholarship programs is the RMHC/HACER (Ronald McDonald House Charities/Hispanic American Commitment to Educational Resource) Scholarship Program. Created in 1985 in partnership with McDonald's, NHSSF, McDonald's owner/operators and McDonald's Corporation, RMHC/HACER has awarded approximately $3.1 million in scholarships to nearly 3000 deserving Hispanic students pursuing higher education.

I'm proud to support RMHC/HACER because it enables me to partner with, and give back to my community through education — one of the most important issues facing Hispanics today — and help those who are most deserving.

In the end, the college support your children receive from financial aid and scholarships like NHSSF or RMHC/HACER is only part of the required ingredients to success. The most vital and enduring element of support comes from your heart — demonstrating confidence in your children through love, motivation and encouragement; to unconditionally stand by them in pursuit of their lifelong dreams.

Ernest Sandoval has been a McDonald's franchisee for the past 13 years in San Diego, California. Presently, he is Chair of the San Diego RMHC/HACER chapter and sits on the RMHC/HACER National Advisory Board of Directors.

The California Wilderness Experience

Back Row (Lto R) (Adults): Dr. Barry Pulliam, Bill Smith, Dr. Robert Berry (Pres. EEE), Joe Lyons (Emcee)

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (Nov. 21, 1996) - Twenty-four student wildlife artists from throughout San Bernardino County each received a plaque and $250 for their schools in a special awards presentation Wednesday, Nov. 20 at Ontario Mills Mall.

The American Wilderness Experience — Ontario, the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, the Enterprise for Economic Excellence and the San Bernardino County Museum co-sponsored the county wide art competition, "The California Wilderness Experience! So Much to See," drawing 104 entries from 12 school districts within the county.

In students grade levels 3 through 6 were asked to submit artwork that depicted an animal in a California wilderness nature scene from among five diverse regions in the state: Redwoods, Coastal, High Sierra, Desert, and Yosemite Valley. The school of each selected winner received a cash award of $250 and each student received a plaque and guest passes to the American Wilderness Experience.

Winning selections for the Desert region were: Adam Basis, 9, and Michael Bradley, 9, both of Thompson Elementary School, San Bernardino City School District; Michael Garcia, 11, and Bryan J. Zaleta, 11, both of Kelley Elementary School, Rialto Unified School District; and Thomas Garcia, 8, of Valley of Enchantment Elementary School, Rim of the World School District.

Students in grades levels 7 through 12 were asked to submit artwork that demonstrated an animal in a California wilderness nature scene from among five diverse regions in the state: Redwoods, Coastal, High Sierra, Desert, and Yosemite Valley. The school entry of each selected winner received a cash award of $250 and each student received a plaque and guest passes to the American Wilderness Experience.

Winning selections for the Desert region were: J.J. Cabrera, 8, Alta Loma Elementary School, Alta Loma Unified School District; Natalie Tatsumi, 10, Bemis Elementary, San Bernardino City School District; Joanna Lemus, 11, and Logan Zaniga, 11, both of Kelley Elementary School, Rialto Unified School District.

Coastal region winners were: Jannelle Bracamontes, 10, Richard Gird School, Chino Unified School District; Kaitlyn Dobis, 11, North Shore Elementary School, Bear Valley Unified School District; and Thomas Garcia, 10, of Valley of Enchantment Elementary School, Rim of the World School District.

All 104 student participants will receive an American Wilderness certificate. Artwork not selected for the mall exhibition will be on temporary display at the San Bernardino county Superintendent of Schools office, 601 N. E St., through mid-January.

American Wilderness Experience — Ontario is a multidimensional entertainment adventure presented within a controlled, indoor environment. The attraction gives visitors the opportunity to travel through the ecosystems of five distinct regions of five regions. Visitors will visit through replicated environments featuring live species of animals, plants, plants and climates indigenous to each including the Redlands, Sierras, Desert, coast and Grassland Valley regions.

Scheduled to open in the Ontario Mills Mall in spring 1997, the American Wilderness will also feature a 40-seat motion simulation theater; a series of hands-on exhibits, a retail store and the Wilderness Experience Office. For more information call the American Wilderness Experience office at (909) 944-2557.
The Labor Council or Latin-American Advance-
ment, Riverside/San Bernardino Chapter wishes
to thank the community and volunteers for mak-
ing the "GET OUT THE VOTE" project a success.
Address:
L.C.L.A.A. c/o Donna Griggs, 705 W. Arrow Blvd., Claremont,
CA 91711-9000 (909) 626-3333 x 258 fx (909) 626-4942

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Children by donating an unwrapped toy to the
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Chamber of Commerce
Annual Christmas Toy Drive

Benefiting critically ill or injured and disadvantaged children
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"La Coordinadora "96"

Publisher's Note: the Inland Empire Hispanic News commissioned Arthur Ramos to travel to Washington D.C. to observe and participate in the first Marcha, "La Coordinadora "96", which occurred on El Dia De La Raza, October 12. The following is his report.

By Arthur Ramos

What a historical event. They came by air; they came by land. There were thousands of organizers and activists from throughout the United States: Latinos from California, Arizona, New Mexico, Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Washington, D.C., .... This was physical evidence of a national demonstration with purpose in mind: 'THE UNITY OF THE HISPANIC TO COUNTER THE NATIONAL RACISM THAT HAS PERVADED OUR NATION.'

The Marcha was the culmination of a plan that was conceived in 1993 as a result of anti-immigrant politics generated by then California gubernatorial campaign. At a later date, this was the focus of Governor Wilson in his unsuccessful presidential campaign, followed by the divisive campaign of Proposition 187.

Thousands marched four miles from Meridian Hill Park throughout the day and night to be joined by thousands others marching down 16th Street to the Ellipse, every soul chanting, "esta es mi tierra, esta es mi lucha, un solo pueblo, un solo fronteras, la raza unida, jamas sera vencida." The immense throng of people continued, "Somos Parte" to celebrate our presence, our contributions, our culture and our language.

"We are Americans because we believe in the Constitution, in equality and justice before the law of everyone," said Juan Jose Gutierrez, the chief coordinator of the Marcha. The rally kicked off when Gutierrez introduced a choir that sang the "Star Spangled Banner" in Spanish.

Speaker after speaker followed, including Latino members of Congress, labor leader and advocates for immigrant rights groups.

"For the first time in history, we come here to the center of power to say, "Ya Basta," said Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez, (D-NY), who continued, "Thank you Newt Gingrich and your band of Republican radicals for bringing us together," and the crowd cheered.

"I came here from Riverside with my twelve year old son to express my concerns of the growing anti-immigrant sentiments and to have my son be a part, to experience the Chicano movement on history day," said Randy Segovia, Founder of CinMAS and graduate of Cal State Fullerton majoring in criminal justice.

"As a Latino county fire fighter, we came here to denounce the affirmative action proposition and to educate ourselves of our political potential through unity," said Pat Gomez, member of the California Latino Firefighters Association from San Bernardino County.

"I came here from Redwood City, California to express my dissatisfaction to Pete Wilson, Newt Gingrich, and Conservative Republicans for doing away with affirmative action in our universities," said Maria De Delgado, who was currently working toward her Ph.D. in Bilingual Education at the University of San Francisco.

Much like the Raza Movement of the '70s and '80s, the similar issues of access to higher education, access to higher paying jobs and the struggle for acceptance is relevant now to "La Coordinadora "96" as it was then. The March served as a unity network and to give stern message to many elected officials to take a step back and not underestimate the growing Latino population or take us for granted.

The event focused on the many anti-immigration laws passed and to remind all Latinos, the importance of registering to vote, and the importance to act on their right to vote on election day, as the crowd chanted "Remember in November." The rally - called by some the "encuentro" (the rendezvous or meeting), but La Coordinadora - was meant to bring unity to Latino ranks at a time when local and national politicians are showing an ever increasing anti-immigrant fervor.

"Companeros y companeras, bien tares. - Si, soy bilinque" said Geraldo Rivera, Channel 2 celebrity talk show host, as he addressed the crowd to inform them that he was bilingual and supports our quest for justice. Rivera also expressed the importance of supporting a citizen police review board in all communities to ensure accountability and respect.

"I came here from Redwood City, California to express my dissatisfaction to Pete Wilson, Newt Gingrich, and Conservative Republicans for doing away with affirmative action in our universities," said Maria De Delgado, who was currently working toward her Ph.D. in Bilingual Education at the University of San Francisco.

"The total thrust focused on uniting all Latinos and pursue to work together for a common goal. However, until then Latinos must continue to fight for the consciousness and awareness the power of the VOTE to progress for the future. The emergence of "La Coordinadora "96" has applied itself to unify all Latin ethnic organizations and to commit our energies to ensure basic constitutional rights and equal opportunity for all people under the law. La Coordinadora "96" participants have successfully chartered a unique trend of communications through the computer internet systems and stressed that Latinos should participate in one of the most important issues - the impact of computer aided technology in educating our children to assure parity in the 21st century.

Several issues must be placed into perspective to ensure La Coordinadora's success. A question of where we are going from this point arises as Latinos have reached a new level - in the recent Presidential Election - of voter participation. States such as California, Texas and Florida have experience 90% increases in Latino vote turnout. Many marchists have pledged to focus on the 2000 Presidential election and have considered to run a Latino platform to ensure that many of the issues not go unanswered.

With the university systems enforcing phases of proposition 209, many minorities will begin to organize and restructure their energy to push Latinos as candidates toward the 1998 & 2000 (Gubernatorial & Presidential) election. The focus of "La Coordinadora "96" is just a part of what is yet to come - and the impact on many new naturalized AMERICAN citizens is still to be measured.

On October 12, 1996, participants participated in unique "Marcha" and the message was carried through the many networks broadcasting live on television - much like the pied piper of Washington D.C. to beat of the drummers we hear as we cast our vote on election day. La Coordinadora "96" has reached an aura of philosophic ideas that can truly be the step in the future for Latinos, and pursue to work together for a common goal until then Latinos must continue to fight for the consciousness and awareness the power of the VOTE to progress for the future. The emergence of "La Coordinadora "96" has applied itself to unify all Latin ethnic organizations and to commit our energies to ensure basic constitutional rights and equal opportunity for all people under the law. La Coordinadora "96" participants have successfully chartered a unique trend of communications through the computer internet systems and stressed that Latinos should participate in one of the most important issues - the impact of computer aided technology in educating our children to assure parity in the 21st century.

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