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Hispanic News

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"There is no doubt that we work hard at the many tasks within our movement, but the times we face truly call for more from us. Do we carry in our hearts the suffering of farm workers and their children? Do we feel deeply enough the pain of those who must work in the fields every day with these poisons...or the anguish of the many families who have lost their loved ones to cancer...who fear for the lives of their children...who have lost their babies through miscarriage...who agonize over the outcome of their pregnancies...who are raising their children with deformities...who ask, with fear in their voices, 'Where will this deadly plague strike next?' Do we feel their pain deeply enough? I know I don't - and I am ashamed."

Cesar Chavez, July 16, 1988

Farm Worker Children Victims of Birth Defects, Cancer and Deaths

By Cecilia Gallardo

Chavez began the water-only fast in order to protest the use of five pesticides - captan, dinoseb, methyl bromide, parathion and phosdrin - which he says endanger field workers and their families. On October 6, 1986, the EPA suspended dinoseb, a known teratogen.

Many events have precipitated the fast, including the terrible suffering of farm workers and consumers on the many families who are suffering from pesticide poisoning. Cesar Chavez's fast challenges us to stop cooperating with the supermarkets who promote, sell and profit from the sale of California table grapes.

Felipe Franco's mother was exposed to captan, a chemical used in pesticides during her pregnancy. Felipe was born without legs or arms.
**A Time to Care**

On August 21, 1988, at 12:15 p.m. in Delano, California, Cesar Chavez ended a 36 day fast which he began to renew his own personal commitment to a cause which has been all but forgotten by the majority of Americans. Unfortunately, it has also been forgotten by many Hispanic Americans, some descendants of farm workers who immigrated from Mexico and other underdeveloped countries.

It's a concern when the people who should be the most concerned about the plight of farm workers are the ones who contribute to the problem by ignoring it, or worse criticize it.

Do we care deeply enough for those less fortunate who still suffer from an economic oppression caused by a lack of education, language barriers, and political powerlessness? Are we so comfortable that we fail to see beyond the limits of our own suburban backyards and neighborhoods? Are we so comfortable that we cannot care for a dying child?

I too am ashamed. I am ashamed that so-called educated Hispanics are so wrapped up in their personal careers and lives that they fail to consider the possibility that their successes are built upon the blood, sweat and tears of those less fortunate than they. Are we so advanced in our thinking that we fail to look back at our own roots and think that we too might be there but for the grace of God? Look at your own son or daughter and picture them picking grapes in the contaminated fields of Delano and McFarland.

How many of us have familia in the colonias of Mexico and Central America that still lack running water, electricity, and the most basic of sanitation facilities. Have you been back there to take them your old clothes, food, or money? Que pronto nos olvidamos.

Support Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers, son nuestra gente.

George Martinez, Editor

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**Fasting for Farm Workers**

The Hispanic News of the Inland Empire will publish the names of individuals who wish to participate in a fast to support the boycott of grapes in grocery stores. To participate, call the Hispanic News at 381-6259, pledge the number of hours you will fast, and your name will appear in the next issue of the Hispanic News. We recommend that only individuals in good health and not under any medication or medical care participate. This fast is purely voluntary and we suggest that pledges be limited to no more than three days.

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**PUBLIC OPINION POLL**

The public opinion poll was conducted outside of Stater Brothers Market in Colton on La Cadena Ave. on Saturday, August 20, 1988. Respondents were asked what they thought of Cesar Chavez' fast and the boycott on grapes.

Walter Gill & Stephanie Gill, Colton, CA

Walter Gill: "I don't know too much about it. He's doing a good job, but I don't think he should starve himself. I don't think people really care if he dies. Maybe with a certain group of people it matters. Stephanie Gill: He's serving a good purpose, but I don't agree with his means.

Lorrie Gonzales, Colton, CA

"I think he's very strong to be doing something like that, standing for something he believes in. I am sorry to see him doing it because of his health. He's doing it for everyone else's health. Grapes? Oh yes, I don't buy them.

Abel Hernandez, San Bernardino, CA

"I've picked grapes in Delano where Cesar is, it's funny that you should stop me. It's good these people are going to take off where he left off. I worked in the fields picking grapes and I am 100% behind the boycott.

Bob Perez, Upland, CA

"I think it's important because it could have a lasting effect on those who have been sprayed (with pesticides). If it were not for the fast the problem would be ignored. The socio-economic level of farm workers is so low, they are ignored."
"Pesticides residues are in the soil and water"

Continued from Front Page

part of the work force, toxic exposures begin at a much younger age.

Grapes constitute the largest fruit crop in California. More restricted pesticides are used on grapes than on any other food. And grape workers report more illness to the California Department of Food and Agriculture than workers in any other crop in the state.

McFarland, California is a small agricultural community in the southern San Joaquin Valley near Delano. McFarland was found to have an excess of cancer cases in children. From 1982 to 1985 when one childhood cancer case would have been expected, eight were found.

McFarland is completely surrounded by vineyards as well as cotton fields, almond groves, and other crops, all of which are extensively sprayed. The main source of exposure to carcinogens (cancer causing agents) in the community are agricultural pesticides. Wells in McFarland are contaminated with nitrates from fertilizers. Pesticides are sprayed in every monthly water bill advising customers not to drink the water. The extent of pesticide residues in the water in McFarland and many other communities is not known because of inadequate monitoring.

A California state-mandated study to discover the cause of McFarland childhood cancer has limped along since June of 1985, crippled by the power structure committed to protecting the rights of growers at any cost. The grape growers are the most powerful lobby in the opposition to effective enforcement of farm labor laws, which includes protections for workers against pesticides.

In the neighboring town of Delano, childhood cancer cases are also being reported that may be in excess of expected rates, this according to Dr. Marion Moses, a consultant for the National Farm Workers Health Group, which is affiliated with the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO.

Workers go daily into fields sprayed with deadly chemicals. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, farm workers have the highest rate of toxic chemical injuries among occupational groups in the nation. In California, the nation's leading agricultural state, pesticides are the major single cause of occupational illness. Even more distressing is that only about 1% of the pesticide poisonings of farm workers are reported. Reports are more likely to be made when a whole crew is poisoned.

Women in the fields are subject to carcinogenic pesticides.

A farm worker who was exposed to teratogenic (birth defect producing) pesticides while working in the grape fields during her first months of pregnancy delivered a child without arms or legs. And because many pesticides are embryotoxic, they may cause spontaneous miscarriage, and therefore birth defects may not be seen because the fetus dies very early in the pregnancy. There are studies that suggest farm worker women may be at increased risk for spontaneous miscarriage.

In California, the only state that mandates physician reporting of occupationally related pesticide illness, 1,675 such cases were reported in 1985. Since pesticide illness is greatly under-reported, the actual extent of work related illness is much greater. It has been estimated that 300,000 cases of farm worker poisoning from pesticides occur annually in the United States.

There has been a rekindling of interest in the strike with a string of stars and politicians that have flocked to Delano to express their concern and solidarity with the United Farm Worker president. He was the latest in a stream of public figures and celebrities who have come to the agricultural community in the San Joaquin Valley to witness the fast and lend support.

In a press conference Jackson told more than 100 reporters that the UFW planned to widen the boycott of table grapes by targeting three super-

Workers live in housing surrounded by sprayed fields.

Rev. Jesse Jackson at August 14 rally to support Chavez

On Sunday, August 14, the Reverend Jesse Jackson traveled to Delano to express his concern and solidarity with the United Farm Worker president. He was the latest in a stream of public figures and celebrities who have come to the agricultural community in the San Joaquin Valley to witness the fast and lend support.

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Continued Page 9
New Principal at Del Vallejo School

By George Martinez

Delfina Lopez-Bryant, age 49, resident of Highland, was recently named principal of Del Vallejo Middle School, which re-opens this September after six years of closure.

A small but by no means a meek woman, Lopez-Bryant is fast paced, quick to smile, and enthusiastic about her new challenge.

Del Vallejo School, which is located at 1885 East Lynwood Drive in San Bernardino, first opened as a junior high school in 1960 and in the spring of 1982 closed due to falling enrollments within the San Bernardino City Unified School District.

Lopez-Bryant grew up on Vine Street on the west side of San Bernardino, attended Ramona Elementary (now Casa Ramona Community Center), Alessandro, Franklin Junior High (now Martin Luther King School), and graduated from San Bernardino High School in 1957.

Recalling her early years, she described herself as shy and insecure. Her first job after high school was as a clerk trainee in the district superintendent’s office. She credits the secretaries and administrators she worked with at the district office for encouraging her to continue her education and her mother whom she described as “firm.” Although married with two small children at the time she decided to pursue her education, she nonetheless enrolled in college.

“I was so committed. I really wanted to be a teacher,” she stated. Lopez-Bryant graduated with honors from both San Bernardino Valley College and California State University, San Bernardino. Immediately after obtaining her teaching credential, she was hired as a bilingual teacher at Lytle Creek Elementary School. She continued her studies and ultimately obtained an administrative credential.

By chance, she decided to visit Wyoming with her sister and was offered a job as coordinator and teacher of a Chapter I program in Torrington, Wyoming. She later became Director of a Title VII Bilingual Program in Torrington which she helped design and build.

A highlight of her career was her appointment as principal of Alessandro Elementary School because she stated, “I had attended Alessandro and had grown up in that neighborhood.” This was not, however, her first administrative post having previously taken a position as principal of Coachella Valley View where she won the support and respect of the predominately Spanish speaking community. Although she had a very successful year at Coachella and the parents wanted her to stay, she longed to return to her home grounds, San Bernardino. She was also principal of Bradley Elementary for five years and more recently Principal on Assignment for the Superintendent, Dr. Neal Roberts, a position that required working closely with the principals of various district schools.

Her focus, as a teacher and administrator seems to have always been the student.

“We're here for students. We have to treat kids with dignity. We don't have to stand there and yell at them. When someone tries to tell me negative things about a child, I really don't want to hear about that. I am not going to judge them based on experiences at another school. If you make them feel good about themselves, they can learn and succeed.”

Delfina Lopez-Bryant at Del Vallejo Middle School

"Del" Lopez-Bryant

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Business of the Week

Tortillas “the Old Fashion Way”

By George Martinez

La Carreta Tortilleria located at 302 So. La Cadena Drive, Colton is run by Carmen Cervantes, 29, her brother Juan Cervantes, 21, and their sister Beatriz Guillen. They took over the business from their parents Gilberto and Celia Cervantes, now retired, but who still own the tortilleria. The tortilleria has been at its present location since 1970 and prior to that time it was on Harbor Street in Colton and at the corner of Mt. Vernon and Colton Avenue across from El Burrito. Gilberto purchased the business from the original owner in 1965 who had been in operation since the early 1940s.

“We still make tortillas the old fashion way,” states Carmen. She was referring to the fact that they use no preservatives, and prefer to hand rinse the corn as well as hand wrapping the tortillas once they come off the line. “We don’t want to brag, but when other tortillerias tell you you’re good, you’re good.” Carmen is in charge of production which includes the cooking of the raw corn, grinding it into masa or dough, running the tortillas through their assembly cookers, and packaging the finished product.

Few, if any tortillerias use only water and lime to process the corn. Most add preservatives and other chemicals to make the tortillas appear white instead of the golden color characteristic of La Carreta tortillas. Their concern seems to be with the amount of water content and the hand wrapping process which insures freshness. They also purchase their raw corn from California Com Distributors, considered to be the highest quality corn available.

According to Juan, who manages the distribution, they produce an average of 4,000 dozen corn tortillas and 1,500 dozen flour tortillas daily. On Saturdays they also sell tamales. Their busiest time for tamales is Christmas and they will sell approximately 1,000 dozen tamales during this holiday season. They also take special orders and occasionally cater. Future plans include establishing a deli at their present location in order to increase their catering business.

They distribute to a variety of locations such as the Price Club, Stater Brothers, Sequoia, and Taco Joes. They deliver directly to the San Bernardino area via a fleet of three company owned trucks but they also use independent distributors to service other areas such as Palm Springs and surrounding communities. A problem they encounter is competitive pricing. Because of their production process they can not charge lower prices as can the higher volume distributors. Still they take pride in their process and manage to retain the loyalty of their customers. They even encourage customers to try the other brands to compare, with confidence they will return.

Next time you’re in south Colton or even if you’re not, stop by La Carreta. You will not be disappointed.

Juan and Carmen Cervantes

Canto al Trabajador

What I know I learned
From my father's worker hands
Who are we and who are they?
Of right and wrong
Who has built the cities?
And where from came the riches

Juan Gómez-Quinones

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Congressman Esteban E. Torres Announces Fellowship Opportunities

Congressman Esteban E. Torres (D-Pico Rivera) today announced that four Hispanic graduate students are being sought nationwide to participate in a fellowship program established by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, Inc. (CHCI, Inc.)

Congressman Torres explained that the fellowship program which is supported by a grant from RJR/Nabisco Industries, Inc. and administered by the non-profit CHCI, Inc., provides selected Hispanic graduate students with internships in Congressional committees, and sub-committees. He noted that the primary goal of the RJR/Nabisco program is to encourage participation of young Hispanic citizens in the formulation of U.S. public policy.

This exciting and challenging program offers an excellent means for young Hispanics to become involved in the public policy making arena”, Congressman Torres said. “It is important not only for the individuals chosen to participate in the program but for the entire Hispanic Community — a community whose needs and aspirations will be better addressed as we increase the number of Hispanic citizens in local, state and national decision-making positions. The RJR/Nabisco program represents another significant step toward this goal.”

The fellowship, which is open to all Hispanic students majoring in political science and who have completed a minimum of 64 semester hours or 96 quarter hours, will provide recipients with a stipend of $1,000 per month, and transportation to and from Washington, D.C. The fellows are responsible for obtaining their own housing. Applications for the RJR/Nabisco program will be accepted through September 26, 1988. Internships begin on September 26, 1988.

The RJR/Nabisco program is searching for Hispanic graduate students who are committed to taking leadership positions within the Hispanic Community. Criteria for qualification in this program includes high academic achievement, participation in community leadership activities, enrollment in an accredited graduate school program, and completion of a nine month period (one academic stipend of $1,000 per month, and transportation to and from Washington, D.C. The fellows are responsible for obtaining their own housing. Applications for the RJR/Nabisco program will be accepted through September 26, 1988. Internships begin on September 26, 1988.

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For further information about the RJR/Nabisco program, or to obtain application, interested individuals are urged to call the CHCI, Inc. at 1-800-367-5273 or write to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, Inc. at 504 C. Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

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Concilio Accuses UCR Chancellor with Lack of Commitment to Hire More Chicano Faculty

By Sonia D.T. Rodriguez

The Concilio on Educational Excellence is experiencing feelings of frustration these days as they wait for responses from University of California, Riverside’s Chancellor Rosemary Schraer and Dr. David Gardner, president of the University of California.

Schraer on several occasions, the concilio is not satisfied with the chancellor’s “no response, no commitment plan” of action.

“The second meeting we had with the chancellor, we talked about staff recruitment, faculty recruitment, and student recruitment and retention,” said Miranda noting that they have failed to get any type of commitment from the chancellor on goals that deal with these issues.

According to Miranda, 2% of the faculty at UCR is Chicano, while Blacks comprise only 1%. On the state level, the Latino Issues Forum, a statewide Latino think tank, found that out of the 8,581 faculty earning over $40,000 — 2.3% were Hispanic, while Hispanics represent 24% of the state’s population.

“Education has been the heart of California’s productivity, the source of much of our inspiration, and the hope of our many and diverse peoples. Built on the commitments of generations of Californians, our schools, colleges and universities offer a message of opportunity and freedom. (quote from California Faces...California’s Future.)

The Concilio for Educational Excellence is working to make this statement a reality.

“The concilio is working at the university to see how it can improve to allow Hispanics to progress and become part of the system...right now it is geared for the Anglo community and we need to break that,” noted Martinez-S.

Since Chancellor Schraer failed to meet the July deadline, the concilio has written to Dr. David Gardner, President of the University of California and informed him of the situation at UCR.

The concilio has also asked to ad...
Casa Ramona is a community service center located on 1524 W. 7th street in San Bernardino. It is a social service center that has been providing much needed programs and services to community residents on the west side for many years.

Casa Ramona used to be an elementary school. It was bought from the city of San Bernardino for a very low amount, obviously not its market value. It was, in essence, a gift to the west side community of organizers who bought it to provide social services to residents of the area.

Five years ago Casa Ramona was a thriving community center that offered a number of social services and vocational training programs to the public. Today, Casa Ramona no longer has available the services it did several years ago. What has happened to the programs Casa Ramona had provided to the community, and why are they no longer available to west side residents?

Casa Ramona's executive director, Esther Estrada, is quick to point out that Casa Ramona has been able to successfully survive, and managed to maintain a large portion of its programs to the community despite what she calls a "10 year lean period" This, she says, has been brought on by the current administration and has lent hard times to many non-profit organizations and community service agencies who had in the past received adequate support from the federal government.

"Casa Ramona," says Estrada, "is in a unique position to continue offering programs and providing support to west side residents. This amid claims that Casa Ramona is a service center whose facilities are not being fully utilized. "Yes, we have had a large variety of programs available to the public, but they were not our programs," says Esther Estrada. Casa Ramona rented space to many different agencies. "These social services were funded by the federal government, and by the state and county."

"Funding from the state and federal government for social service centers was cut in half, and since there were no longer revenue sharing dollars for social service programs, many of the agencies that did rent out space from Casa Ramona such as the Mexican American Commission of the Catholic Diocese of San Bernardino, have had to close because of budget restraints."

Three years ago there was $1 million in revenue sharing dollars for social service centers, but due to state, county, and municipal cutbacks, there has been "zero" dollars allocated for community service centers. "All federal agencies have cut back on funds to social service centers," claims Ms. Estrada, "you can look at any federal budget for proof of that."

The Arrowhead United Way (AUW), a community charitable trust that raises funds to distribute to non-profit agencies that provide public services to the community, has been brought on by the current administration. "Again," says Esther, "there used to be many agencies that leased space from Casa Ramona to provide programs such as vocational training, a drug program, but they were not Casa Ramona's programs."

"During a period of very lean years, we have managed to provide, and continually so, services to the public," she identifies what has been called a 10 year "lean" period for all non-profit organizations. "This puts pressure on the Arrowhead United Way to appropriate money for service centers."

"Strict financial control is important. We needed to know how our money was being utilized for the community. Maybe what else Casa Ramona needs is legal and social services are being offered here once a week by Casa Ramona."

"We help people in filling out monthly social security and welfare forms, and various other government paperwork. Our amnesty seminars help people where funds we allocated to Casa Ramona were going," said Ruth Lewis, another board member. In the past, board members of AUW have complained of inadequate communication between Casa Ramona's directors and their agency.

A meeting was held at the Arrowhead United Way on August 17 to clarify the information submitted by Esther Estrada at their request.

"We simply had a lot less money to work with this year," stated Dorothy Collins, Vice-Chairperson of Agency Relations. Steve Sutherland, another member of the board of allocators stated, "It is up to us to allocate monies to social services that are doing the most for the community. We found other programs and agencies where the money was being better utilized for many services."

Direct services of Casa Ramona include Child Development Center, and a Senior Nutrition Program. Outreach, information and referral services are also available. "One of the agencies in referring people where to go for filling and filing residency papers, etc. We are a referral and educational point for people on that issue."

Casa Ramona also provides free rent to the Adult English as a Second Language program offered by the city. This program runs 9 months out of the year. They also operate the Drop-In Center, an extension of information for the city and county that the city was going to drop, but Casa Ramona picked up. They also run Navidad En El Barrio, that provides a Christmas basket giveaway for hundreds of families.

The feeling of the Arrowhead United Way is that Casa Ramona is community service center whose facilities are not being fully utilized. They point out the drug program that was offered at Casa Ramona, the legal aid clinic, and adult English as a Second Language Programs that have been offered in the past. The feeling seems to be, from Arrowhead United Way, and some resident on the west side, that Casa Ramona is not what it used to be.

"Again," says Esther, "there used to be many agencies that leased space from Casa Ramona to provide programs such as vocational training, and a drug program, but they were not Casa Ramona's programs."

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Said Sue Borror, an AUW official, "Strict financial control is important. We needed to know how our money was being utilized for the community. Maybe what else Casa Ramona needs is continued on page 9.
Inland Empire Hispanic News

Carlos Fuentes, Mexico’s Leading Writer, To Speak At UCR

Carlos Fuentes, Mexico’s leading novelist and critic and one of the world’s most important literary figures, will speak on literature, politics and international relations at 8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 26, at UC Riverside.

“An Evening with Carlos Fuentes” will be presented in the University Theater on campus. Tickets are $5 per person and will go on sale Sept. 12. There will be no charge for UCR students.

Fuentes, who has been featured on the television program “60 Minutes,” is the author of a number of novels including The Old Gringo, currently being made into a movie starring Jane Fonda, Gregory Peck and Jimmy Smits.

Fuentes teaches at Harvard University. Fuentes’ talk is sponsored by the University of California Consortium on Mexico and the United States (UC MEXUS) and the World Affairs Council of Inland Southern California.

He is an outspoken critic of U.S. foreign policy in Latin America and political corruption in Mexico, having written numerous opinion articles for such newspapers as the Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Washington Post and Boston Globe.

“His insights are very provocative. They make people think,” said Eliud Martinez, associate professor of comparative literature at UCR. “When he speaks, his images are vivid, his language is arresting and he injects humor.

“He makes you see international relations from both sides, but he shows how you only get one side in this country. Because he is totally international—and totally bicultural and bilingual—he knows this country as well as his own, and he illuminates our perception of our own country.”

Fuentes, 59, incorporates his political views even in his fiction work, according to Martinez. His first book, Where the Air is Clear published in 1958, attacks what Martinez calls Mexican hypocrisy.

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“He attacks the aristocratic people who pretend to be Europeans, who throw French phrases around, and pretend to be better than the poor people of Mexico,” Martinez said.

He is perhaps best known for the Death of Armando Cruz, which received wide critical acclaim when it was published in 1962. He is also the author of A Change of Skin, Terra Nostra and The Old Gringo, a national best seller in the United States in 1985.

Fuentes is generally regarded as the greatest Mexican writer of the 20th century, according to Martinez. “In recent years, he has realized the dream that he expressed to an interviewer when he was young that he wanted to be the Tolstoy of Mexico. The novel Terra Nostra lives up—in a different historical context, of course—to that magnificent voltm by Tolstoy, War and Peace.”

Fuentes has also served his country in various foreign policy positions, including ambassador to France from 1974 to 1977. Fuentes currently is serving as visiting professor of comparative literature and of romance languages and literature at Harvard University. He has also taught at Cambridge University, Columbia, Princeton and Dartmouth.

In April, Fuentes received the Miguel de Cervantes Prize at the University of Alcalá in Madrid. King Juan Carlos presented the award, which included an honorarium of about $90,000.

In 1984, he was awarded the National Prize in Literature, Mexico’s highest literary award, by President Miguel de la Madrid.

After his talk at UCR, Fuentes will visit the University of California campuses in San Diego, San Francisco and Berkeley.

Tickets can be purchased at the Fine Arts Ticket Office at UCR, open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Phone orders can be placed by calling (714) 787-4331. There will be a $1 service charge on phone orders.
Hispanic News
Inland Empire Hispanic News

Lopez-Bryant
Continued from Page 4

“We have to make sure that we hire the best teachers,” she stated, “that we hire, maintain, and train teachers that meet the needs of students”

Regarding her personal interests she states, “I enjoy reading and dancing.” She particularly enjoys historical literature and dancing to Latino music. “I’ve always been proud of my Hispanic heritage,” she stated. Whenever she has the opportunity, she encourages Latino students to speak their language and not be ashamed of their culture.

Lopez-Bryant is one of two Hispanic principals in a district that has eight middle school principals. Of the 36 elementary school principals there are six who are Hispanic. Of the three comprehensive high schools there are no Hispanic principals.

She is ambitious, competent, and, hopefully, a candidate for higher position within the San Bernardino Unified School District.

Chavez: United Farm Workers
Continued from Page 3

market chains - Safeway, Ralph’s and A&P. Of his meeting with Chavez, Jackson told the crowd of 3,000 supporters who gathered, that “we talked together and we strategized together.”

When Chavez ends his fast, Jackson said he will fast three days. “I’ll pick up the baton and carry it another lap. We’ll keep passing the baton until justice comes to the worker.”

Separatedly grape growers reacted sharply to UFW claims that the fast has led to reduced sales of table grapes in supermarkets. Grapes, they will insist, are safe to eat and selling well. But the boycott’s impact may not be known until growers and store owners release sales figures after the end of the year. The recent public attention has invigorated union support and sparked picketing and sympathy rallies.

Nonetheless, some growers reluctantly agreed that the fast has shoved the struggling UFW back into the national spotlight and rekindled public awareness of the boycott.

The fast is a repeat of a 25-day fast in 1968, which drew, then, presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy to Chavez’s bedside. The 1968 fast was to gain recognition of the United Farm Workers union. Now there are concerns that a much older Chavez may have suffered permanent physical damage. His physician, Dr. Fidel Huerta, reported that the labor leader has lost 30 pounds. Chavez’s body has used up all its fat reserves and is now utilizing the proteins in his muscle tissue. He is becoming weaker and can no longer take his morning walk. Chavez has a dangerously high uric acid level, a condition that could lead to kidney failure.

It is believed that Chavez will end the fast on August 21st at a Mass in the union compound in Delano.

“We have to make sure that we hire and maintain, and train teachers that meet the needs of students.”

She particularly enjoys historical literature and dancing to Latino music. “I’ve always been proud of my Hispanic heritage,” she stated. Whenever she has the opportunity, she encourages Latino students to speak their language and not be ashamed of their culture.

She is ambitious, competent, and, hopefully, a candidate for higher position within the San Bernardino Unified School District.

Casa Ramona
Continued from Page 7

a board that meets more than once every other month.” This, in order to perhaps fully review programs and services and optimize how the center can be fully utilized.

Estrada states that Casa Ramona is very appreciative of the support it receives from Arrowhead United Way. “We would like to at least be funded at last year’s level, but that is not possible. We will attempt to find other monies to replace lost dollars.”

Traditional services for the Hispanic community are changing, says Estrada. “New comers to the Hispanic community are monolinguals - Spanish speaking - as these new residents are new immigrants.” There exists a need for more bilingual services and teachers, said Estrada in her meeting with Arrowhead United Way.

Our Hispanic community on the west side is dynamic and ever changing. The services and programs social service centers such as Casa Ramona provide must change along with it. With charitable groups such as the Arrowhead United Way lending a strong hand, people helping people will make a difference in the lives of west side community residents.

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"Carlos" Norris: A Very Popular Actor with Hispanics

Submitted by Carranza Group

Born in Ryan, Oklahoma, Chuck ("Carlos" is his legal first name) Norris moved to San Francisco, California at the age of 12. Upon graduation from high school, he married his high school sweetheart, Diane. Soon thereafter, he joined the Air Force and was sent to Osan, Korea. It was there that he first discovered the world of judo and karate. Norris began training six days a week, five hours a day. "Studying Karate changed my entire outlook on life," he recalls. "For the first time, I realized that there was nothing I couldn't achieve. It also taught me the importance of discipline and self-respect."

Norris returned to the United States in 1961 with a black belt in karate and a brown belt in judo. In 1962, he was discharged from the Air Force and began teaching karate full-time. Norris went on to become the Professional World Middleweight Champion in karate in 1968, a title he held until he retired undefeated in 1974. "I wanted a change," he explains. "I had my karate schools, but I felt I was becoming complacent."

On the advice of Steve McQueen, a karate student of six years standing, Norris decided to take up acting. Although Chuck Norris' feature film debut came as Bruce Lee's adversary in "Return of the Dragon" in 1972, "Good Guys Wear Black" (1979) is generally considered the first "real" Chuck Norris film. There then followed, in rapid succession, "A Force of One," "The Octagon" and "An Eye For An Eye."

Chuck Norris in "Hero"

It was not until "The Way of the Dragon" in 1972 that Norris broke through to mainstream audiences (the film did $15 million at the box office). In 1984, Norris starred in "Missing in Action," one of his most successful films to date. In 1985, he reprised the same in "Missing in Action II: The Beginning." Later that year, Norris starred in "Code of Silence" for Orion Pictures, which brought him considerable critical success and an exclusive seven year multi-picture deal with Cannon Films.

To date, Norris has completed four films for Cannon, including "Invasion U.S.A.", "The Delta Force," "Braddock: Missing in Action III" and "Hero." In addition to being one of the highest-grossing stars at the box office, Chuck Norris today is the #1 star in the international video market.

Later this year, he will start production "Delta Force II," directed by brother, Aaron Norris, who previously helmed "Braddock: Missing In Action III.

His role in "Hero" is admittedly something of a departure for Norris. "I choose roles for the characters," he explains. "HERO" is a well-written script with relationships that have substance. I also have a relationship with a woman, which is unusual in my type of films. The emotional range goes from extreme love to extreme terror in "HERO."

In addition to being one of the busiest actors in Hollywood, Chuck Norris also became an author with the publication of his first book, "The Secret of Inner Strength" (Little-Brown) earlier this year. "Too young" to write his autobiography, Norris wrote instead about his positive, goal-oriented outlook on life - something he has long wanted to share with others, and particularly with those who may be a little confused about the direction of their own lives.

Chuck Norris also became the Chairman of the Hospitalized Vietnam Veterans in 1988, supporting this group with public service announcements and regular visits to V.A. hospitals. The subject of the treatment of veterans has been close to his heart since he himself lost of his younger brothers in Vietnam in 1970.

A man who appreciates his own success, Norris is determined to give back what he can to the people who have supported him over the years, and to those less fortunate than himself. He recently created "Punts For Kids," an offshoot of the "Make A Wish Foundation" for terminally ill children. It is not surprising to see these children making personal visits to his sets and having lunch with him. He also flies children in from around the country for an expenses-paid week in Hollywood, complete with limo rides and the opportunity to hob-nob with the famous. The climax of the weekend is a private screening of one of his films.

In addition to running his own production company, Top Kick Productions, and his wife Diane's music company, TMF (Too Much Fun), Norris is the President of the Black Belt United Fighting Arts Federation, which holds a yearly tournament in Las Vegas attended by over 600 black belt teachers from around the country.

A devoted family man, Norris attributes much of his success to his marriage of 29 years and his two sons, Eric and Michael.
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