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Reapportionment Conference: Empowerment sought for women, minorities

By: Charles A. Steves

The Institute for Social Justice and the Rose Institute brought together a diverse group of more than one hundred people from throughout Southern California for a two day conference at McKenna College, Claremont. Representatives of groups included the National Organization for Women, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Asian-Pacific Women's Network and the NAACP. The main goal for the two day conference was to discuss the forthcoming apportionment in 1991, the effect of these political changes on minorities, and most importantly, how the current reapportionment process should be changed to reflect the legislative representation of elected officials of the minority population throughout California.

Speakers stated that, as the population grows throughout the state, the need for better representation from every segment of the community is essential for better representation at the state level. The number of state representatives has been static and currently, they (the representatives) represent a larger number of citizens due to population increases.

"An increased legislature is needed," explained Leroy Hardy, senior research associate for the Rose Institute. "With a projected fifty-two congressmen and assemblymen three-hundred eight instead of the present eighty. People are willing to spend more money (on more legislators) if they get something in return."

Future Leaders to get view from the top

Future Leaders will participate in open air mountain top workshops at Oak Glen starting July 15. See story and more photos on page 4.

Getting something in return was definitely on the minds of the conference participants. As Art Pagdan of the Filipino-American Public Affairs council stated: "We want what you want. But we want the same pieces as you, not the crumbs."

Kathy Spillar, with the Fund for the Feminist Majority, wants gender balance legislation implemented. "There is a difference that women make when they are in power, child care and abortion rights get on the table." She also wants to increase the legislature with double representation. One man and one woman from each district.

"California can expect to gain up to eight additional seats in the U.S. House of Representatives of which minorities can only expect to claim one," stated Tony Quinn, a former Assembly Minority Consultant. He also added that there has not been a very well organized effort on the part of the Asians and Latinos to get elected on the local school boards and city councils in order that these local minority elected officials can move up to higher offices when opportunities become available.

The opportunity to elect minorities to these local and national level offices will be greatly enhanced if the goals of the conference for the apportionment struggle are achieved. These goals being the setting of district lines that favor the realities of the population growth. The realization, for minorities, of concise borders that consolidate their particular groups, enhances the ability for the election of their own local candidates. The conference was designed to give women and minorities the forum to express their views, set aside some partisan politics, and form a coalition that will be able to impact the forthcoming apportionment.

According to Dr. Armando Navarro, Executive Director of the Institute for Social Justice and keynote speaker at the conference, "We want what you want. By empowering other people we would empower ourselves," said Richard Santillan, chair with the Women and Ethics program at Pomona College. This empowerment, he stated, can be realized with this new coalition putting pressure on the incumbents and the process of reapportionment.

According to Dr. Armando Navarro, Executive Director of the Institute for Social Justice and keynote speaker at the conference: "By empowering other people we would empower ourselves," said Richard Santillan, chair with the Women and Ethics program at Pomona College. This empowerment, he stated, can be realized with this new coalition putting pressure on the incumbents and the process of reapportionment.

Conference Keynoter Dr. Armando Navarro Executive Director, I.S.J.

Justice, this coalition council can then put the most pressure on the Governor, Legislature and political parties. Dr. Navarro feels that the future of California politics rests with the ability of each ethnic, racial or gender group to work with one another not against one another. "Reapportionment offers an opportunity to people who believe that government should be controlled by the many and not by the few. If California is truly to be the pace-setter, a state of progress where democracy is a reality for all, we cannot tolerate reapportionment politics as usual."
Dr. Michael Silvas, M.D.
Physician and Community Servant

Dr. Michael Silvas is one of a few but ever-increasing number of Hispanic physicians in the Inland Empire. I had been unsuccessful in interviewing him, but persistence won out. We sat in his small, but comfortable, office and being the end of the day, this young physician looked very exhausted. He projected an image of a serious and dedicated professional, but self-conscious about discussing his background and career.

Being aware that, in addition to a successful medical practice, he is very involved in numerous community and cultural activities, we talked about his participation in these activities for starters.

"I feel that every person should be involved in his community," he said. "This is why I volunteer for different projects to do what I can." Doing what he can includes planning a free health clinic in the Westside as a member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino, and in which he received the Distinguished Service Award. He is currently the attending physician for sports at Aquinas High School (since 1985); the Colton boxing Association; and a Kiwanis project under the direction of Dr. Tom Rivera, Cal-State, San Bernardino; Mentor for Project Puente, Dr. Tom Rivera, Cal-State, San Bernardino, and in which he received the Distinguished Service Award. He is currently the attending physician for sports at Aquinas High School (since 1985); the Colton boxing Association; and a Kiwanis project under the direction of Dr. Tom Rivera, Cal-State, San Bernardino; Mentor for Project Puente.

"I asked Dr. Silvas when did he make the decision to become a physician. "At San Diego State, I had two role models. Dr. Michael Bajo encouraged me to strive for a professional career and Dr. Matthews, our family physician who helped many people, especially minorities, gave me the inspiration to become a doctor and help people." In 1975, he enrolled at UC Davis as an undergraduate, eventually receiving his B.A. He applied to 15 medical schools and 7 schools accepted his application. However, he opted to stay at UC Davis.

"Becoming a medical student was hard and every class was very important in my curriculum. It was very competitive and we had to do well in tests. I didn't have time for relaxation, however, as a medical student, I worked at the Clinica Tepito Free Health Clinic on weekends." He applied to UC Davis.

"Disabled persons who work in spite of their disability should be aware of a new law designed to help them retain or regain Medicare coverage", Mr. Hodgson, Social Security manager in San Bernardino said.

"The earliest possible month of coverage under the new rule is July. However, if your Medicare coverage has already lapsed, you must sign up by June 30 if you want your coverage to begin July 1, 1990," Mr. Hodgson said.

Social Security beneficiaries who return to work generally have Medicare coverage, as well as medical insurance, under Medicare.

One of his interests was dancing and in 1979, he joined the Ballet Folklórico dance troupe at Davis where he met Yolanda Cota. They were married in 1980 and currently celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary. Their children are Sonia 8, Anthony 5, Marissa 4 and Robert 2.

Graduating in 1982, Dr. Silvas did his internship and residency at San Bernardino County Medical Center, completing the training in 1985. Thereafter, he joined the San Bernardino Medical Group.

The highlight of Dr. Silvas' medical career is the recent establishment of his own medical office which is located at St. Bernardine Medical Center.

Dr. Silvas is currently on ten state-wide committees which include the Office of Affirmative Action Committee and Admissions Committee at UC Davis, Advisor in Minorities in Health Professionals at the State level, San Bernardino County Medical Society's Emergency Committee, and other local committees. He is currently certified in controlled substances, advanced cardiac life support and basic life support.

In concluding the interview, I asked Dr. Silvas his life's philosophy and whether he was concerned about early burnout in his career.

"Early in life, I became motivated to help people, especially people that don't have the resources to help themselves. I was fortunate to be guided in a career that is very rewarding. It is very hard to become a doctor, especially for minorities, but it can happen with commitment and hard work. There were times when I was ready to quit, but there was the support of my family and friends. We have to encourage our young Hispanics to become doctors and professionals and that they be committed to work in the Hispanic community where there is a tremendous need for services. Although I work hard as a doctor and involved in community work, the most important is my family and I try to give them as much time as possible. I think the commitment to family is a big reason for the successes we Hispanics have over a lot of adversities." Dr. Michael Silvas has also become a role model in our community.
Mayor names Salvador as project coordinator

At today's Council Meeting, the San Bernardino City Council unanimously approved Mayor Holcomb's appointment of Ray Q. Salvador as Project Coordinator for the Mayor's Office.

Salvador formerly served as a Congressional Assistant to Congressman George E. Brown, Jr., in Brown's Colton District Office and also served as a legislative intern in Brown's Washington, D.C. Office.

Salvador is a graduate of Loma Linda University where he majored in political science. He replaces Jerry Butler who was recently appointed to the position of Director of the Rent Review Board.

In announcing the appointment, Mayor Holcomb stated "I am pleased that Mr. Salvador is joining my staff. He has a strong legislative background and extensive experience in handling constituents' concerns, and he will be a fine complement to my staff. I look forward to having him on board."

Ayala honored by AM-VETS

State Senator Ruben S. Ayala (D-Chino) has been named the recipient of the 1990 Legislative Award by the (AMVET) American Veterans of World War II - Korea - Vietnam, Department of California.

The presentation of the award was scheduled to take place Saturday, June 23 during the general session of the AMVET Convention in Visalia, California.

"Senator Ayala was chosen as the AMVET Legislative Award recipient for his outstanding contribution of efforts toward the benefit of the California veteran," said State AMVET Commander Lyndel "Busch" Madole.

One of Ayala's key assignments in the State Senate is to serve on the five-member standing Committee on Veterans affairs. He also represents the State Legislature on the Veterans Home of Southern California Advisory Site Selection Committee.

Ayala is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and saw action during World War II in the South Pacific with the First Marine Division.

1991 Orange Show - May 9 - 19

C. Roger Cooper, President, National Orange Show Board of Directors, announced that the Board of Directors have approved the dates of May 9-19 for the 1991 annual National Orange Show.

Upon studying previous years statistics and the desire to expand youth/education programs, the Board of Directors of the National Orange Show view the May 9-19, 1991, dates as a positive move.

Programs that the National Orange Show will expand are the community competitive programs of home arts, fine arts, flowers, etc. Special emphasis will be brought toward 4H, FFA, Youth Programs and expanding the new 1990 program of the School Tours.

San Bernardino County Fair set for July 27 - August 5

AB 2822 passed by Committee

Legislation which requires that the effects of drugs and alcohol on prenatal development be taught to all high school students in California passed its toughest test to date, passing the Senate Education Committee by a 6-0 vote.

AB 2822 by Assembly Paul Woodruff (R-Rialto) has received wide-ranging bipartisan support within the state legislature and from organizations such as Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, The Department of Education, The California School Board Association, The California School Nurses Organization, Women's Lobby, California State PTA, Chemical Dependency Center for Women, and California Association of Public Health Nurses.

A proposal suggested in committee today to weaken the bill was rejected and AB 2822 passed in its original form.

Citing statistics from the California Department of Health Services, Woodruff noted that, "as many as 25,000 infants born in California from 1987-1988 were exposed to illegal drugs before birth."

"Drug-exposed infants are filling neonatal intensive care units and nurseries at costs that can reach $2,000 a day. As they grow up, these infants are likely to develop behavioral problems that will hinder their progress throughout their lives," Woodruff continued.

Carolyn Hughes, Director of Child Development at UC Davis Medical Center, noted, "The long term outcomes for pre-natal exposure (to drugs and alcohol) look bleak and the cost to society as these children mature will be staggering."

"Most of our students will one day become parents. They need to be fully aware of the harm drugs and alcohol can have on prenatal development. AB 2822 will ensure that they receive this vital education," Woodruff concluded.
Future Leaders

By Raymond Navarro Jr.

Future leaders hard at work in an open air mountain workshop.

On July 15, 1990, over 100 8th and 9th grade Latino youth from Riverside/ San Bernardino area will be preparing to leave for Camp OAK GLEN to embark on a week-long Latino Youth Leadership conference. This annual event is the cornerstone of the Inland Empire Future Leaders Program founded in 1985 by volunteer community educators from the San Bernardino area and sponsored by the Inland Empire Future Leaders, Association of Mexican-American Educators, California State University San Bernardino and Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino. Since 1985, over 540 youths have had the opportunity to participate in workshops focusing on leadership styles, public speaking, parliamentary procedures, lobbying for a position, university entrance requirements, cultural awareness and the judicial process. With Latino professionals from various fields to serve as workshop facilitators, panelists and sponsors, the youths have had positive role models to learn valuable community building skills.

However, one of the most important skills learned by the youth is team building. In order to be an effective leader, one must learn to be a team player and supportive follower. The students experience one week of living and working together as a unit or "familia." The skills developed during this intense period translates into an effective learning process which will stay with the student throughout his/her lifetime.

According to Dr. Tom Rivera, Inland Empire Board Chair, Associate Dean of Educational Support Services at California State University San Bernardino and Kiwanis Future Leaders Committee Chair, Future Leaders is a stepping stone for students to become involved in high school/community clubs and organizations in leadership positions. Many of the conference participants become involved with groups like the Key Club or Student Government.

Dr. Rivera also stated that without the community support, this program would not exist. For example, the Gannett Foundation contributed $5000 to help with the costs of the program. Other donors have included TARGET STORES, KAISER PERMANENTE, KRAFT FOODS INC., AMERICAN GI FORUM, SENATOR RUBEN AYALA/ CSUSB, GENT'S ORGANIZATION, GREATER RIVERSIDE HISPANIC & INLAND EMPIRE HISPANIC CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER SAN BERNARDINO & POMONA, LAS CUATRO MILPAS TORTILLAS, HUGHES EMPLOY-

(At the camp, there are 12 groups or "Familias" with 10 to 12 8th/9th grade students per group. Each "Familia" has a facilitator, peer counselor and an A-Team representative. The students are selected each spring based on school counselors' and/or instructor recommendations, grade point average, autobiographical statement and school/community activities. The peer counselors are students who have participated in the program. The facilitators are interested adults willing to give their time to work with a group of young people for one week of personal growth. The A-Team assists the group by serving as an all-around resource person.

Throughout the week, the students attend workshops, participate in games, plan skits, sing songs, search for their identity and make long-lasting friends. They experience what it's really like to be in a real situation in an actual court setting with local attorneys. They get the opportunity to try new experiences like traditional arts/dancing or speaking before a large audience. When the week ends, the youths get a chance to acknowledge their accomplishments in front of their parents in a special assembly at Cal State San Bernardino. This year, the program will be held on July 20.)
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Together we can brighten the future.
Census nears goals -but more workers are still needed

The U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of the Census announced today that 82.5% of California housing units have now been counted as part of the 1990 Decennial Census. This figure combines the mail return of questionnaires with door-to-door enumeration, which now enters its final weeks. “Crossing the three-quarters mark is significant and encouraging,” said John Reeder, Regional Director of the Census Bureau in California. “We are in our door-to-door phase across the state, and it is going well.”

The 1990 Census effort is being hampered by not being able to hire enough people to complete this massive head count in a timely manner. Through the end of June, the Bureau is attempting to hire census takers to visit households whose occupants did not fill out and mail back their census forms.

The Census is creating more than 45,000 jobs across the State of California this spring and early summer, and the Bureau is mounting a massive recruiting campaign to attract applicants. To date, however, the number of qualified applicants has reached only 74% of the projected need.

Census jobs are open to qualified applicants 18 years of age and over, and efforts are being made to hire applicants who live in the areas where they will be working usually within 5 miles of their homes. Bilingual candidates are especially encouraged to apply.

Classified

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Congratulations to my friend, Nick Lujano from Grant Elementary School, Colton, for improvement in your grades.
Graciano Gomez
Colton Latina Valedictorian: Just beginning

"My goal to become valedictorian was developed since eighth grade," she said. "I also wanted to get the most out of my high school years. Neither goal changed throughout these years. Instead, the goals became more valued and important as the years progressed." Based on criteria for this honor, she accumulated a total of 985 grade points which was augmented with honor classes and college work. The highlight of the graduation ceremonies was her speech in Spanish, for which she is fluent, and English.

Born in Merced, California, the family lived in Turlock and Fresno. "I lived with my grandmother and while still very young, she required me to learn the timetables, read and study, all in Spanish, which was my primary language. This was probably where I developed my motivation to learn," she said. During her third grade, she was in the Gate Program! At age 12, the family moved to Colton and eventually to San Bernardino, where she spent her freshman year at Cajon High School, later enrolled in Colton High during her sophomore year.

Ms. Peñaloza says that the driving force for her accomplishments lie in limits. "I have always had a desire to go beyond limits that others have set for me," she said. She sees the sources of this as "the things I have seen others go through and the desire to do what my parents would have dreamed to accomplish."

She credits her parents as a big influence in her life. "They played a very big role in my goals and growth. They have offered support during times in which my determination was low. This has been a learning experience for my father and he has been patient and understanding. My mother has been the main force behind my determination to achieve. She made herself available, whether it be transportation to UCR, library, special classes or activities relating to my school work. I will be forever grateful for their supportive role in my educational goals," she said proudly.

Peñaloza will be attending UC Berkeley in the fall. "Hopefully, I will be able to utilize my learning experience to do well in furthering my education," she said. She will major in international economics with a minor in political science or communications. "In pursuit of my goals, I have learned much about people and what is fair. I have learned that people must always fight for what they believe, and only in this way can fairness be achieved."

"I also identify myself as an Hispanic and as such, this is a new prospective of people and experiences. I feel that earned success is to be proud of being Hispanic, otherwise, other stereotypes are made. The struggle is not over for me or for all Hispanics and hope some day that all of us will achieve our total potential. All people, no matter who they are, should not be afraid to fight for what they believe in and to understand that the world is very unfair. Sometimes, things will not always turn out the way we expect. We should also remember that the important lies in our personal satisfaction of what we have accomplished."

Ms. Peñaloza was involved in the House of Representatives, Girls League, Honor Society, Key Club, Pepper Bough, Association Student Body and various sports. Her community involvement included Future Leaders of America - board member, Los Angeles County Counselor, and director-intern, Church Youth Group, Chicano/Latino Youth Leadership Project - vice president and Washington Workshops.

Her academic awards included four Academic Excellence Awards, three High GPA Student Recognition awards, Quill and Scroll Excellence Award and Top Honors. Student of the Month Award, Social Science Award and six Certificate of Recognition in academic subjects.

Non-academic awards were Inland Journalism Educators Association Award, fire student activity awards, Rotary Youth Leadership Award and Outstanding Girl in Track and Field.

Luis and Olivia Peñaloza are proud parents.

Additional contribution to this article was made by G. Gomez.

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Tomas Rivera scholarships earned by 3 U.C.R. Latinos

RIVERSIDE - Three Latina students at the University of California, Riverside, have been awarded $1,000 Tomas Rivera Scholarships and a fourth has been awarded a $250 scholarship for the 1990-91 academic term.

Recipients of the $1,000 scholarships are Angela Gonzalez, of Highland; Araceli Ramirez, of Indio; and Marisa Villarreal, of Coachella. Martha Cabrera, of Bakersfield, received the $250 scholarship for the fall quarter.

The scholarships are awarded each year in the memory of the late Tomas Rivera, the University of California's first minority chancellor, who was a national leader in Hispanic education issues and noted poet and novelist. Dr. Rivera died in 1984 while serving as chancellor at UCR.

Preference for the Tomas Rivera Scholarship is given to students who demonstrate a potential in creative writing; those majoring in literature, and those heading toward a career in elementary or secondary education.

Gonzalez, a history major, plans to teach at a community college. She is active in the UCR Learning Center and Community Tutorial and participates in Amnesty International.

Ramirez, a liberal studies major who has served as chair of UCR's Tomas Rivera Teachers Association and secretary of UCR MEChA, is aiming for a career as an elementary school teacher. Villarreal, political science major who has served as chair of the Chicano Pre-Law Association and teaching and law school in her future.

Cabrera, a human development major currently studying in Italy with the UC Education Abroad Program, plans to study experimental psychology in graduate school and to carry on a career working with autistic children.