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"The University of Michigan recognized that minorities are not afforded all of the same educational opportunities that middle and upper class white children are afforded," Baca said. "Hispanics are the largest minority group in this country. There are nearly 39 million Hispanics now, yet only about 6 million of us even have Bachelor's degrees. With its policies, the University was trying to level the playing field. I applaud that effort."

"I applaud the court for recognizing that race should be considered in the admission's process, because if we don't allow it as a factor, many minorities will be left behind," Baca said.

"The University says that we should not be satisfied with our current numbers of minorities on American college campuses," Baca said. "But other than nice words, what does he have to offer?" Baca opposes the dismantling in California of statewide affirmative action policies.

"California and Texas are states with the largest Hispanic populations in the country and they have dismantled their policies," Baca said. "I hope this decision will cause the states to rethink their policies in California, we are far from seeing equality in educational opportunities for minorities."

CHAUNCEY VEATCH, NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR, TO SPEAK AT HISPANIC EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION RECEPTION

Chauncey Veatch, National Teacher of the Year 2002-2003, will be the keynote speaker at the Annual Hispanic Education Foundation's reception on Thursday, July 10, 2003, at the Riverside Marriott, 3400 Market Street, Riverside, at 5:30 P.M. with this year's theme, "Improving the Future."

The reception features a keynote address by Chauncey Veatch, National Teacher of the Year 2002-2003, and a luncheon program that includes George Garcia, President; Olifia Valdez, Treasurer; Richard Ramirez, Secretary; Linda Miranda, Executive Director; and Robert Rodríguez, Resource Specialist.

The public is invited to RSVP: call Graciano Gomez at (909) 381-6259 or Olifia Valdez at (909) 788-6075 or at 222-8066.

BACA APPLAUDS COURT DECISION ALLOWING CONSIDERATION OF RACE; CALLS FOR CALIFORNIA TO RETHINK POLICIES

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MARTIN VALDEZ ANNOUNCES BID FOR SAN BERNARDINO'S 5TH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Martin Valdez, chief of staff for San Bernardino's Fifth District Supervisor Jerry Eaves, announced his candidacy for the Fifth District Supervisor District. See Article on page 2
Inland Empire Hispanic News

Wednesday, July 2, 2003

MARTIN VALDEZ ANNOUNCES BID FOR SAN BERNARDINO’S 5TH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Martin Valdez, chief of staff for San Bernardino’s 5th District Supervisor Jerry Jones since December, 2001, announced his candidacy for the 5th District Supervisor at a fundraising reception at Carlos O’Brien in San Bernardino.

“Growing up and working in San Bernardino’s 5th District has given me first hand knowledge about the needs in our community,” he said. “We all want desirable neighborhoods, affordable housing, safe, crime-free communities, good local jobs, healthy living and good schools.”

Educated in the city schools system, Valdez received a BA in Political Science and has enrolled in courses on public administration, at Cal-State, San Bernardino.

Valdez’ mother, Cruz, a community activist, inspired her son to be active in his community. “My mother encouraged me to become involved and serve for the betterment of our neighborhood and outreach to those in need,” he said.

RICOS FAMILY CELEBRATE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Joe and Frances Rios, nee Espinosa, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a renewal of their wedding vows with Father Bob Miller officiating at a Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, San Bernardino, on March 15, 2003. The church ceremony was attended by their children, grandchildren Mia, Marty, and Monique.

As a candidate of the 5th District I am fully aware of the needs and ably qualified to meet those needs,” he said.

Centro de Niños Day Care Center’s graduating class of 2003, pictured above, were prepared to enter into 12 years of pre-college elementary and secondary educational environment. The Center operates three day care centers in the Inland Empire.

Centro de Niños, Riverside, held its Annual Graduation Ceremonies on June 18, 2003, graduating 40 day care preschool students, attended by parents, community supporters and school personnel.

Nati Fuentes, executive director of Centro de Niños, welcomed the audience and commented on the accomplishments of the students. “They, the students, are prepared to enter into a kindergarten environment,” she said.

Javier Rosales, executive director of the City of Riverside Human Relations Commission and board member of the Centro de Niños, was guest speaker.

Rios spoke on the importance of early education for children to learn the basics in preparation to entering elementary school. He also stressed the need for parent involvement in their children’s education and in participation in school activities.

Concito for Spanish Speaking of the Inland Empire, a private, non-profit group, established a bilingual, bicultural day care center in 1980 in the City of Riverside. The group currently operates three day care centers in the Inland Empire for children ages 3 to 14 years.

The group has established an extensive networking system to provide resources for its families and students.


The Inland Empire Hispanic News is owned and operated by the Hispanic Communication and Development Corporation.

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Design/Layout: Charla Pazuckiewicz
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Account Executive: Marcelo Portal
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Distribution: Art Ramos

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San Bernardino, CA 92404

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ORGANIZATION OF LATINOS FOR EDUCATION
ORGANIZED IN SAN BERNARDINO

Edators, classified employees and residents in the San Bernardino and adjacent areas have joined in forming the Organization of Latinos for Education (OLE) at a reception at the San Bernardino School District’s Human Resource Center.

Mel Albiso, president, welcomed over 100 educators, school personnel and visitors. "We are the largest majority group in our area and our Latino youth comprises the largest enrollments in the school districts in the area. It is of critical importance that we have a viable organization that works with school districts and supports the educational programs for our students. OLE was organized to provide leadership, advocacy, equal employment opportunities, social activities in support of the education of the Latino students and the community," he said.

The audience responded enthusiastically with the announcement of a group to support the education of Latino students in the area.

Alviso introduced the new executive board: Delfina Bryant, vice president, Marisol Naso, secretary and Albert Roman, treasurer.

Albiso announced that OLE’s executive board has initially recognized individuals that strongly support the education of Latino students in the area. The following were presented certificates of commendation: San Bernardino School District’s Superintendent Dr. Arturo Delgado, SBUSD Trustees Elisa Valdez and Teresa Parra, CSUSB Professor Dr. Nena Torres and Colton School District Trustee David Zamora.

CALVADA recently announced the appointment of J. M. (Manny) Sanchez as director of engineering for the inland region. "The appointment of Mr. Sanchez brings a new, unique ability to CALVADA’s growing list of services that will enhance and provide additional value to our clients," stated President Armando DuPont.

"He has 35 years of diversified experience in civil engineering, much relating to government agency projects as well as private developments," he said.

Sanchez will be responsible for all aspects of the day-to-day operations of the civil engineering division, directing project managers, civil engineering staff and support staff to assure the highest quality and professional work products, including areas of planning, design and public works and private improvements and other diversified developments, according to DuPont.

Sanchez has worked in the field of civil engineering since 1967 and as owner of IMS Engineering, has had extensive experience in the private and public sector on land development, capital improvements and water projects, including project work with Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, Coachella, County of Riverside, Simpson Housing, Cal-State, San Bernardino, American Capitol and UCR, among others.

Actively involved in professional and community organizations, Sanchez served as president of the Coachella Valley Mexican American Chamber of Commerce, California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He served for five years on the advisory committee for the Riverside County Integrated Plan, which is planned for public hearing before the Board of Supervisors.

CALVADA APPOINTS J. M. SANCHEZ AS DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

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Pictured (l-r) Joanne Long, probate paralegal; Elizabeth G. Wilkie, secretary; Mary B. Jimenez Gonzalez, office manager; Ronald G. Skipper, attorney

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SB 60 GAINS MOMENTUM WITH SENATE APPROVAL

STATE CAPITOL - On a 21-14 vote, the Senate Floor approved SB 60, to ensure that all California drivers are properly trained, tested, and insured.

SB 60 is authored by Senator Gilbert Cedillo (D-22) and supported by leading organizations including the State Federation of Labor, SEIU, Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn, Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA), top law enforcement officials, insurance companies and community organizations.

Senator Cedillo, author of SB 60 commented, "The goal of SB 60 is to make our local communities safer by ensuring that all drivers are given adequate training and testing as well as an opportunity to purchase auto insurance."

Current California Law requires that all drivers license applicants provide a valid social security number (SSN) and proof of lawful presence. Over a five-year period, Senator Cedillo has argued, "Current law forces immigrants to drive uninsured and unlicensed, undermining the Department of Motor Vehicles' mission to ensure public safety and limiting law enforcement's ability to effectively perform its duty."

If SB 60 is signed into law, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) would be allowed to accept an individual taxpayer identification number from individuals who sign an affidavit stating that they are not eligible for a Social Security Number. Current security standards such as thumbprints and other positive identification, and requiring applicants to submit a valid social security number (SSN) are maintained in the bill. SB 60 will allow all California motorists to obtain a driver's license and insurance only after they pass the driving and written tests, submit proof of identity, and comply with all other licensing requirements.

Last week, members of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Mayor James Hahn, and City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo held a press conference in Los Angeles to announce their support for SB 60. In addition, the Valley Industry & Commerce Association also endorsed SB 60.

SB 60 now heads to the Assembly.

YOUTH MARIACHI GROUP FROM SAN BERNARDINO WINS MCDONALD'S COMPETITION & PERFORMS AT FIESTA BROADWAY

Mariachi Los Caporales de Jalisco from San Bernadino performed on the main stage at McDonald's Fiesta Broadway in Downtown Los Angeles after being selected - the largest Cinco de Mayo event in the country. The group performed at Fiesta Broadway after being selected through McDonald's Mariachi y Folklorico Juvenile preliminary competitions held in Anaheim, Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Ventura over four weeks in March. McDonald's Operators' Association of Southern California sponsored the preliminary competitions that featured 70 youth mariachi and ballet folklorico dance groups.

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CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PLAN NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

The City of San Bernardino Local Workforce Investment Board (WIB), who is responsible for planning and oversight of local workforce investment funds, has published its strategic fourth-year local workforce investment plan modification for the period of April 1, 2003 to June 30, 2005.

Funds for this program are allocated by the Department of Labor for the purpose of providing workforce investment activities, through an integrated workforce investment system that will increase the occupational skills attainment, employment retention, and earning of local residents. The system is intended to be customer-focused to help local residents access information and services needed to manage their careers and to help employers find skilled workers. Workforce investment activities may include, but are not limited to: outreach; intake; assessment; job search and placement assistance; follow-up services; internships; work experience; occupational skills training; and customized training.

The modification will be available for review by the general public during posted business hours at the following locations in San Bernardino:

SBETA One-Stop Career Center: 599 N. Arrowhead Avenue, Fieldheym Library: 555 W. 6th Street; Ingraham Library: 1505 W. Highland Avenue; Rowe Library: 108 E. Marshall Boulevard; and Villasenor Library: 525 N. Mt. Vernon Avenue.

Interested parties may submit written comments regarding the modification until July 28, 2003, 5:00 p.m., addressed as follows: San Bernardino Employment and Training Agency; One-Stop Career Center, 599 North Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92401-1201; ATTN: Janice Stowers.
CSUSB RANKS AMONG NATION’S LEADERS IN AWARDING BACHELOR’S DEGREES TO HISPANICS

California State University, San Bernardino ranks among the nation’s top colleges and universities that offer the most bachelor’s degrees upon graduation, according to the May edition of The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education. The report was conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics.

“As our student body has grown, it’s also become more diverse,” said Cal State San Bernardino President Albert C. Irminger. “Over the past five years, members of historically underrepresented groups have grown to more than 50 percent of our enrollment, with Hispanics soaring to more than 30 percent. We no longer have a majority ethnic group on campus.”

Cal State San Bernardino ranked 21st in the United States among four-year colleges for total Hispanic enrollment, and 27th for bachelor’s degrees awarded to Hispanics for the academic year 2000-2001.

Hispanics earned one-quarter of the total bachelor’s degrees awarded at CSUSB in 2002, ranking the university fourth in the California State University system for the percentage of bachelor’s degrees presented to Hispanic students. Cal State San Bernardino also ranked 44th nationally or campuses awarding master’s degrees to Hispanics.

With a full-time equivalent enrollment of 31.2 percent Hispanic students, CSUSB is designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education.

For more information, contact the public affairs office at (909) 880-5007.

ESPERANZA SCHOLARSHIP Awardees

The Esperanza Scholarship Foundation recently announced the recipients of its scholarships and educational awards.

Community college students receiving Chaffey College Foundation/Esperanza scholarships of $500 were: Claudia Camarillo Devendorf, Stephanie Castro, Dinora Garcia, Victor Estrada, and Rosa Gonzalez.

Recognized as the Stellar Teacher of the Year for Science, math or technology was teacher John Robinson of O’Donnell Middle School, Ontario, who received a $500 award for classroom use. Another $500 educational award for $500 was awarded to the Ontario Montclair School District’s middle schools mariachi band, and its teacher, Evan Berry, for purchase of band uniforms.

MANUSCRIPTS SOUGHT FOR THE JOURNAL OF THE RIVERSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Riverside Historical Society is now soliciting manuscripts for its local history journal. The eighth issue of the Journal of the Riverside Historical Society will be published in February 2004, and will feature articles on Riverside’s past. Manuscripts dealing with previously unexplored events, personalities, and institutions will be especially considered. Both established historians and new historians are encouraged to submit.

Manuscripts should not exceed 2,000 words in length, not including end notes. For questions of style, authors should consult the 14th edition of the Chicago Manual of Style. Please mail manuscripts by August 31, 2003 to: Publications Committee, Riverside Historical Society, P.O. Box 246, Riverside, CA 92502, phone (909) 826-5736.
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Identity
The survey shows that immigration has a strong influence on Hispanics’ social identity. However, social identity is more complex than simply a connection to an ancestral homeland.

- More than half of Latinos (54%) say their country of origin is the first or only choice for identifying themselves, compared to one-fourth of Hispanics (24%) who say that “Hispanic” is their first choice, and one-fifth (21%) who say “American” is their preference.
- More than two-thirds (68%) of foreign-born Hispanics primarily choose their country of origin.
- Those born in the United States of immigrant parents are about equally likely to identify themselves by their parents’ country of origin (3.8%) or as American (3.5%).

- Over half (57%) of Hispanics with U.S.-born parents are more likely to identify first as Americans.

Assimilation
The survey suggests that Latinos who are native-born or speak English tend to have social values and hold beliefs that are more characteristic of mainstream American views than the views of recent Hispanic immigrants - with the exception of such issues as importance of family and size of government, where they express a more distinct Latino perspective.

- Three in ten Hispanics (29%) believe that you can be more successful in an American workplace if you are willing to work long hours at the expense of your personal life compared to nearly half of whites (46%). However, less than a fifth of Hispanics who predominantly speak Spanish (17%) voice that view, compared to 45% of those who predominately speak English. Similar gaps exist between the foreign and the native born.
- A larger majority of Hispanics (72%) than whites (59%) feel that sex between two adults of the same sex is unacceptable. Again, differences are considerably more pronounced between Spanish and English dominant Hispanics - 81% versus 60%, respectively - and the foreign versus native born - 77% versus 64%, respectively say unacceptable.
- More Hispanics (89%) than whites (67%) agree that relatives are more important than friends. However, on this issue, foreign born (92%) and native born (82%) are more likely to agree with each other than with their non-Hispanic counterparts.
- Hispanics report more positive views on living in the United States compared to their countries of origin. They feel strongly that the United States offers more opportunities to get ahead for themselves and their children in terms of employment and education. They do, however, express concern about the state of moral values and strength of family ties in this country.
- More than three-quarters of Hispanics think Hispanic children growing up in the United States will get a better education than they did (80%) and will have better jobs and make more money than they do (76%).
- Fewer, but still about half (56) have confidence that Hispanic children growing up in the United States will have the same moral values as they do. An overwhelming majority (95%) of Hispanics believe that immigrants need to learn English in order to succeed.

- This is one instance where Hispanics from different places of origin agree. For example, an overwhelming majority of Mexicans (85%) Puerto Ricans (86%), Cubans (89%), Central Americans (94%), South Americans (90%), Salvadorans (94%), Dominicans (92%), and Colombians (88%) all agree that immigrants need to learn to speak English.

- Almost three-quarters (72%) of foreign-born Hispanics predominantly speak Spanish and nearly a quarter are bilingual (24%). Six in ten (61%) native-born Hispanics predominantly speak English and a third (35%) are bilingual.
- In the second generation - the U.S.-born children of Hispanic immigrants - 47% are bilingual, 45% are bilingual, 46% are English dominant, and 74% are Spanish dominant. Other key findings from 2002 National Survey of Hispanics include:
  - Hispanics (35%) are more likely to report being without health insurance than whites (14%) or African Americans (21%).
  - About three in ten (29%) Hispanics report having problems communicating with their health care providers because of language barriers.
  - About three in ten Hispanics have had problems paying their rent or mortgage in the past year (28%), report being laid off or having lost their job in the past year (30%) and two thirds reported not having been able to save money for the future (66%).

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RIVERSIDE COUNTY HISPANIC CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE UNITE TO SUPPORT COUNTY'S BLUEPRINT FOR TOMORROW

Hispanos Unidos Para El Futuro (Hispanics United For The Future) vows to help county officials secure state and federal funding

RIVERSIDE - In a historic demonstration of unity, seven Riverside County Hispanic Chambers of Commerce announced Monday the formation of Hispanos Unidos Para El Futuro (Hispanics United For The Future), a coalition organized to support the county’s Blueprint for Tomorrow. Specifically, the coalition will work with county officials to secure state and federal funding for the plan.

"Each of our respective chambers of commerce were motivated to work together as part of Hispanos Unidos Para El Futuro because we realize the monumental economic benefits of the Blueprint for our region," said Aurelio Aguirre, Vice-Chair of the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce (CAHCC).

Aguirre, who coordinates with the 13 Hispanic Chambers of Commerce in the Inland Empire, described the coalition as a historic first.

"We are excited to support a plan that received recognition from the Bush Administration," said Aguirre. "The transportation component of the plan - CETAP - has topped U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta's list of priority projects for immediate consideration.

"Clearly, the Blueprint for Tomorrow is a national model on how to address land use needs for years to come and will only help bring new businesses, jobs and more quality housing options for the region's growing population," said Aguirre.

Local Hispanic Chambers of Commerce presidents agreed on the importance of the plan. "Hispanos Unidos Para El Futuro will work with Riverside County officials to help secure state and federal funding," said Alfredo Salcedo, Moreno Valley Hispanic Chambers of Commerce President.

"Whenever specific funding opportunities are identified, we will write letters in support of the county's request," said Salcedo added. "We will also ensure to keep our respective Hispanic chamber members updated on the progress of the plan."

Nancy Alvarez, Coachella Valley Mexican American Chamber of Commerce President said the coalition representatives would be willing to join county officials in future briefings with state and federal lawmakers to underscore the Hispanic business community support of the plan.

Alvarez also highlighted the economic benefits of the plan. "The Blueprint encourages business growth by establishing certainty for future industrial and commercial development, and by simplifying plans for expansion or relocation," she said.

Dr. George Beloz, Greater Corona Hispanic Chambers of Commerce President also underscored the important role the plan plays in bridging the homeownership gap experienced by many minorities.

"The second quarter 2002 Census data shows that non-Hispanic whites have a 74% homeownership rate, while Hispanics have a 47% rate," said Beloz. "The Blueprint will ultimately increase the housing inventory, keep prices affordable, and expand homeownership opportunities for Riverside County's growing Hispanic population."

"Riverside County Supervisor Bob Buster welcomed the public-private sector partnership with Hispanics Unidos para El Futuro. "I'm grateful that so many Hispanic leaders have rallied behind the County's plan," said Buster. "I look forward to working with them on this effort. Their efforts will be vital to providing a strong voice for the Hispanic community," said Buster.

"By working together - united for the future - great things can happen."

The seven Hispanic Chambers of Commerce Participating in Hispanos Unidos Para El Futuro represents 21 cities in Riverside County and include:

- Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - Robert Morales, President
- Coachella Valley Mexican American Chamber of Commerce - Nancy Alvarez, President
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- Moreno Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - Alfredo Salcedo, President
- Perris Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - Cecilia Larios, President
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ACROSS THE RIVER FROM CHINATOWN a symbol, thanks to the movie, Los Angeles's iceberg nature—lies another reminder, mappable but mysterious, of the city's chilly fragmentation.

Marooned by freeways, barricaded by popular wisdom, East Los Angeles is the Mexican American neighborhood that the rest of the nation knows best and a place that many Angelenos would fail to recognize if they found themselves suddenly cruising its boulevards. It may be the nation's largest barrio; the title of Luis J. Rodriguez's new collection of short stories aptly calls it The Republic of East LA. (HarperCollins, 272 pages, $23.95). In the words of the narrator in the opening story, "My Ride, My Revolution," it's a world at once in and out of time, both rooted and precarious.

"We're all neighbors of small cottages near Prospect Park in Boyle Heights. The cottages face each other and onto a dry courtyard as ground, which I know something about because I read, because I spend many hours in libraries, because I care to know most everything about most nothing," Rodriguez, a poet and former journalist who now lives in the San Fernando Valley, is not the first to discover that a community's isolation can become a writer's fertile ground. Having initially found his voice as an activist, Rodriguez, is comfortable with ringing slogans and anecdotes that crack open to scatter morals like confetti Easter eggs. Yet what first strikes a reader about the dozen stories in The Republic of East LA. is their understatement. Partly it's a blue-collar fatalism. Many of Rodriguez's characters are working stiffs—millwrights, delivery boys, nurses' aides. They understand that older members of a crew will trick you if they can and know that when a job requires you to frame 400 roofing panels a day, no nail can get through blow of a worn handkerchief, the arms in tight formation," a character observes in "Boom, Bot, Boom."

Work forms the texture of these lives but not their substance. In "Finger Dance," Chi Cho survives a faction closing by becoming a backyard artisan. His wrought-iron gates with Aztec motifs are neighborhood landmarks, but it gradually becomes clear that his passion for solitude is the first sign of dementia. For some characters, like the teenage heroine of "Las Chicas Chuecas," their matter-of-fact delivery is not so much resignation as shell shock. "She just vanished. That's the way Noemi described it after her sister Luna's boyfriend threw her out of the car as he drove down the Pomona Freeway."

The stories casually reflect the visions of barrio life. "Writing is for bums, for chunterros ... you should work like a man—with your hands," a father chides. A panhandler has "all the lines... And just like any other wedding, things went wrong." The crown arrives in the nick of time. The metalworker's assistant comes running when a job requires you to frame 400 roofing panels a day, no nail can get through blow of a worn handkerchief, the arms in tight formation," a character observes in "Boom, Bot, Boom."

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black and gray tuxedos, homemade bridesmaid dresses with large stitch lines... And just like any other wedding, many things went wrong." The crowning blow comes as Enrique's ring delayed by a backup at the metalsmith's, arrives in the nick of time. The metalsmith's assistant comes running up the aisle to the best man, delivering the gold band "in a worn handkerchief, freshly cast and still hot. So hot that Enrique almost jumped out of his skin when the ring went on his finger."

"Enrique's wedding was a typical East L.A. affair," Rodriguez writes in "Mechanics." "He had meticulously detailed 1940s and 1950s vehicles, custom-fit
NEW YORK - The wealth of affluent Hispanics is growing faster than that of the general community, notes Merrill Lynch.

"The number of Hispanic households earning more than $100,000 a year grew 126% between 1991 - 2000, compared to 77% for the general American population," said Ms. Susha Barry, first vice president and head of Merrill Lynch's multicultural and diversified business development group.

"And it is expected to continue," she forecast today. "This is one reason why Merrill Lynch is expanding its Hispanic wealth management focus, which has grown strongly in the U.S. Over the past few years, around the globe," said Ms. Barry. Merrill Lynch's multicultural and diversified business development group aims to be the preeminent wealth management firm among the Hispanic market.

Mario Paredes, director of Hispanic business at Merrill Lynch's multicultural and diversified business development group, attributed: "One reason for this continued growth during the downturn in the stockmarket is that many wealthy Latinos are small business owners who choose to reinvest in the family business rather than stocks and bonds."

He noted this growth was despite the fact that Hispanics have traditionally used financial products and services less than the general population.

Studies by Merrill Lynch show the Hispanic community is highly conservative when it comes to business and finance, with a strong propensity towards saving. "Education and saving for future education needs, for the next generation, continues to be a high priority," said Mr. Paredes.

He also added that the majority of Hispanic businesses are family owned, making for complex inheritance planning. "Accordingly, alongside investment management advice, we provide a full range of estate planning services to accommodate the wealth distribution from one generation to another.

Merrill Lynch has some 350 Hispanic American financial advisors, he said, and is recruiting more. Merrill Lynch was recognized by Latino Style Magazine as one of the 50 best companies for Hispanics & Latinos to work for in the U.S.

Mr. Paredes noted there are some 3.7 million affluent Hispanics in the U.S. It is estimated they will have a combined buying power of $292.4 billion, equivalent to almost two-thirds of $452 billion buying power for the 37 million people of the overall Hispanic market.

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Nearly two-thirds of affluent Hispanic households are in three states - California, Texas and New York.

He said the Hispanic population in the U.S. has grown by 57% since 1990, and in 22 states the Hispanic population has more than doubled over this time.

Hispanics makeup 12.5% of the total U.S. population, making it largest minority. This group grows by 2.5 people every minute. It is a relatively young market, with 75% of Hispanics under the age of 40.

The market is itself diverse, with no "one" Hispanic market. Some 66% of Hispanics coming from Mexico, 15% from South and Central America, 9% from Puerto Rico and 4% from Cuba. The U.S. is the third largest Spanish-speaking country after Mexico and Spain.

STUDENTS NEED MORE FROM SCHOOL, HOME, COMMUNITY

Increasingly, America's educational system has learned to take direction from within—namely, from the students whose school lives are shaped by the teachers, administrators and curricula in place today.

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Key findings of The MetLife Survey of the American Teacher, 2002: Student Life-School, Home and Community include:

• 29 percent of teachers believe that their school is preparing students "extremely well" to go to college; just 15 percent of students agree.

• Only 18 percent of students believe that teachers respect all students; just 24 percent believe that teachers are interested in what's best for all students.

• 56 percent of "A" students report exercising four or more days a week, compared to 45 percent of "D" and "F" students.

• 54 percent of students wish for more time with their parents.

• "D" and "F" students are twice as likely to never eat breakfast as "A" students who participate in sports, dance, music, schoolwork programs and drama programs, or to read for fun.

"Differences in opinion provide clues on what we can do to improve education," said Sibyl Jacobson, president and CEO of MetLife Foundation. "Students of all ages want adults to respect them and be involved in their lives, they want activities that are interesting and relevant and they need support to help them succeed."

Student Life-School, Home and Community is the 19th in a series of teacher surveys sponsored annually by MetLife. The surveys are designed to bring the voices of teachers and students to the attention of policy makers and the American public. For more information, or to download a full copy of the survey, visit the Web site at www.metlife.com.

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