April 6th 2005

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By the Grace of God and Favor of the Apostolic See
Bishop of San Bernardino
To my Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus and all people of good will

"Totus Tuus", "All Yours", this was the motto our Holy Father chose for his Pontificate and this was the way he lived his life in dedication to God.

Our world has lost one of the most pivotal figures of the past one hundred years, the last giant of a century, and perhaps the most influential Pope of the past five hundred years. He was an extraordinary man of God who lived a life of courage, commitment and peace. John Paul II was truly a Pope for the modern world.

He leaves the Catholic Church as the principle defender of human rights. John Paul II was a key figure to the conscience of humanity and demanded that those in positions of power care for the powerless and that governments unite in an effort to eradicate the hunger and poverty that exist on the same planet where so many live in wealth and opulence. He kindled a revolution of spirit and confronted a culture of wrongs, evils and death with the power of the "Gospel of Life".

During the past twenty-six years, John Paul fulfilled his role as universal pastoral by teaching the world lessons of human dignity and the love of God for each of us. This appeal found a place in people’s hearts and reached out to the conscience of the entire world regardless of the religious beliefs of those who listened.

He was the "Pilgrim Pope" whose pastoral travels throughout the world made him indisputably the most visible figure in the history of the Catholic Church. The spectrum of his suppliant was vast. He was the "Pilgrim Pope" whose pastoral travels throughout the world made him indisputably the most visible figure in the history of the Catholic Church. He was the "Pilgrim Pope" whose pastoral travels throughout the world made him indisputably the most visible figure in the history of the Catholic Church.

Pope John Paul II's life personified the values he preached. He taught us to be humble, to forgive, to persevere, and to love our neighbor whether it was next door or clear across the world.

It has been a long time since we had a true hero. Our Pope was not a sports figure, a movie star or a pop singer. He was an unassuming man who became Pope John Paul II and who we now know as our modern Renaissance man. We have been blessed to have been in his presence. I pray that the memory of his life and his death will continue to inspire us as we strive to be better individuals for ourselves, our family, our community, and our world.

The passing of Pope John Paul II had a tremendous impact on not only the Catholic World, but on the entire universe. I shed tears during his agony, but was overjoyed at his passing. This due to our faith that he was being welcomed by Our Lord Jesus Christ in his Heavenly Kingdom, for eternity, a philosophy that we as Christians should all have.

Of all the Popes I have known, from Pope Pius XII to John Paul II, no other made such an impression on me, as Pope John Paul II. He was what all Christians should be exemplifying as one who showed love, compassion, and mercy to all, not just Catholics, or other Christians. He was a true lover of life, all life. While some leaders chose to defend the lives of the unborn, or the lives of the condemned, the elderly, Pope John Paul II defended ALL LIFE. He also loved the poor, the elderly. Pope John Paul defended the lives of the unborn, or the lives of the condemned, the elderly, Pope John Paul II defended ALL LIFE. He also loved the poor, the elderly.

Durant los pasados veintiséis años, Juan Pablo II cumplió su misión como pastor universal: enseñando al mundo lecciones sobre la dignidad humana y el amor que Dios tiene para cada uno de nosotros. Esta súplica encontró un espacio en los corazones del pueblo y tocó la conciencia del mundo entero sin importar las creencias religiosas de quienes lo escucharon.

Fue el "Papa Peregrino" cuyos viajes pastorales alrededor del mundo hicieron indiscutiblemente de él el Papa más visible en la historia. Haciendo uso hábil de los medios de comunicación modernos, el Santo Padre predicó el Evangelio virtualmente en cada país del mundo.

El espectro de su súplica fue vasto. Mostró su amor y respeto a los jóvenes y les desafió a que aceptaran el sacrificio y lucharan por lograr la grandeza moral en su búsqueda de Dios. A los americanos nos elogió por...
BACA BILL CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF THE VIDEO GAME INDUSTRY

Washington - Rep. Joe Baca (D-Rialto) announced legislation that asks for a government review of the video game industry's rating system and aims to keep violent and sexually explicit video games out of the hands of children.

H.R. 1145, the Software Accuracy and Fraud Evaluation Rating Act or SAFE Rating Act, would require the Federal Trade Commission to examine the voluntary rating system of the video game industry to determine if its practices are unfair or deceptive, if the FTC finds the rating system to be deceptive to consumers, then it will have the power to order the industry to change its rating system.

The new legislation focuses how the games are rated, but the goal remains to protect children from violent video games. Currently, the Entertainment Software Rating Board, a self-regulatory body established in 1994 by the Entertainment Software Association, rates video games.

This time we are going straight to the video game industry and saying, 'we are holding you accountable for your product. We are going to make sure you do not misrepresent your product,' said Rep. Baca.

The argument we hear, time and time again, is that parents should be able to decide what games their children can play. I agree that how can parents make these decisions if the information they are given, the game's rating, isn't accurate?

This bill avoids many of the Congressional questions that other bills regarding the sale of video games have brought up. We are not trying to prevent the industry from selling their product. We are just asking them to make sure that they rate their product accurately.

An increasing amount of scientific evidence indicates that playing violent video games is positively related to aggressive thoughts and behavior; delinquency;

The bill has 20 cosponsors and is supported by Mothers Against Violence in America: American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Parents Television Council, Center for Successful Parenting Mothers Against Violence and Child-Responsible Media.

NEW COORDINATOR FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES AT CSUSB

SAN BERNARDINO, CA - Antoneta Gallegos-Ruiz, a professor of Spanish in the world languages and literature department at Cal State San Bernardino, has been appointed coordinator of Latin American Studies at the University beginning in January.

Gallegos-Ruiz founded the very successful Mexico Summer Language Program which ran in Toluca Mexico, from 1993-2003. The program has been moved recently to Guanajuato, Mexico. She was also instrumental in starting an exchange program with Universidad Arturo Pratt in Santiago, Chile, scheduled to begin in 2006.

From Latin America herself, Gallegos-Ruiz teaches courses in the culture, civilization and literature of Latin America. Gallegos-Ruiz is currently planning CSUSB's upcoming Latin American Roundtable Study of the Americas Conference to be held April 14-15.

Over the years she has developed Spanish language programs in special education, nursing and child psychology, and has presented many scholarly papers at national and international conferences. She has also published articles and translations in the area of Latin American literature.

Gallegos-Ruiz earned her Ph.D. from the University of Southern California in 1987 and a master's degree from California State University, Los Angeles. She joined CSUSB in 1990. For more information please contact the university's public affairs office at (909) 880-5007 and visit http://news.csusb.edu.

GENTS ORGANIZATION INSTALLS OFFICERS

The Gents Organization celebrated the 20th Annual Installation of Officers on Saturday, March 26, attended by over 200 guests in an elaborately decorated Gents Community Center. Enrique Martinez, traditional master of ceremonies, introduced elected officials.

Keynote speaker, Mel Albiso, San Bernardino School District Assistant Superintendent of Schools, was keynote speaker. Albiso spoke on parent involvement in school activities and importance of their participation in the education of their children.

Superior Court Judge John Pacheco installed the 2005 officers: President Frank Rodriguez, Vice President Ron Ybarra, Secretary Steve Martinez, Treasurer Carlos Bravo, Sergeant of Arms Luis Bravo, and Director Joe Rodriguez.

The Gents Organization was founded in 1952 at a youth group in the Westend of San Bernardino, with a membership of 72 at one time. The group participated in many sports and primarily involved in community projects. The Gents have had conflict with other groups in the area, and ceased to exist in 1963.

In 1973, the original Gents members organized into a community group with goals of helping the youth and involvement in projects in the area. Through fundraising events, the Gents have contributed thousands of dollars for scholarships, donated to service groups, and sponsorship of youth sports.

The Gents Organization's motto, "Helping Today's Youth Become Tomorrow's Leaders."
Gerald Richard
By the Grace of God and Favor of the Apostolic See
Bishop of San Bernardino
To my Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus and all people of good will

I am also grateful for the blessing of his appointment of our late beloved auxiliary Bishop Dennis O'Neil. I ask you to join me as our local community unites with the whole Church and the world community, in grieving the death of our Holy Father.

For John Paul II, Servant of the Servants of God, his life has changed not ended, so let us rejoice for him as he enjoys the truth of what he lived and preached all his life, that Jesus Christ is the way that leads to eternal life and happiness. May he rest in peace.

Given at the Pastoral Center this 2nd day of April, in the year of the Lord 2005, upon the death of John Paul II, Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.

Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino

REFLECTIONS ON POPE JOHN PAUL II

Continued from page 1

IOMA LINDA, ca. — Volunteer drivers are needed to transport veterans to the VA Medical Centers for their medical appointments. Drivers are needed to make one round-trip on designated days in a medical center van, donated for this purpose. A regular driver's license is required to drive the seven-passenger vehicle. Drivers must pass the physical exam provided free by the VA. This assures safe transportation of our veterans.

Drivers do not physically lift patients into the vehicle, but may be asked to provide some help for the ambulatory riders, such as adjusting seat belts, holding the door open, placing the step stool for the riders to board or unload from the van.

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) nationwide Transportation Network Program coordinates volunteers to drive sick and disabled veterans to and from VA medical facilities for treatment. Many of these veterans have limited resources, are too sick to drive, or may have no access to public transportation. The Transportation Network is a clear example of veterans helping veterans.

If you can help us serve our patients, please call Vivian Pleasant, DAV Transportation Coordinator, at (909) 583-6014.

—Anthony Bocanegra

Sacred Heart Church
Redlands, CA

You're older, wiser and more likely to get colon cancer.

If you're 50 or over, you need to get checked for colon cancer.

cancer.org
800-ACS-2345

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2005 American Cancer Society, Inc.

You're older, wiser and more likely to get colon cancer.
Jess Valenzuela, chair of the Cesar Chavez Memorial Breakfast Committee, has planned the Labor Day March on September 3, 2005, and Unveiling Ceremonies of the Cesar Chavez Bust at the new Cesar Chavez Middle School. For information call at (909) 885-2222. Photo by IEHN

Ed. Begley, Jr., well-known actor and social activist, spoke of his association with Cesar Chavez in creating a safe environment for the farm workers and organizing the United Farm Workers. Begley was one of the pallbearers at Chavez' funeral. Photo by IEHN

The Gents Community Center was overcrowded with representation from the area, including community members, educators, students, and elected officials eager to participate in Cesar Chavez' birthday, the beloved crusader who fought legendary battles for the rights of the farmworkers.

Mistress of ceremonies Eloise Reyes, the well-known and popular attorney, introduced elected officials and dignitaries. Sarah Ordaz, a young talented student, sang a rendition of God Bless America.

Keynote speaker Dr. Carlos Cortes, UCR Emeritus Professor of History, spoke on Cesar Chavez as an individual, working in the fields under inhospitable conditions. This was the prelude to his effort to devote his entire life to improve the working conditions of thousands of fieldworkers. This crusade took decades of struggles, campaign strategies, strikes and cooperation of national political, labor and religious leaders to influence legislators in favor of the farmworker’s plight. He became an international social rights hero,” Cortes said.

Cortes spoke also on the current issue of immigrant and potential confrontation along the Arizona and Mexican border between the Minute men and immigration advocates. “My hope that a serious lethal or physical conflict does not occur. The immigration issue and its resolution is in Washington not at the border,” he said.

Cortes, a scholar in communications, ethnic history, multicultural education, Latin American and Chicano history, is a sought-after speaker and has lectured in Latin America, Europe, Asia, and the United States.

Well-known actor and activist Ed Begley, Jr., spoke on his association with Cesar Chavez, working on labor, social justice and environmental issues. He also joined Chavez and the UFW in their fight to unionize farm workers who were being exploited by the growers and living in substandard conditions.

“I was privileged and honored to be selected to carry Chavez’ casket through the streets of Delano,” he said.

Numerous San Bernardino School District students entered the Cesar Chavez essay and art contest honored at the Cesar Chavez Memorial Breakfast. The K-12 students are enrolled in the San Bernardino School District. Photo by IEHN

Pictured above are winners of the Cesar Chavez essay art contest at the Cesar Chavez Memorial Breakfast. The K-12 students are enrolled in the San Bernardino School District. Photo by IEHN

Father Edmond Gomez, Immaculate Conception Church, Colton, gave the invocation at the Cesar Chavez Memorial Breakfast at the Gents Community Center. Photo courtesy of Roxanne Rios

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Herbert Fischer, right, and former Colton School Board member Ray Abril Jr. enjoy the program at the Cesar Chavez Memorial Breakfast. Photo by IEHN

Advertise in the IEHN - the most widely distributed community newspaper in the Inland Empire.

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

Notice is hereby given that proposals will be accepted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765 for the following:

Q2005-07 Automated Gas Chromatograph System for the Speciation & Measurement of Volatile Organic Compounds within Ambient Air Closing Date: 5/3/05 10:00 a.m. Contact: Dr. Aaron Katzenstein (909) 396-2219

Q2005-08 Ambient Sulfur Dioxide Analyzers Closing Date: 5/3/05 2:00 p.m. Contact: Tom Parsons (909) 396-2039

Q2005-10 Gas Dilution System with Humidification Capability Closing Date: 5/3/05 2:00 p.m. Contact: Te-Ching Hu (909) 396-2179

Q2005-11 Exterior Building Cleaning and Window Washing Closing Date: 5/4/05 2:00 p.m. Contact Anna Helton (909) 396-2051

Persons attending a bidder conference should confirm their attendance by calling the contact person. Bids will not be accepted from anyone not attending a mandatory bidder’s conference.

If you have questions or would like a copy of the RFO mailed to you, call the contact person.

It is the policy of the AQMD to ensure that all businesses, including minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, disabled veteran-owned businesses and small businesses have a fair and equitable opportunity to compete for and participate in AQMD contracts.

SCAGMD Procurement Unit

04/08/2005, 04/20/2005

CNS-0014444
GILBERTO ESQUIVEL—DEDICATED TO HIS COMMUNITY AND RADIO

Gilberto Esquivel is enthusiastic on his last day of work after a 42 year career in radio and community activities. Photo by IEHN

Gilberto Esquivel has been involved with music and radio for 42 years until March 28, 2005, when he finally celebrated his retirement at the Sevilla Restaurant, Riverside, with a full complement of friends and professional associates from the Coachella Valley and throughout Southern California.

In an exclusive interview with IEHN, Esquivel revealed a life of historical significance, poverty, lack of education, and a drive to better himself and drive. Esquivel’s paternal ancestors settled in Texas in 1854, working for the famous King Ranch. His maternal ancestors arrived in the same state in 1881. “My father worked for the KR, as did other relatives. The working conditions at the ranch have not changed, bad then and now,” he said. He is, however, very proud of his family background in Texas.

Born in Kingsville, Texas in 1939, the family became migrant workers, with Esquivel attending different schools, and working at odd jobs, including shining shoes, he said.

His uncle taught him to play the guitar at age 15, and he became a musician and singer, earning a living by entertaining at local bars and restaurants. At 16, he made a recording that became a hit in the Southwest. Esquivel dropped out of school at 17, and with a group of musicians; moved to Chicago for better opportunities.

He was later hired at a local radio station, learning the trade and earning an AA in Radio Marketing. He became a member of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), organizing clubs in Illinois and other states, and as a result, became involved in the Chicano Movement. “I met many of the outstanding national leaders in the movement at that time,” he said. This was the catalyst of his long-standing community involvement in relation with his radio career.

Esquivel moved to California and landed a job in the Coachella Valley as a sales representative and disc jockey for the Spanish programs at radio KVIM. He became very successful and eventually became the station’s manager, and involved in the community.

He met his future wife, Yolanda Almaraz, a teacher in the Coachella School District, who was enlisting his support to incorporate bilingual education into the curriculum in the district.

In 1986, Esquivel and his wife, Yolanda, decided to take advantage of an opportunity to co-own and manage a new radio station in Riverside. The radio station became known as KDF, “La Diferencia,” and its on-air debut was October 7, 1986. The rest is history.

Under his management, KDF established a tradition of informative, family oriented programming coupled with community services. The services include Nuestra Navidad, a radiothon, raising thousands of dollars for the needy families during Christmas and Mother’s Day, providing entertainment and gifts for hundreds of mothers. He has been a strong supporter of the late Cesar Chavez and the UFW His other well-known program is “Conozca Sus Escuelas,” broadcasting from schools throughout the Inland Empire.

Involved in his community, Esquivel is a member of LULAC, Coachella Valley Mexican American Chamber of Commerce, Hispanics Unidos de Moreno Valley, Riverside Exchange Club (past president), Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (former board member), Riverside Art Museum, Inland Empire Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Fontana Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the American Red Cross.

Esquivel has received numerous awards: Mexican Consul Community Service Recognition, Exchange Club Resolution for Community Service, Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber Businessman of the Year, Hispanics Unidos Resolution for Community Service, Congressman Joe Baca Community Service Award, Riverside Proclamation on Community Service (on his retirement), and CVMACC Resolution for Community Service.

The Inland Empire Hispanic News commends Gilberto Esquivel on his 42-year outstanding career in radio and correspondent service to his community. We wish him well in his retirement and future endeavors.

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April 6th 2005

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ASSEMBLYMAN JOE BACA, JR. MEMORIALIZED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT

SAN BERNARDINO, CA—Assemblyman Joe Baca, Jr. (D-Rialto) held a press conference on Friday, April 1, 2005 at the Gents Organization to rally support for Assembly Bill (AB 1), which will incorporate the gains of the labor movement into standard history textbooks.

Assemblyman Baca introduced the bill on the first day of Session to require the State Board of Education to ensure California students are taught the history of the labor movement in the United States in school classrooms and textbooks.

“This will ensure students will learn about how the labor movement created the 8-hour work day and put an end to child labor in the United States,” said Assemblyman Baca.

“Students need to understand that these changes did not happen overnight, but rather were fought for with much sacrifice and dedication by labor leaders and supporters.”

The bill idea came from remarks made by United Farm Workers co-founder Dolores Huerta at a dinner meeting last fall. She stressed the need of having students understand the gains of the labor movement and how it changed and improved the working conditions of wage earners.

Previous legislation focused on including the achievements of Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers in history textbooks.

Attending the press conference were Congressman Joe Baca, members of Dolores Huerta’s Family, and local labor leaders. The press conference followed the annual Cesar Chavez Tribute Committee’s Annual breakfast.

If you’ve been touched by breast cancer, it helps to talk to someone who’s been there before.

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If you’ve been touched by breast cancer, it helps to talk to someone who’s been there before.

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GETTING TESTED CAN PREVENT COLON CANCER
American Cancer Society Calls Testing Best
Opportunity to Save Lives

INLAND EMPIRE – As the nation marks the sixth annual National Colorectal Cancer Awareness, the American Cancer Society is raising awareness that this third most common cause of cancer and cancer death in both men and women in the United States (causing 10 percent of all cancers) is largely preventable. The Society estimates that this year 145,290 Americans will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer (commonly referred to as colon cancer) and 56,290 will die of the disease, a number that could be cut in half if Americans followed American Cancer Society testing recommendations for colon cancer. In California nearly 15,000 will be diagnosed, with more than 5,900 deaths. In Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, more than 1300 new colon cases will be diagnosed this year, with nearly 550 deaths.

Many Americans Fail to get Tested

Despite overwhelming evidence that testing can save lives, many Americans still are not following recommendations from the American Cancer Society to get tested starting at age 50. Colon Cancer is the rare case in which testing can actually prevent the disease. Suspicious polyps (precancerous changes or growths in the lining of the colon and rectum) are removed before they turn cancerous. Thanks in part to increased testing, colon cancer incidence decreased about three percent a year between 1998 and 2001. Increased testing and improvements in survival have also led to a lower death rate, which has decreased an average of 1.8 percent per year over the past 15 years.

When colon cancer is caught early, it has a 90 percent survival rate. Still, fewer than four in 10 (43 percent) of these cancers are discovered at the earliest, most treatable stage. The American Cancer Society says increasing colon cancer testing among adults 50 and older represents the single greatest opportunity to decrease colon cancer death rates in this country (more than 90 percent of cases are diagnosed in people over the age of 50).

"It’s becoming clear that people 50 and older just do not see themselves as being at risk for colon cancer and needing to be tested," said Terry Lynn, M.S.W., chair of the Inland Empire Leadership Council for the American Cancer Society; and a social worker with cancer patients at Loma Linda. "If we can increase awareness and compliance to the level we’ve done with the Pap test and the mammogram, we will have a tremendous opportunity to save thousands of lives through prevention and early detection."

Myths and Misperceptions About Colon Cancer

The reasons for low testing rates include many misconceptions. One common colon cancer myth is that only people with a family history need to be concerned about colon cancer. While it is true that those who have a family history of the disease are at increased risk, the majority of cases occur in people whose only risk factor is their age, which is why people should start getting tested at age 50. Many women think of colon cancer as strictly a "man’s disease," but the reality is that it kills more women than ovarian, uterine and cervical cancers combined. Other people think testing is necessary only when symptoms arise. Yet symptoms are often a sign that the disease has progressed into more advanced stages. Testing is most effective before a patient develops signs of illness.

Calling All Doctors

The Society also emphasizes the major role doctors play in increasing testing rates. "Physicians are the most important factor in getting patients tested for colon cancer," said Lynn. "If your doctor recommends it, you’re more likely to get tested. Doctors have so much to cover in so little time, but they need to take the time to emphasize the importance of testing. The American Cancer Society can help with materials to help doctors educate their patients."

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by saving lives, diminishing suffering and preventing cancer through research, education, advocacy and service. Founded in 1913 and with national headquarters in Atlanta, the Society has 14 regional Divisions and local offices in 3,400 communities, involving millions of volunteers across the United States. For more information, call 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

SALE REPS WANTED

The IEHN is seeking assertive persons as sale representatives within the INLAND EMPIRE. GOOD commissions. Call (909) 381-6259 for appointment.

REDLANDS HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
SPONSORS CHAVEZ BREAKFAST

San Bernardino County District Attorney Michael Ramos, keynote speaker at the 3rd Annual Cesar Chavez Celebration Breakfast presenting a recognition award to Dianne Holly, retired teacher, for her dedication to Cesar Chavez and advocacy in teaching of his efforts in helping the farmworkers during her teaching career at Lugonia School. Photo by IEHN

Over 150 elected officials, civic and law enforcement dignitaries, northside community and Redlands High School MeCHA students attended the 3rd Annual Cesar Chavez Breakfast held at San Marcos Restaurant, sponsored by the Human Relations Commission.

Council member Gary George, master of ceremonies, introducing keynote speaker San Bernardino County District Attorney Michael Ramos.

Ramos spoke of his grandfather laboring in the Redlands groves to support his family and how he learned from him the attributes of hard work, value of education and giving to his community. "We can relate our experiences with those of our role model and hero, Cesar Chavez, how he worked in the fields and gave his life to better the working conditions and quality of life for the farmworkers."

Ramos was elected district attorney in 2002, the first Hispanic to be elected to the position, he said. He spoke about victims of crime and impact on their lives, and the need to have rehabilitation and counseling programs in the aftermath of their experiences. "I have a passion for those victims of violence and placed a priority to alleviate their grief." (Editor’s note: The District Attorney’s Office has incorporated the Camp Good Grief/Special Victims Program under the Victims Service Bureau.)

Ramos, a former school board member, received the Northside Impact Committee-Latino of the Year Award and M.A.A.D. Prosecutor of the Year Award.

MeCHA students made presentations on Cesar Chavez’ career and impact on their lives, and readings of poems dedicated to his memory. The Cesar Chavez Breakfast Committee included: Leannora Jimenez-Sims, chair, Alex Contreras, Arthur Gregory, John Walsh, Rudy Lozano, Captain Tom Fitzmaurice, and Sergeant Carlos Pimental.

Redlands High School MeCHA students and advisory teachers attended the 3rd Annual Cesar Chavez Breakfast Celebration with District Attorney Michael Ramos, right, Leannora Jimenez-Sims, center, and Sgt. Carlos Pimental, left. Photo by IEHN

PENTECOST SUNDAY, May 15, 2005 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Where: Pastoral Center Diocese of San Bernardino
1201 E. Highland Ave., San Bernardino
(Child Care Ministry available)
For more info call: (909) 475-5365

24TH CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CRUSADE
Diocese of San Bernardino CRC Prayer
Communities invite you to join in celebrating Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 2005 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Where: Pastoral Center Diocese of San Bernardino
1201 E. Highland Ave., San Bernardino
(Child Care Ministry available)
For more info call: (909) 475-5365
MORE STUDENTS GRADUATE AND FEWER DROPOUT IN SAN BERNARDINO CITY UNIFIED

San Bernardino City Unified’s continued focus on increasing student academic achievement is paying off.

The District’s one-year overall dropout rate declined from 6.2 to 5.5 percent between the 2002-03 and 2003-04 school years. African-American students, who make up 18.8 percent of the district, showed the most significant decline. The rate went from 7.9 to 6.1 percent. The rate for Latino students, who make up 62.2 percent of the District, dropped from 6.5 to 5.4 percent. This eliminates the dropout gap for both groups, bringing them close to or below the Caucasian dropout rate of 6 percent.

District initiatives aimed at reducing the dropout rate are making a difference. Programs such as Middle College High School have helped the District keep more students in school. Middle College targets students who have struggled in traditional high schools and helps them earn an associate of arts degree while working on their high school diploma.

Additionally, a part of Superintendent Dr. Arturo Delgado’s Blueprint for Success focuses on creating smaller learning communities in the District’s high schools. As a result students will receive more personal attention from teachers and school administrators, factors that can be key to keeping more students in the classroom.

“I think the high schools have been working hard in implementing the Smaller Learning Community model and that has helped keep the students more connected to learning,” Narciso Cardona, assistant superintendent of Student Services, said.

Cardona also credits the declining dropout rate to the District’s efforts to identify potential dropouts. Students with poor attendance are enrolled in Secondary Community Day Schools. The schools offer a smaller school setting and more personalized academic instruction.

About 55 District students are enrolled in Secondary Community Day Schools.

Under the National Center for Education Statistics’ (NCES) guidelines, a student is a dropout if he or she was enrolled in grades 7 through 12, has not graduated, and is not attending a qualified program that leads to a high school diploma or equivalent. Programs must be administered by a regular school district to meet NCES qualifications. Students who leave the country or participate in early admissions programs at post-secondary institutions are not considered dropouts.

In other good news, more District students are earning a high school diploma than in previous years. The District’s derived graduation rate increased from 72.8 percent in 2003 to 75.9 percent in 2004.

“We can’t be satisfied with this,” Cardona said. “We need to continue working so all groups maintain a steady decrease in the dropout rate.”

Over 14,400 students attend the District’s five comprehensive and three alternative high schools.

LATINA WOMEN’S HEALTH FORUM CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 9

The Latina Women’s Health Forum will present its tenth health conference geared specifically for low-income Spanish speaking women from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday April 9, 2005. The conference will be held at the Riverside County Office of Education Conference Center, 3939 Thirteenth Street, Riverside. Please enter at the corner of 12th and Almond streets.

It will feature a keynote address by Esmeralda Valencia, Administrator for the RCOE Headstart Program, on the “Ages and Stages of Development,” and a panel of representatives for agencies offering resources. Maria Evans, a fifth-degree black belt, will share her self-defense for empowerment program. Childcare will not be provided.

The Latina Women’s Health Forum is committed to providing health conferences with resource materials free of charge to low-income Spanish speaking families. The conferences are conducted in Spanish and all sessions are interactive.

For information contact Maria Jimenez (951) 826-6894.

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Save Energy, Save Money
THE HOPI PEOPLE OF THE MESAS EXHIBITION

This new exhibition examines traditional Hopi life through basketry, pottery, jewelry, and Kachina dolls. Items span a century, including yucca baskets from 1890s.

Where: City of Riverside Municipal Museum, 3580 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, CA
Opening Reception: April 7, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.
Exhibition: Open 4/7/05 - 9/10/05
For more information call (951) 826-5273

FREE ORTHOPEDIC HEALTH FAIR

Your Body is an amazing structure, with bones and joints that enable you to walk, run, jump and more. Find out how you can keep moving in ways that also keep you healthy. Visit our orthopedic community health fair.

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• Diabetes for glucose levels
• Fluoroscan for arthritis
• Occupational therapy for grip strength testing
• Orthopedic surgery with a focus on total joint replacements
• Nutrition with a focus on healthy diets

Where: St. Bernardine Medical Center, Match Center, 2101 N. Waterman Ave., San Bernardino, CA
When: Saturday, April 9, 2005, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
For more information call (909) 881-4361

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