

Legislative Awards Gala Information Inside!

LULACnews



New Hispanic Leaders on the Hill



**LULAC Celebrates Its
Rich History**

**Affirmative Action
Under Attack**

**Hermanas y Hermanos
On Capitol Hill**

**LULAC Profiles
Tenchia Wilcox**

January | February 2003

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LULAC President Hector Flores and staff took a break from the LULAC Florida Civil Rights Conference in December to meet with Orange County Chairman Richard T. Crotty. Mr. Crotty pledged his complete support for the upcoming LULAC National Convention in Orlando. Front row(L-R), LULAC National Executive Director Brent Wilkes, Richard T. Crotty, Hector Flores, Back row (L-R) LULAC Communications Manager Lorraine Quiroga, LULAC National Vice President for the Southeast Elsie Valdes, LULAC Orlando Council 7100 President Jose Fernandez, and LULAC State Director Haydee Rivera. (Photo by Luis Nuño Briones).

One-year subscription price is \$24. Single copies are \$4.50. LULAC members receive a complimentary subscription. The publication encourages LULAC members to submit articles and photos for inclusion in future issues. Once submitted, articles are property of the LULAC News and may be subject to editing.

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LULACnews

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A MESSAGE from the President



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With the new year comes new opportunities to make a difference in our homes and communities. On February 17th, LULAC celebrates its 74th anniversary, commemorating our organization's long, rich history of making a difference in the Hispanic community.

We look back on LULAC's history with great pride in our many accomplishments especially in the areas of civil rights and education. We must, however, remember that we have a long way to go before Hispanics are treated equally in our workplaces and in our schools. As we recall our history, we will note that LULAC was at the forefront of the fight against segregation in our

schools, yet our fight is not over. Unfortunately, de facto segregation remains alive and well in school districts throughout the country. With affirmative action measures, however, there has been some progress in remedying this problem by creating a level playing field in the area of college admissions. Sadly, all this could possibly change in the near future. Next month, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear two cases that could eliminate affirmative action as we know it. LULAC has decided not to be mere witnesses during this pivotal moment in our American history. Instead, LULAC has been very vocal about the need to maintain this important measure that ensures that those who face discrimination and/or de facto segregation are not denied access to higher education.

LULAC is not only creating change at the national level, but also at the local level. As you read through this issue of *LULAC News*, you will see how many of our brothers and sisters are making a difference for Hispanics. Whether "getting out the vote" or serving the elderly, LULAC volunteers are working hard to serve Hispanics and others in our communities. Your volunteerism is what makes this organization great and what will provide a better tomorrow for our people. We are excited to see that LULAC members are increasing membership across the country with new councils most recently forming in Florida, Missouri and Texas. Let's keep up this important work.

This new year we are excited to have three new Hispanic representatives serving in the U.S. Congress. It gives us hope to know that we are gaining representation, especially as we are becoming the largest minority group in our nation. Let us remember to call on these members in our fight for civil rights.

On a different note, as many of you know, each year we hold the LULAC National Legislative Awards Gala where we honor those individuals who have made a difference for Hispanics in the United States. This year we will honor Secretary Mel Martinez and California Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante. We have also invited President George W. Bush as our keynote speaker. We look forward to this important evening and hope that many of you will be able to join us in Washington, D.C. Finally, don't forget to register for this year's national convention in Orlando, Florida. The early bird deadline is quickly approaching and you don't want to miss out on the discounts.

Sincerely,

Hector M. Flores, LULAC National President

Feature Story

Hermanas y Hermanos on Capitol Hill: A Family Affair

This Congress we will see new Hispanic faces leading our nation. The new legislators include Mario Diaz Balart (R-FL), Linda Sanchez (D-CA) and a LULAC member, Raul Grijalva (D-AZ). In addition, this Congress will be very unique with two sets of *hermanas* and *hermanos* on Capitol Hill. Starting this January, Representatives Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) and Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL) will be joined by their siblings. Loretta will be joined by her sister Linda Sanchez and Lincoln will be joined by his brother Mario Diaz-Balart, making history as the first Hispanic brother and sister teams in Congress. We were able to interview the Sanchez sisters to learn their stories.

The Hermanas Sanchez

Sisters Loretta and Linda Sanchez are making headlines nationwide as the first "sister act" in Congress. Linda Sanchez decided to follow in her big sister's footsteps by running for a congressional seat this past fall. Loretta has been working as a representative for the state of California since 1996, when she became the first Latina to go to Congress from Orange County.

Hermanas, continued on page 17.



Sisters Loretta and Linda Sanchez make history as the first "sister act" on Capitol Hill.

LULAC on the Air

LULAC Council 5001 is now on the air with its very own radio station in South Bend, Indiana. Council 5001 was granted a station permit from the FCC for their station called "Sabor Latino." The FCC grants limited low-power licenses to schools, nonprofit organizations and others whose voices are generally absent from commercial radio. Eulid Villanueva, the radio's project manager and a LULAC board member for Council 5001, worked hard to obtain the permit so that he could better serve the Latino community. He decided to start the station when another local station dropped its Spanish-language program. This station will now be used as an outlet for Hispanics who arrive to the area and may not yet be familiar with our country or the English language.

The station will cover various topics including important issues relating to education, immigration, housing, and employment rights. The council plans to use a variety of local programming to provide information including basic English lessons for Hispanics. The radio station will feature special guests such as, elected officials, community organizers, community activists, educators, law enforcement officers and government officials.

Council 5001, along with the leadership of board members, Mr. Eulid Villanueva and Mr. Greg Chavez, made this project possible through their hard work and perseverance. Local contributions have been vital to the station's success. For example, a local hardware store owner donated an essential piece of radio equipment; more than 40 young members of the Hispanic community volunteered as DJs; and a local assistant pastor, Reverend Christopher Cox, has loaned the station his collection of Spanish cds.

Recognizing Youth Advisors

Mr. and Mrs. Alberto Govea received a "Certificate of Appreciation" for their tireless dedication to the LULAC Youth and the Hispanic community as a whole. Manuel Olguin, National Youth President presented the certificate on behalf of the LULAC youth.

LULAC Calendar

■ California's 2nd Annual Legislative Gala

DATE: February 19, 2003

TIME: 6:30pm - 10:00 pm

LOCATION: Holiday Inn,

Cost: \$100 per person. Contact Mickie Luna at 831-637-1342 or David Rodriguez 805-639-0846

■ March 1st is the Deadline for LULAC National Scholarship Fund Partnership Agreements for the matching funds program. Contact Lorena Maymi at 202-835-9646 or lnescaward@aol.com

■ Texas Legislative Gala

DATE: March 6, 2003

TIME: 6:30-10:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Omni Southpark Hotel, Austin, Texas

Individual tickets available at \$75.00 each. Contact Irismelda Benavides at 512 891-6960 E-mail iris4u@airmail.net

■ LULAC National Legislative Awards Gala

DATE: March 11, 2003

LOCATION: J.W. Marriott,

Washington, DC

Contact Carlos Zapata at 202-833-6130 or CZapata@lulac.org

■ LULAC Issues Forum

DATE: March 11, 2003

LOCATION: TBA

Contact Brent Wilkes at 202-833-6130 or BWilkes@lulac.org

■ LULAC National Women's Conference

DATE: April 11-12, 2003

LOCATION: Pima Community College. Contact Vera Marquez at (714) 898-2312 or veram@earthlink.net

■ LULAC District Youth Event "Determination of the Youth Generation"

DATE: Sat., April 12, 2003

LOCATION: Dallas Texas

For more information contact Arlinda Arriaga at District3youth@hotmail.com

■ 74th Annual LULAC National Convention

DATE: June 16-21, 2003

LOCATION: Wyndham

Palace Resort & Spa, Orlando, Florida

Early Bird Registration by May 1, 2003. For more information see www.lulac.org or call 202-833-6130 or 1-866-577-0726.



Eulid Villanueva (left), Sabor Latino's radio project manager and #5001 Board Member, with Blanca Vargas, VP for the Midwest, who was a recent guest on the Sabor Latino program.

Making a Difference

Twenty-six years ago, several LULAC members came up with an idea to form a non-profit organization called Project Amistad. This organization has been touching the lives of many aged and adult persons with disabilities in the El Paso community. The organization began under the auspices of the Texas LULAC, District IV. Through the years, Project Amistad has evolved to meet the ever-growing needs of this very vulnerable segment of our population. The organization's goal is to ensure that the elderly and disabled do not become victims of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation, by providing advocacy, support and protective services. Project Amistad's programs and services have been created and designed to provide direct delivery of services. These include:

Guardianship: Through an appointment by the Probate Court of El Paso County, the agency is able to provide protection to persons who lack the capacity to make personal decisions regarding their well-being and who do not have anyone appropriate or eligible to serve as their guardian.

Representative payee: Provides comprehensive financial management and critical support to home bound persons. The agency will budget their income to ensure that the client's food, clothing and shelter needs are met. This service allows them to remain independent, to maintain their dignity and avoids unnecessary institutionalization.

Medical transportation: Provides door-to-door transportation to and from medical appointments for the elderly and persons with disabilities who are incapable of using public transportation.

Project Amistad makes a difference every day. "We provide lifesaving services. Without Project Amistad, many people would not be able to get to the hospital for vital medical care, such as chemotherapy or dialysis" said Carolina Muñoz, the organization's Chair and LULAC's National Fiscal Officer.

"Our guardianship program has positively impacted many people in our communities. We have helped turn the lives of people around. People who are homeless, ill, or are living in deplorable condi-



Carolina Muñoz, Project Amistad Board of Director's Chairperson and LULAC's National Fiscal Officer. Carolina has been a LULAC member for 44 years now.

tions have been able to make important changes in their lives with our help," said Christine Worley, its Executive Director.

LULAC leaders, Lucy G. Acosta and Alfredo J. Jacques were the co-founders of the agency. Mr. Jacques became the first chair person of the organization and Mrs. Acosta served as Executive Director for more than twenty five years until her recent retirement. During her tenure she guided the agency through its "growing up" years. Her insight and indomitable commitment to the elderly population of El Paso County helped to ensure that their needs would be met through the services and programs provided by Project Amistad. The organization's Board of Directors is made up of representatives from El Paso LULAC Councils, as well as community-at-large members.

LULAC Project Amistad is a 501 (c) 3 organization and is non-profit, non-partisan and non-sectarian. The Board of Directors governs the agency and provides guidance for the development of programs and services.

Council 3071 Brings Christmas to Children

Council 3071 of Contra Costa, California hosted the first Annual Christmas Village Production at the home of Joan and Dan De Miglio. LULAC invited all 290 children from the Pittsburgh Preschool and Community Council (PSCC) to view the Department 56 Village at the De Miglio home. PSCC serves low and no-income children in Pittsburgh, California; approximately one-half of the PSCC children in the program are Latino.

The De Miglio's have been collecting Department 56 village buildings and accessories for the past sixteen years. The village took up the De Miglio's entire living room. Joan De Miglio played Mrs. Santa and Dan De Miglio was Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer. The elves were played by Angel Luevano, President of Council 3071 and Argentina Davila-Luevano, Vice President for women's issues.

Richard Sambrano Heads LULAC National Civil Rights Project

Richard Sambrano launched the LULAC National Civil Rights Project in December with full approval of the LULAC National Board. The purpose of the project is to evaluate changes that have taken place in civil rights law and ensure that communities have access to that information. Sambrano and his task force are tasked with updating the LULAC Civil Rights Manual and creating a multi-media civil rights kit. The task force will begin holding civil rights training sessions across the country.

Submission Criteria

We want to include as much as possible in the *LULAC News*. To ensure quality and accuracy please properly label all information that you submit. If sending photos, please send the actual photo or high resolution photos by email and provide sufficient information for each photo, such as the names of the persons in the photos and the event or location where the photo was taken.

LULAC Partners with Local Fire Department to Recruit Hispanics



Council 263 has been critical about the lack of minorities in their local fire department in Lubbock, Texas for a some time now. When they were given an opportunity to form a partnership with the City of Lubbock and the Lubbock Fire Department to recruit more Hispanics to train and join the Lubbock Fire Department, they jumped on the opportunity.

A local college and the department founded this academy and LULAC was asked to help in the recruiting of Hispanics for the program. The partnership will be working with the South Plains Community College and their new South Plains Fire Academy.

Council 263 hosted a workshop at the LULAC Hall where the new program was presented to any Hispanics wanting to try this career. The council advertised through all the Spanish media, radio and TV about the program. They also mailed and passed out flyers to promote the program.

The Lubbock fire chief, three firemen and representatives from the City of Lubbock Personnel Department were present to explain the new program to thirty-three interested recruits that attended. The recruits, if they decide to join the program and are selected by the department, will take two semesters at the academy and upon completion, will become certified firemen and EMTs.

A reception was held after the presentations to allow the interested recruits to talk with the fire chief and other firemen. This was the first time this presentation has been conducted and the council and the fire chief were surprised and happy with the

attendance. Council 263 plans to host this presentation on a continuing basis with the next one scheduled for January. For more information, please call Council President Jaime Garcia at 806-744-1984.

Hats Off to Mary Rocha of Council 3071



Mary Rocha, Vice President for the Elderly for Council 3071 has a long, rich history of serving others. As a direct result of Mary's involvement in the development of a health project called the Healthy Aging Initiative in California this past year, the Alzheimer's Association has been awarded a grant from the John Muir Mt. Diablo Community Health Benefit Corporation and the Y & H Soda Foundation for \$80,200. The grant will provide resources for the Alzheimer's Association to collaborate with LULAC in order to develop and implement an outreach and education program for Latino families in central and east Contra Costa County, California. This new outreach effort will collaborate with existing community-based organizations serving seniors and their families, offer scholarships to Latino families, and provide 25 nonprofit in-home support programs with training.

Mary has served the Hispanic community for years in various capacities including serving as the Hispanic director at large for Contra Costa County and as a founding member and president for both the Mexi-

can-American School Board Association in California and the National Hispanic School Board Association. Mary has also received various awards for her dedication to serving others. We're glad Mary is part of the LULAC team!

LULAC Gets Out the Vote!



LULAC members work to "Get Out the Vote."

Council 263 from Lubbock Texas, with the help of a grant from the Texas LULAC office, undertook a "Get Out the Vote" Campaign. The council offered rides to the polls on election-day and also offered a contact phone number for people to call with voting questions. The council rewarded people that voted with a free meal at the LULAC Hall. The council members went door to door passing out flyers to offer these non-partisan services.

Several members took time off from work to help with this important project. The phones started to ring before 7 a.m. when the polls opened. The LULAC members were hard at work helping people find their voting place and driving people to the polls. They gave over 250 rides to the polls and served about 325 meals that day. Other members were busy preparing and serving the free meals to voters. The "Get Out the Vote" campaign was especially successful considering that planning started only three weeks before voting day. For more information call 806-744-1984.

WOMEN'S CORNER



LULAC ladies at the National Convention in Laredo, Texas on June 23, 1951.

Tell Us Your Story

Do you have a great story to share about being a Latina? We want to hear them. Share your stories and your wisdom. Alternatively, if you know a Latina who may have a great story to share, please send her name and telephone number and a brief description of her story.

Here are some ideas to get you to start thinking, but please feel free to come up with your own original ideas. Tell us...

- what it's like being an activist, a working mom, a homemaker and/or caretaker
- about a special moment in your life
- about how you help or helped others
- what it's like to be a Latina today
- about your mom or grandmother and why she is/was special
- about a defining moment in your life
- offer words of wisdom for Latinas today

Please submit a story of 500 words or less. Legible, hand-written articles will also be accepted. If you have a picture you would like to include, please send it with your submission, along with the name(s) of the individuals in the picture and the time and place the photo was taken. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number and council number. We will try to include one story per edition of the *LULAC News*. Send to: Theresa Filberth, LULAC National

Secretary, at P.O. Box 401, Deer Park, Texas 77536 or email her at theresafilberth@lulac.org. Once submitted, articles are the property of the *LULAC News* and may be subject to editing.

Women's Health

According to a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Hispanic women are twice as likely to contract cervical cancer than other women. The disease was found at a rate of 16.0 per 100,000 Hispanic women 30 and over, compared to 8.9 per 100,000 other women. This indicates that not enough Hispanic women are having Pap tests.

Apparently, some Hispanic women and older women of all ethnic groups sometimes lack easy access to tests either because of their age, low income, low education and/or lack of health insurance.

SOURCE: *The Washington Post*, Section A9, November 28, 2002.

Did You Know?

Did you know that there are now 35.3 million Latinos residing in the U.S. with Latinas accounting for 18 million or 51.5% of the total Latino population?

Did you know that more than 51% of low income Latinas are uninsured and face serious barriers to health care which often results in higher incidences of preventable disease, delayed diagnosis and treatment and poorer health outcomes overall?

Did you know that the rate of HIV infection is now 7 times higher among Latinas as compared to white women?

Did you know that the Latina cervical cancer rate is twice the rate of white women and 28% of Latinas are not receiving prenatal care during their first trimester?

The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health invites you to join their Latina Health and Dignity Campaign. Please see their website at www.LatinaInstitute.org for more information or call (718) 229-1716.

Source: *The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health*, November 2002.

LULAC Youth Care About the Environment



(L-R) Angela Guzman, Cynthia Serna, Sara Ramirez, and Lori Soto.

LULAC Youth Council 301 is committed to caring for the environment. Three times a year, the youth council picks up trash in a designated portion of the San Antonio River, as part of the "Adopt a River Project." This project works with 1,000 community organizations and its purpose is to make the youth and other members of the community aware of the importance of maintaining a clean environment.

Express Yourself!

Along with letting us know what is happening in your LULAC Councils, we would also like you to submit your poems, essays, and/or artwork to be published in the LULAC News. We are looking for forms of art that reflect your experience as a Latino youth in today's society. We will select one article, poem and/or piece of artwork to publish in the LULAC News. Essays or poems should be no longer than 500 words each. Please email or mail your works to the national office: LQuiroga@LULAC.org or LULAC, 2000 L Street, NW, Suite 610, Washington, DC 20036.

LULAC Youth Give Back



LULAC Youth Member, Joshua Ybanez helps Justin Houser open his new gift.

LULAC Youth Council 301 wanted to give back during the Christmas season. This year the youth council dedicated themselves to the "Any Baby Can" (ABC) holiday project that helps families with children that have chronic illnesses or disabilities. The strain of paying for medical care leaves little room in the family budget for gifts, toys and holiday foods. The ABC organization provided a family to the council and the council agreed to "adopt" them for the holidays. The council adopted the Houser family, a family of six. The youth provided the whole family with twenty gifts which they personally delivered. The gifts were made possible by individual donations from the youth and their families. Mr. and Mrs. Houser were overwhelmed and moved by this act of kindness. The youth felt this experience made them appreciate all that they have and the many blessings that giving brings.

Top Right Photo: LULAC Youth Member Jesse Martinez speaks at the graduation ceremony.

Bottom Right: Johanna Andrade, LULAC Sweetheart for Council 12113 of Boston. As part of her award, Johanna was sent to the LULAC National Convention in Houston last summer.

Rites of Passage

On Sunday, December 29, Fort Worth Youth Councils 250 & 1018 attended the Hispanic "Rites of Passage" graduation ceremony. The students graduated from a program that consists of six workshops and is student driven. The instruction focused on five personal growth areas. The workshops included: spiritual, cultural, economic, community, and personal rites of passage.

During the sessions, the students also learned about community pride, unity, team building skills, entrepreneurship and leadership development. The graduates received a Certificate of Completion and as a symbol of growth they were asked to name one trait of their youth that they plan to give up and one trait they plan to work toward acquiring. The ceremony was attended by parents, family, friends, LULAC adult members and dignitaries.



The LULAC Legacy: A Vision of Civil Rights

Recently, Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi afforded Americans an opportunity to re-examine our history and see how far we have come in the area of civil rights. In order to move forward, it is always important to recognize where one has been. Senator Lott reminded us that where we had been is not where we would like to return. During its 74-year existence, LULAC has been part of landmark legislation and rulings that have helped to reform American society by dismantling the harsh system of racism and segregation, by enlarging protections for all of its citizens, irrespective of their ethnic background, their color, their religion or their sexual preferences.

From its beginning, LULAC has fought uncompromisingly against racial, often violent discrimination and hate, while cherishing the ideals upon which the United States was founded. Two sets of events led to the establishment of LULAC in South Texas. The first was World War I and the second was the large influx of some 500,000 immigrants from Mexico escaping the revolution from 1920 to 1929.

World War I not only stimulated the economy and created new jobs, but also engendered a sense of belonging in the hearts and minds of those Hispanics who had enlisted to serve patriotically, making them question why their Mexican heritage should subject them to discrimination. Economic growth during that period would allow many in the Hispanic community to better integrate into the system. The Mexican revolution, however, served to re-invigorate ambivalent positions among the Anglo population in Texas that their state was being "flooded" by immigrants, creating a "Mexican problem" that had to be controlled.

In 1929, LULAC emerged from a unity meeting involving several Mexican-American groups: The League of Latin American Citizens, the Knights of America, and the Order of the Sons of America. The organization helped to provide the Hispanic community with a sense of identity and purpose, while battling against injustice. In one of the first editions of the *LULAC News*, LULAC avowed that it would "abolish once and for

all illegal segregation...[and] erase all racial hatred." From these lofty goals evolved the LULAC Constitution, which asked for nothing less than equal rights under the law and an equal opportunity.

To accomplish these goals, LULAC members fostered English-language acquisition, preparing Hispanics to participate in civic duties and equal education for all children. As time progressed, the organization would become more and more sophisticated in its efforts to desegregate the southwest. Benjamin Marquez, author of *LULAC: The Evolution of a Mexican American Political Organization*, characterized LULAC's path to political empowerment as follows: "It had to deal with an extremely harsh social atmosphere that viewed political organizing on the part of Mexican Americans with suspicion and hostility."

Despite these obstacles, LULAC forged ahead, seeking peaceful reform against bigotry and reaffirming LULAC's commitment to American democracy. LULAC was firmly aware that racism could harm Hispanics politically. LULAC members did not wait for American society to embrace them; they actively sought to integrate themselves in community activities, becoming part of the solution to the problems at large. Through dedication and large amounts of sweat equity, LULAC over the years has been part of many civil suits such as *Mendez vs. Westminster School District*, which challenged segregation in California schools; *Delgado vs. Bastrop Independent School District*, striking down segregation in Texas schools; and *Hernandez vs. Texas*, which challenged the exclusion of Mexican Americans in the selection of juries.

LULAC put its money where its mouth was by raising millions of dollars for scholarships and creating the Little School of the 400 to teach English to limited proficiency children so they could complete school. Eventually, LULAC would create the LULAC National Educational Service Centers (LNEC), serving 16 communities nationwide to ensure Latino children would be prepared to enter institutions of higher learning.

Historical Facts

- **LULAC was created in 1929 in Corpus Christi, TX.**

- **LULAC challenged school segregation against Mexican Americans. In 1945, LULAC was party to a suit challenging the practice of school segregation in California. In the case, *Méndez v. Westminster School District*, the plaintiffs successfully argued that the policy of segregation violated individuals' equal protection under law. In 1948, LULAC filed *Minerva Delgado v. Bastrop Independent School District* - a desegregation suit aimed at clarifying the constitutional issues involved in the segregation of Mexican Americans in the public schools and won a permanent restriction against segregated classes.**

- **In 1953, LULAC filed a landmark suit against the state of Texas before the U.S. Supreme Court and argued against the exclusion of Mexican Americans from jury selection with *Hernandez v. The State of Texas*.**

- **LULAC created the Little School of the 400 in 1957 to promote English-language acquisition in pre-schoolers. The program served as a basis for Head Start programs nationwide.**

- **In 1973, LULAC formed the LULAC National Education Service Center (LNEC).**

LULAC continues its work and has spread to parts of the country with little organizational development for Hispanics, in states such as Missouri, Maine, Arkansas and Tennessee. It continues its fight against bigotry, segregation, and in favor of empowering Latinos everywhere through education, advocacy, and dedicated activism.

LULAC Profile



Hortencia "Tencha" Wilcox, State Director for Missouri.

Hortencia Vasquez Wilcox, State Director for Missouri

Every issue of LULAC News will profile a LULAC member that has exhibited strong leadership within LULAC and his or her community. This month we are profiling, Hortencia "Tencha" Wilcox, State Director for Missouri. Tencha has helped to make LULAC's presence strong in her state within a very short time.

Where and when were you born?

I was born on May 9, 1958 in Brownsville, Texas to a large family with 24 siblings. My mother's family came from Mexico and my father's family originated from Spain.

What would you characterize as your best personality trait?

I would say that I am a passionate volunteer.

If you could have dinner with anyone (dead or alive) who would it be?

Abraham Lincoln. He served the people with his heart and his leadership continues to influence us even today.

What do you perceive to be the most important Latino issue?

At the top of my list is the number of students who are unable to continue their education after graduating from high school. In addition, I am concerned that educators do not have the resources they need in order to educate all Latinos sufficiently.

What is your passion as a LULAC leader?

To build a strong LULAC membership and empower LULAC members.

What is your greatest accomplishment?

Raising my two sons and two daughters and getting them involved with our church and LULAC.

What compelled you to join

LULAC? I attended a Hispanic Leadership Conference about two years ago. As I began to learn about LULAC a burning desire began to swell in my heart for bringing LULAC to Missouri because I saw a need for Latinos to come together.

What are your goals as a LULAC leader?

I would like to continue standing up for our civil rights and working to ensure that all Latinos receive an adequate education. I hope to recruit more young people to join LULAC and empower our youth, young adults, adults, and minority citizens by utilizing LULAC's best practices. Finally, I would like to find ways in which the government and other organizations can work together with LULAC in order to reach LULAC's goals.

What is your motto?

Be generous, be kind, be strong, be teachable, be compassionate, be understanding, be a good listener, be patient, be hopeful, be faithful, be true, be loving, and be yourself!

Who do you admire most?

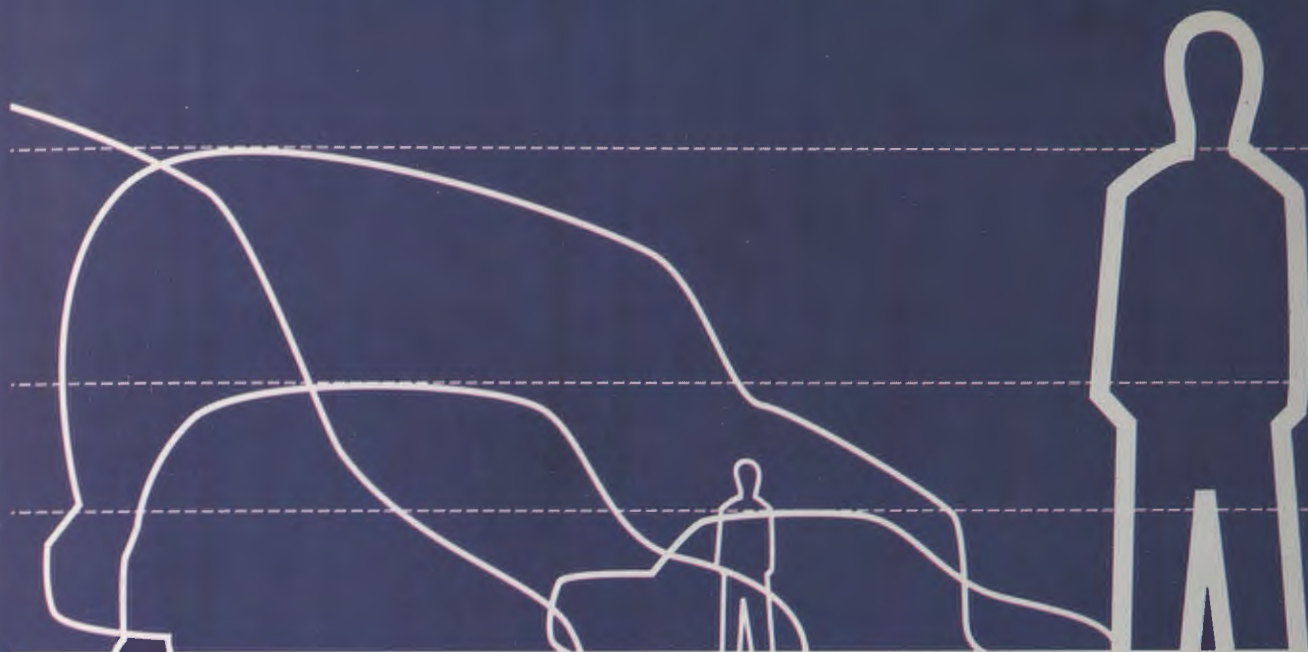
I admire many people but if I have to choose one it would be my father.

What advice can you give to young Latinas?

Never in the history of time has the door been opened as it is now for Latinas to have the freedom to accomplish their educational and professional goals. As Latinas and women we must never give up. It may take a while and it may be challenging. Just stay focused and just do it! Finally, remember to give back to your family and community for all they have given to you.



Tencha Wilcox (pictured in the middle) with her children from left to right. Michael (19), Natalie (20), Daniel (10) and Kimberly (15).



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POLICY and Legislation

Diversity in Higher Education is at Stake:

Affirmative Action Under Attack

By Gabriela D. Lemus, Ph.D.



Salen
paquetitos

The Supreme Court is currently reviewing two affirmative action cases affecting the University of Michigan's admissions policies: *Gratz v. Bollinger et. al.* and *Gutter v. Bollinger*. These cases challenge the University of Michigan's right to consider race as a plus factor in its law school and undergraduate admissions processes.

Although in the case of *Gratz v. Bollinger*, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals had not heard the case, university counsels requested that the Supreme Court hear both cases since they are so closely related. The Supreme Court will now examine the constitutionality of both cases, agreeing to hear them sometime in early 2003.

The plaintiffs questioning the university's affirmative action policy claim that the admissions policy illegally discriminates against them because they believe that race and ethnicity provide advantages in the process. The university, however, argues that the Constitution and civil rights laws as interpreted by the Supreme Court in the 1978 *Bakke* decision indeed allows the university to consider race and ethnicity because it permits the university to enjoy the benefits of a diverse student body. From the university's perspective, racial diversity produces educational benefits given the actual situation of segregation and distance between racial groups in the United States. The university feels that the university's policy should be defended because it is necessary to remediate past and/or present discrimination against minorities.

If the Supreme Court decides against the university, it is widely viewed that the decision could severely limit Hispanics' opportunities to gain the education they need to become doctors, lawyers, politicians and business leaders who make a strong contribution to society. In fact, corporations agree on the importance of affirmative action. General Motors and 32 other Fortune 500 corporations have filed "friend of the court" briefs supporting the University of Michigan and stating the importance of cultural diversity to their businesses.

Of the 35 million Latinos in the United States, only 11 percent have obtained a post-secondary education. The proportion with a bachelor's degree or more is much lower for Hispanics (10.6 percent) than for non-Hispanic Whites (28.1 percent), according to the U.S. Census Bureau. More than one-third of the Hispanic population is under 18 and could one day benefit from affirmative action policies that increase their chances of being admitted to institutions of higher learning. Policy changes could force enrollment rates of Hispanics even lower, and prevent these students from obtaining crucial financial aid—as was demonstrated in California when the University of California system rolled back its affirmative action policies.

LULAC is a member of an ad hoc bi-partisan coalition of national Hispanic leaders and organizations, including the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, National Council of La Raza, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Cuban American National Council, New American Alliance, National Association of Hispanic Publications, University of Puerto Rico, Hispanic Associations of Colleges and Universities and MANA— a National Latina Organization. On January 8, 2003, the coalition leaders sent an open letter (see page 13) to President Bush, urging him to back affirmative action in higher education by supporting the University of Michigan's position in the two pending U.S. Supreme Court cases, *Gutter v. Bollinger* and *Gratz v. Bollinger*.

President Bush has since denounced the University of Michigan's race-conscious policy. Solicitor General, Theodore B. Olsen, submitted the administration's brief asking the Supreme Court to declare unconstitutional the law school and undergraduate admissions programs in dispute on January 16, 2003.

POLICY *and Legislation*



Hispanic leaders urge President Bush to support affirmative action through an open letter. Signators include: Front row (L-R) Moctesuma Esparza, New American Alliance; Antonio Flores, Ph.D., HACU; Manuel Mirabal, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA); Cecilia Muñoz, NCLR; Alicia Diaz, Cuban American National Council (CNC); Maria Perla, Student, Cesar Chavez Charter High School; Alma Morales Riojas, MANA; Marisa Rivera-Albert, National Hispana Leadership Institute (NHLI). Back row (L-R) Brent Wilkes, LULAC; Frank Lopez, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC); Alfred Ramirez, National Community for Latino Leadership, Inc.; Ivonne Cunarro, National Association of Hispanic Publishers (NAHP). Not pictured: Mari-Carmen Aponte, University of Puerto Rico; and Marisa Demeo, MALDEF.

Dear President Bush,

There is an immediate crisis confronting the Latino youth and our nation. There are currently two cases to be decided by the United States Supreme Court, *Grutter v. Bollinger* and *Gratz v. Bollinger*. These two cases involve the question of whether race and ethnicity can be considered in the higher education admissions process. Should the Supreme Court rule against the 1978 holding of *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, in which it held it was constitutional for colleges and universities to seek diverse student bodies, the percentage of Latino youth graduating from higher education institutions would drop substantially. Only 11 percent of the 35 million Latinos in the U.S. have obtained a post-secondary education compared to the 28 percent of the 195 million non-Hispanic whites who hold a bachelor's degree or more. This is entirely unacceptable.

Affirmative action transcends all racial barriers and extends beyond central political issues. It is heartily embraced by the Latino community as a fair and equitable business practice. Ending affirmative action would shut the door to the American dream for a vast number of our citizens. It is likely that minorities will become the majority in the first half of this millennium. Can

we afford to not educate the citizens who may well be the foundation for our nation's future? Studies have found that diversity in a post secondary environment improves the education environment for all our students. Continuing *Bakke* also allows universities to dispense financial aid and other support programs to Latinos once they are accepted at a college or university. Without this vital source of financial support, Latinos will be unable to stay the course, graduate, and become productive members of our society.

This is an incredibly serious crisis that we are facing in our nation. We urge you to keep your commitment to the Latino community and support us in our endeavor to keep in place the modest type of affirmative action allowed by the *Bakke* decision and before the Supreme Court now.

Respectfully Yours,

LULAC, HACU, MALDEF, CNC, Puerto Rican Federal Affairs Administration, NHLA, USHCC, NCLR, New America Alliance, MANA, NAHP, NHLI, National Community for Latino Leadership, Inc. and Cesar Chavez Charter High School. (For the full names of these organizations see the above caption).

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HISPANIC LEADERSHIP

Leading the Way

A LULAC Member Goes to Capitol Hill



LULAC congratulates Congressman Raúl Grijalva (D) of Arizona, one of the three new Hispanics who are serving in the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Grijalva was born and raised in the state of Arizona. As a member of the Tucson Unified District Governing Board, Mr. Grijalva has distinguished himself as an advocate for teacher and employee rights, civil rights and for public education. Mr. Grijalva has also served as a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, where he worked on many community issues concerning health care, children and families. The residents in his district elected Mr. Grijalva four times as their representative by wide margins. Mr. Grijalva has recently joined LULAC as a member of the PPEP Farmworker Council 1088. A graduate of the University of Arizona, Mr. Grijalva has been married to his wife Ramona for the past 31 years and they have three daughters.



Rep. Grijalva (D-AZ) and John David Arnold, President of Council 1088, hold a National Farmworker Justice Program Graduation plaque.

Hispanic Leads Democratic Caucus



Representative Robert Menendez (D-NJ) was recently named the new Chairman of the Democratic Caucus.

LULAC Leader Appointed to Top Position in Arizona



Richard Fimbres, LULAC Vice President for the Far West, was recently appointed by Arizona Governor-elect Janet Napolitano to a top position in Arizona. Mr. Fimbres, who has served in the Pima County Sheriff's Department for the past twenty years, will now head the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. He will take office in January, as the position does not require legislative approval. The governor expects Mr. Fimbres to focus on getting drunk drivers off the road and creating a new highway design that would lead to fewer accidents which would translate into fewer lawsuits against the state.

North Korea Unexpectedly Calls on Hispanic Governor

In an unprecedented effort to defuse a nuclear confrontation in the Pacific, high-ranking North Korean United Nations envoys Han Song Ryol and Mun Jong Chol engaged the newly-elected Hispanic Governor of New Mexico, Bill Richardson, to discuss North Korea's nuclear plans. U.N. envoy Han, who has known Mr. Richardson for years, called the Governor and asked to meet with him concerning what their country is seeking from the U.S. government in return for de-escalating their nuclear ambitions.

This is not the first time that Mr. Richardson has engaged in discussions with North Korea. As the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations under the Clinton administration, Richardson traveled to North Korea on three occasions and in 1994 he negotiated the release of an American Army helicopter pilot who was shot down after flying into North Korean air space.

This unusual chain of events has placed Democratic Governor Richardson in a delicate position. While the White House is divided on the best course of action to take with regard to North Korea and the Korean U.N. envoys met with Governor Richardson, the North Korean ambassador to the United Nations issued a vehement denunciation of the United States and appeared to formally reject the American offer for talks. Furthermore, the North Korean government gave strong indication that it would withdraw from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

Richardson has firmly stated that he was not acting in any official capacity as a negotiator and was simply passing information along to Secretary of State Colin L. Powell. Yet, he proved once again that even when unexpected, Hispanics will rise to the occasion and serve their country.

LNESC NEWS

Verizon Grants Major Gift to LNESC

The LULAC National Educational Service Centers, Inc. (LNESC) has been awarded a \$200,000 grant by Verizon Communications to continue its innovative Young Readers program in fifteen sites around the country. "Verizon's five years of involvement with Young Readers has helped create an effective program that continues to motivate our youngest students to succeed. What is more, Verizon's support truly demonstrates the commitment of the company to the Hispanic community through LULAC and LNESC and its dedication to the promotion of literacy," said Richard Roybal, LNESC Executive Director.

Originally designed as a six-week summer program in 1986, the first Young Readers Programs were held in Virginia and Texas. These early versions of the program were intended to be a low-cost, easily replicable program that brought LULAC and other community volunteers into the schools to promote reading and literacy at the primary level. This six-week version of the Young Readers Program proved to be very popular with the schools and with the LULAC councils. Due to the program's success, LNESC decided to start additional programs nationwide.

Seeking to enhance the educational gains made during its six-week summer program, LNESC piloted a year-round version of its Young Readers Program in 1999 with the sponsorship of the GTE (Verizon) Foundation. During that year, LNESC enrolled 334 mostly ESL (English as a Second Language) students at ten sites throughout the nation in an intensive program designed to promote a love of reading in these children and their family members. During this initial year the program focused on expanding the students' vocabulary by motivating them to read over 20,000 books while registering over 500 students and family members for cards at their local libraries. Young Readers continues to grow and has attracted major support from a variety of funding sources.

Verizon, Continued on page 23.

LNESC, a Community Partner

The programs of the LNESC network of centers serve as an effective outreach method to thousands of Hispanic, disadvantaged and minority youth around the nation every year. LNESC's impact in the communities it serves is not limited, however, to school-related activities. The LNESC centers themselves have become key bases for community meetings and neighborhood organizations. These activities allow LNESC to become a full stakeholder and partner in the seventeen communities where the center is located.

A recent example of LNESC's community partnership model occurred at the San Antonio office. In conjunction with Valero Energy Corporation, HEB Food Stores and LULAC Council 4559, LNESC conducted an open house for students, their parents and other members of the Alazan Courts Housing Center, part of the San Antonio Housing Authority. Attendees enjoyed a day filled with food, fun and games and were given the opportunity to learn about LNESC's educational programs. Over 200 students and their parents participated. "It was a very successful day and the event really helped to introduce LNESC to the San Antonio community," said Miguel Martell, center director.

More recently at the LNESC center in Chicago, a community-wide *Back-to-School College and Community Organization Fair* was held to bring awareness of LNESC's presence in the area. Under the direction of Center Director Malena Bobe de Mendez, community-based awareness has become a priority for the center. The fair enabled local students from the community to meet with college admissions representatives to learn how to access the various resources that make college success possible. "Overall it was a good opportunity for the community to get to know us," said Sylvia Gutierrez, LNESC staff member and one of the organizers of the event.

LNESC continues to affect the educational success of its students through its array of programs from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The true impact, however, of

LNESC, Continued on page 23.



The Chicago Young Readers and their teacher, Emily Graves (right) with Maria Molina of Procter & Gamble Company (left), a sponsor of the program.

Young Readers

YOUNG READERS GEAR UP FOR NEW SESSIONS

The Young Readers program continues to be one of LNESC's most successful educational programs, garnering substantial support from corporate America, LULAC and elementary schools. Some of the newest supporters include: the Metris Companies, the nation's 10th largest bankcard issuer which is sponsoring a program in Phoenix; Mervyn's Department Stores, part of the Target family of stores, which is sponsoring a summer Young Readers in McAllen, Texas; and Tyson Foods, the food processing giant, which is sponsoring programs in three locations: Seguin, Texas; Little Rock, Arkansas and Sedalia, Missouri.

FEATURE STORY

Hermanas, Continued from page 3.

In an interview with Loretta, the elder Sanchez sister, she told us that she and Linda pretty much see eye to eye on all issues, especially on health care, workers' rights and education issues. The only area where she imagines they may have minor differences may relate to business. Loretta believes this is due to her background in business and her sister's background in labor. "Our goals are probably the same, but we may have different perspectives on how to reach those same goals," said Loretta.

As Linda told NBC in a recent interview, she doesn't plan to be a carbon copy of her sister. "We have our different personalities and different perspectives. Depending on what comes up you'll see us react differently." Linda's background is in law; she served as a civil rights attorney and a labor leader before deciding to run for office. Linda was also the first Latina in California to head a county labor council in a state where unions hold considerable political clout.

When asked how Loretta plans to work with her sister to advance the Latino agenda during the next legislative session she explained that she is currently negotiating with both republicans and democrats to come up with a bipartisan bill that would focus on a guest worker program. She hopes that the bill will include permanent status for guest workers. She plans to ask her sister to participate in this important effort. Other areas she would like to focus on in the next legislative session include retraining programs. She says that her sister also feels strongly that these programs need to be upgraded in order to better assist displaced workers. Loretta said she also hopes to see more Hispanics on corporate boards and more Hispanic-owned banks and venture capital groups.

Loretta is passionate about helping Hispanics become successful in both the private and public arena. In fact, Loretta wants to see more Latinas joining her and her sister on Capitol Hill. "I know it isn't easy for Latinas to run for public office, there are lots of obstacles to face. Latinas face 'naysayers' from our own community, gender bias, and difficulties in raising money, and the old boys' network is alive and well," says Loretta.



The Sanchez sisters plan to live together in Washington, D.C.

"But we can't let these obstacles stop us; we need to build our own network."

Loretta speaks from experience. Before coming to the hill, she was an investment banker who volunteered her time to work on educational issues. She struggled to make a difference but felt ignored. She said after awhile she got fed up, got mad, and decided to run for office. "I tell Latinas, 'just do it!'" Loretta explained. "We need more Latinas in office." She advises Latinas who are interested in public office to "find a mentor, preferably a good Latina mentor, learn from them and don't be afraid to go for it."

Loretta and Linda both say their mother, Maria Sanchez, has always been a great mentor to them. "She has always been involved in the local community," says Linda, pointing to their mother's activism on behalf of immigrants. In fact, Maria came to this country from Mexico as a young woman and while raising seven children she worked as a teacher's aide. Later she returned to school to study bilingual education, graduated from college and has been teaching ever since.

Linda says that Loretta also served as a mentor when it came to certain aspects of her life. "When my high school counselor was pushing me to settle for community college, my sister was the one who pushed me

to apply for a good college program instead. She even paid for my college applications." When it comes to politics, however, Linda is quick to point out that she actually got involved in politics before her older sister. Her interest in politics started in high school when she got involved with the Young Democrats. Later she worked as a precinct walker volunteer and as a civil rights and labor attorney, her work made it easy for her to stay involved in politics.

When asked if Loretta sees any of her other siblings eventually joining them on Capitol Hill, she said "Absolutely!" Linda and Loretta have four more brothers and a sister. With any luck we may see all seven Sanchez siblings on the Hill!



The Sanchez sisters with their family in the 1980's



Mario Diaz-Balart will also be joining his brother Lincoln Diaz-Balart on the Hill.



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LULAC Chevrolet Trailblazer EXT Raffle Program



With the generous support of General Motors, LULAC has established a national raffle program for LULAC councils interested in raising funds for scholarships and other council programs and activities. LULAC councils can request raffle tickets for a brand new Chevrolet TrailBlazer EXT from the LULAC National Office and sell those tickets for \$5.00 each. They will then need to pay the LULAC National Office only \$2.50 for each ticket they sell and keep the other half as funds for their council programs. The national drawing for a brand new Chevrolet TrailBlazer EXT will take place on June 20, 2003 in Orlando, Florida at the 2003 LULAC National Convention Presidential Awards Banquet.

Program Details:

- Only LULAC Councils in good standing and LNEC Centers can participate.
- Councils must complete and sign the Raffle Agreement form indicating the number of raffle tickets requested up to 500 tickets.
- Raffle tickets will be mailed to councils within 5 days of receipt of agreement.
- Councils will have **until May 31, 2003** to sell raffle tickets.
- Councils must send \$2.50 for each ticket sold along with the numbered ticket stub and all unsold tickets to the national office so that they are received by June 6, 2003.
- The drawing will take place on Friday, June 20, 2003 in Orlando, Florida at the 2003 LULAC National Convention and the winner will be notified.



(L-R) Rene Martinez, Bea Martinez, Kathleen Estrada, Bob Estrada, of the University of Texas Board of Regents, Dr. Carol Francois, Clyde Henderson, Mary Palomares and Roman Palomares at the University of Texas at Arlington's Distinguished Alumni Gala. Photo by Luis Nuño Briones.

Managing Your Money

Tips by Freddie Mac's CreditSmart Español

The *CreditSmart Español* Program, a partnership between Freddie Mac and LULAC, is designed to help us manage our money and plan for the future by creating and maintaining good credit. LULAC is excited about its partnership with Freddie Mac. The program will actively assist in delivering to consumers, valuable financial literacy and consumer credit education developed by Freddie Mac. As part of this program, LULAC has decided to include a series of financial tips from the program in the next several issues of the *LULAC News*.

The first part focuses on the difference between "needs" and "wants."

"Needs" are items that you **must have** for basic survival.

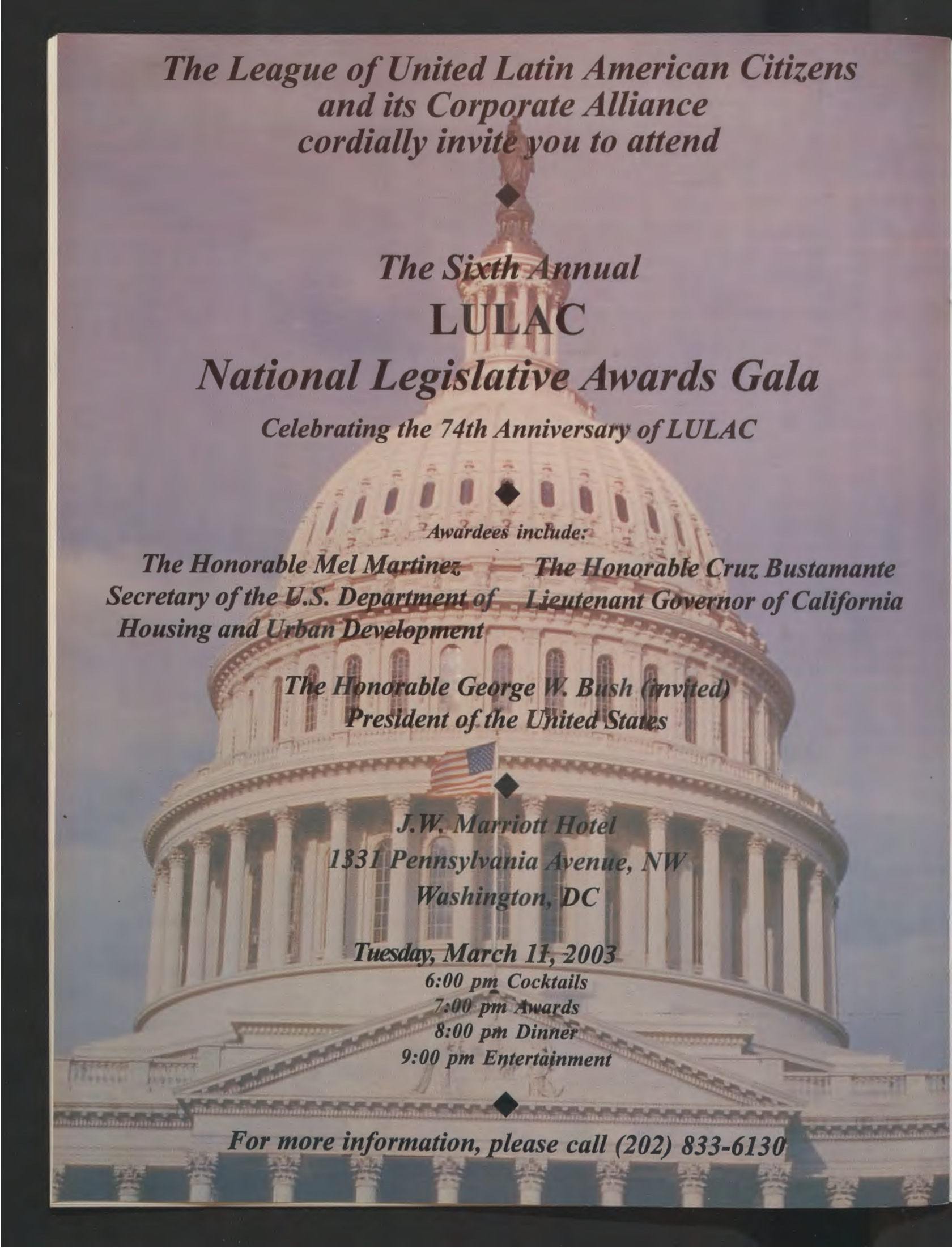
"Wants" are things you **desire** but can live without.

Examples of Needs vs. Wants:

- You need shelter; but you may want the 5-bedroom house with 6 baths and a swimming pool.
- You need food; but you may want the steak/shrimp/lobster.
- You need clothing; but you may want designer fashions.

In order to save money, you need to focus on your goals and stick to your budget. If you have children, when your child is ready to earn an allowance, allow him or her to do so. That is the perfect time to help them learn important life skills such as:

- "Working for it" and not just "wishing for it."
- Saving their own money.
- Valuing their possessions and taking care of them.
- Learning how to comparison shop.



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HEALTH CORNER

Su Salud

You Are What You Eat:

Latinos are Gaining Weight and Risking Heart Disease

It used to be that when we saw a chubby little child, we thought: isn't that cute, isn't the child healthy? The 2003 update of the American Heart Association's *Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics* indicated that 15.3 percent of 6 to 11 year olds and 15.5 percent of 12 to 19 year olds are overweight.

The Latino community is in crisis and the overall health of our children is at stake. The number of overweight children has reached epidemic proportions, and overweight children have about an 80 percent chance of becoming overweight adults. Obesity is a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease. The study also indicates that children are starting to develop adult diseases such as type 2 diabetes and coronary artery disease.

Our children are becoming walking time bombs with cardiovascular diseases still the number 1 killer of Latinos. They claim the lives of almost 31 percent of the nearly 104,000 Latinos who die each year.

The dramatic rise in obesity among Hispanics is due to a combination of factors including less physical activity and more fat and caloric intake. Children spend more time in front of television than in physical activity. These bad habits are following them into adulthood, increasing their susceptibility for heart disease, among other illnesses. The report noted that people who are inactive are 1.5 to 2.4 times more likely to develop cardiovascular diseases. Physical inactivity is more prevalent among women than men, and among Hispanics and African-Americans than among Anglos.

The American Heart Association estimates that among Mexican-American adults, about 29 percent of men and 27 percent of women have cardiovascular disease (CVD). In comparison with non-Hispanic whites, Mexican-American women are more likely to have high-blood pressure but are less aware of it, which means they are not treating or controlling it.

Heart disease can be controlled through exercise and a healthy, nutritious diet that is tasty and easy to make. The key is to eat less saturated fats and lower your cholesterol. Lowering your salt intake will help reduce

high blood pressure. High blood pressure should be avoided because it increases the likelihood of developing heart disease and stroke, the no. 1 and no. 3 killers respectively in the United States today.

For more information on heart disease and how to prevent it, call 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit the American Heart Association's website at www.americanheart.org.

Healthy Recipe from Gabi's Kitchen

Caribbean Chicken and Rice

- 2 1/2 lbs. chicken breasts without skin
- 1 chopped onion
- 1/2 red bell pepper
- 1 red tomato
- 1 yellow tomato
- 4 garlic cloves
- 4 cups mushroom or vegetable broth
- 1 cup cooked jasmine rice
- 1/4 cup parsley
- 3 tsps. Adobo Criollo
- 1 tbsp. olive oil

Chop onion finely and sauté until translucent. Chop bell pepper and sauté for three minutes. Add chopped tomatoes. Add finely chopped garlic and parsley to form a sofrito. Move it to the side and begin browning chicken breasts coated in Adobo Criollo on both sides. Once browned, toss sofrito over the top of chicken, add broth. Cook for 25 minutes on low-medium heat, or until chicken falls off the bone. Serve over cooked rice. Sprinkle with additional chopped parsley.

Chicken Thighs with Chile Piquin and Yellow Tomatoes

- 6 chicken thighs (remove skin)
- 2 small yellow onions
- 2 yellow pomodoro tomatoes
- 1 large garlic clove sliced thinly
- 6-7 chile piquin (preferably green)*
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. cumin seeds
- salt and pepper
- 1 cup cooked rice

Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper. Take cumin seeds in your hand and crush it between fingers over chicken. Let sit 2-3 minutes. Heat oil and brown chicken pieces 8-10 minutes. Remove from pan. Add onions to pan and caramelize (6-7 minutes) over low heat. Add garlic, cook for 1 minute. Add tomato, cook another 2-3 minutes. Juice from tomato should loosen scrapings on bottom of pan. Add chile. When tomatoes begin breaking down, return chicken to tomatoes. Cover pan and cook on low heat for about 20 minutes. Serve over rice.

*Note: if you cannot get chile piquin, use 1 or 2 serrano chiles chopped finely without seeds.

Welcome New Councils!

ULAC welcomed nine new councils since the last issue of the *LULAC News*. Texas gained six councils, one of which was a young adult council. We also gained two in Florida, one of which was a young adult council and one in Missouri, which was also a young adult council. *Keep up the great work!*

Orlando!

Celebrate LULAC's 74th Anniversary in Orlando!

Excitement builds among LULAC members as we prepare for our next convention in beautiful Orlando, Florida. We anticipate a spectacular convention next June, which will be held at the exclusive Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa in the Walt Disney World Resort.

Be sure to sign up by May 1 for the "early bird" discount! Individuals purchasing full registrations will receive a \$25 discount if payment is made in full by May 1, 2003.

Win Airline Tickets! In addition to an early bird discount, if you register by May 1, 2003 you will be eligible to win two free American Airlines round-trip tickets to anywhere that American flies in the continental U.S. In order to qualify you must sign up on or before May 1, 2003 and your name will be entered into the drawing. The drawing will be held during the national convention in Orlando, Florida.

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Hispanic Leaders Hold Retreat to Strategize

On January 4-5, 2003 President Hector Flores and LULAC members met with members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the National Hispanic Media Coalition in Albuquerque, New Mexico. They were hosted by the staff and facilities of the National Hispanic Cultural Center of New Mexico. The purpose of this retreat was to join these groups together as a "Hispanic Caucus" in order to develop specific advocacy strategies to utilize closer collaboration between Hispanic organizations and elected officials. The retreat produced successful collaboration strategies for the following areas:

MEDIA: increasing the accurate representation of Latinos in television programs and movies, developing a Nelson rating system that gages English and bilingual Latino viewers and increasing the recruitment of Hispanic script writers;

EDUCATION: current projects coordinated by LULAC in addressing the high drop-out rate and the need for increasing college enrollment by Latinos;

IMMIGRATION: working with the Hispanic Congressional Caucus to put immigration back on the table so that we can have a system that treats immigrants in a fair and just manner;

REPRESENTATION OF HISPANICS: strategies to increase Latino representation in the government and private sector.

The "Hispanic Caucus" members in attendance included Hector Flores, LULAC President; Juan García, LULAC National VP for Young Adults; Ray Velarde, LULAC National Legal Advisor; Brent Wilkes, National Executive Director; Roman Palomares, LULAC Chief-of-Staff; Richard Roybal, LNESCE Executive Director; Moctesuma Esparza, National Hispanic Media Coalition; Alex Nogales, President of the National Hispanic Media Coalition; U.S. Representative **Ciro Rodríguez**; Maria Meier, Executive Direc-



Hispanic Caucus participants in New Mexico.

tor, Congressional Hispanic Caucus; Fabiola Rodríguez-Ciampoli, Legislative Assistant for Representative Xavier Becerra; Rebeca Rangel, Legislative Assistant for Representative Hilda L. Solis; Marcos Rincon; Frank Zuniga, Director; Roy E. Disney, Performing Arts Center and Robert Rivera.

Congressional Hispanic Caucus has New Leader



Congratulations to Representative **Ciro Rodríguez** who was recently named the Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

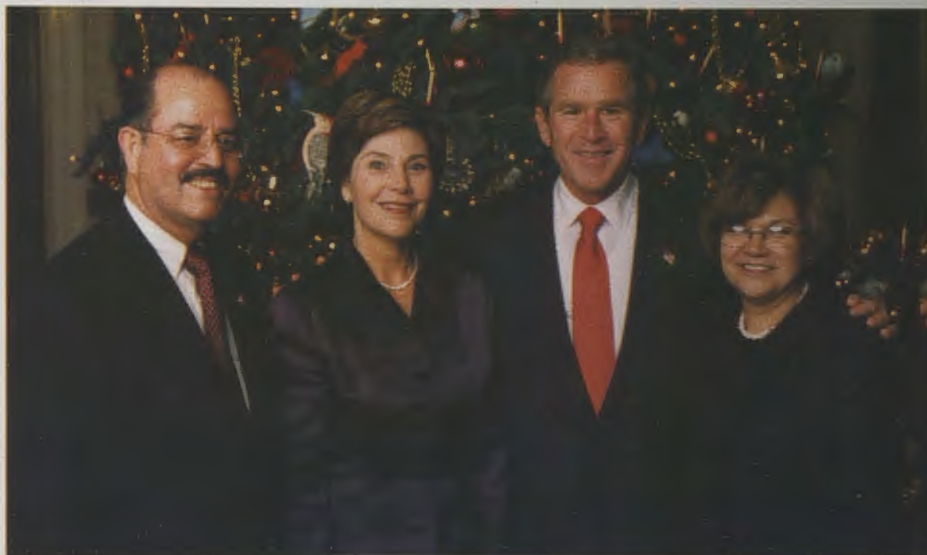
Verizon, continued from page 16.

Currently, LNESc offers the Young Readers program in twenty-eight locations around the country. Through the generous contributions of corporations, such as Verizon, Young Readers is able to impact over 800 students and their families. Young Readers is a multi-faceted program that enhances a student's ability to read, strengthens communication within the familial group and builds strong relationships between families, schools and communities. Unlike remedial programs, the LNESc Young Readers program encourages children in the first through third grades to make reading a life-long habit by incorporating entertaining educational activities that help children enhance their reading skills develop an understanding of the reading process and experience the joy of learning. As a result of their participation in the program, students generally show an improvement in their reading comprehension ability by one to two grade levels.

LNESC is extremely proud of its role in helping the nation's Hispanic students succeed and is pleased to have the Verizon Foundation as our major partner in this endeavor. LNESc and Verizon will continue to provide excellent service over the next year and looks forward to a productive program.



Alma Yubeta, LNESc Executive Director Richard Roybal, Governor of Arizona, Janet Napolitano and Ana Valenzuela at the Governor's inauguration. Richard was representing LULAC National President Hector Flores at the event.



Hector Flores, LULAC National President, Laura Bush, First Lady, President George W. Bush and Tula Flores at the White House Christmas Party.



Frank Ortiz, LULAC Treasurer; Luis Vera, LULAC Legal Counsel; Hector Flores, LULAC National President; Blanca Vargas, LULAC VP for the Midwest; Ralph Boyd, U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights; Rosa Rosales, LULAC VP for the Southwest; and Brent Wilkes, LULAC Executive Director during their visit to the Department of Justice last fall. The LULAC board members took this opportunity to discuss several civil rights cases affecting Hispanics throughout the country with Administration officials. As a result of their meeting, Mr. Boyd committed to giving LULAC leaders direct access to the section chiefs when evidence of civil rights violations arise in our communities.

LNESC, continued from page 16.

LNESC is its effect on the communities that it serves. LNESc's expansion into new communities through the Young Readers and other programs will follow the community partnership model demonstrated in San Antonio and Chicago. The reality is that it is only through community-based and community-wide collaboration that our children will find success.

To provide Young Readers coordinators with the proper training and ensure the uniformity of the program, a training session was held on December 19, 2002, in Kansas City, Missouri. The training session, was developed and delivered by Yvonne Vasquez-Rangel, LNESc Kansas City Center Director, who provided information on selecting schools, working with students and parents and gathering program data.



Fourth grade children from the Agustin Lara Academy in Chicago enjoy the LULAC News with their teachers and parents. Blanca Vargas, LULAC VP for the Midwest, (pictured in the middle) was appointed "Principal for the Day" at the academy by Chicago's Mayor, Richard J. Daley. The children said that they hope to soon become LULAC Youth Council members.



Rick Dovalina, Immediate Past LULAC National President, presents a sponsorship appreciation award to Ivelisse Estrada, V.P. Corporate & Community Relations for Univision - a corporate sponsor at the LULAC National Convention last June. Photo by Luis Nufio Briones

Yes! I want to be a LULAC member!

All persons who are residents of the United States or are U.S. citizens residing abroad, are 18 years of age or older, and whose loyalty to our country is unquestionable, are eligible for membership in LULAC. LULAC members receive a copy of the LULAC Constitution, a membership card, a membership pin, and a complimentary subscription to the *LULAC NEWS*.

- ☐ I want to join LULAC as an active member. Please send me information on councils in my home area.
- ☐ I want to join LULAC as an associate member. Please find a check of \$25 enclosed.
- ☐ I want to become a lifetime member of LULAC. Enclosed is a contribution in the amount of \$1,000.
- ☐ My company would like to join LULAC as a corporate associate. Enclosed is a contribution of \$1,000.
- ☐ Please send me information on how I can start a LULAC council in my hometown.

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