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Bergland, Klutznick to Address NCLR Convention


Past NCLR Affiliate Conventions have been meeting places where community people from as far away as Southern Texas have come to Washington, D.C., to communicate with the nation's decision-makers. At the 1980 Affiliate Convention, however, the policy-makers will be brought into the Southwest United States to meet with community leaders. Two of the confirmed guest speakers at this year's convention are Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland and Secretary of Commerce Philip M. Klutznick.

At least 1,000 participants are expected to attend the third annual NCLR Affiliate Convention to be held in Albuquerque,

New Mexico, from July 23 to 26. Throughout the four days there will be seminars on energy, affirmative action, voter mobilization methods, Hispanic youth initiatives, the criminal justice system, and the status of bilingual education.

In addition to the seminars, there will be a *resolana*, a dialogue in which Hispanic culture will be discussed. The *resolana* to be held in Albuquerque is one in a series of dialogues conducted throughout the United States in which members of different Hispanic groups are brought together for discussions of Hispanic culture, roots, and language. The project is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Friday evening's entertainment will be provided by *Little Joe y La Familia*. The Convention will end with an awards banquet on Saturday. The awards to be presented are: the Affiliate of the Year Award, to Colonias del Valle in San Juan, Texas, for outstanding service to the needs of its local constituency; the NCLR La Raza Award, to Congressman Edward R. Roybal (D-California) for significant contributions in promoting the interests of Hispanics in the United States; the NCLR President's Award to McGraw Hill, Inc., for continuing support for the efforts of the National Council of La Raza; and the Ruben Salazar Award to actress Carmen Zapata for promoting sensitive and honest portrayal of Hispanic culture and concerns.

In the final sessions of the convention, representatives of the NCLR affiliates will determine the Council's major concerns for the upcoming year in the form of resolutions. Presently there are over 120 affiliates located throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, representing a constituency of over a million Hispanics. 

Coretta Scott King Toasts Raúl Yzaguirre

Coretta Scott King, President of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Social Change, was one of six of the nation's leaders to honor Raúl Yzaguirre, President of the National Council of La Raza, at a reception held June 13 in San Antonio, Texas.

King called Yzaguirre "one of the most dynamic and committed social change activists of this decade." She added, "Raúl Yzaguirre has been in the forefront of the movement for justice and equality for Spanish-speaking people in this country for nearly a quarter of a century, a remarkable achievement for a man of his years."

One of Yzaguirre's accomplishments mentioned by King is the National Committee on the Concerns of Hispanics and Blacks, which he cofounded and cochaired with M. Carl Holman, President of the National Urban Coalition. The Committee "speaks for the 45 million black and brown minorities who have the potential to make this country honor the promise of democracy. . . . As Vernon Jordan said, this coalition can make the politicians sing a different tune in 1980, a 'soul song with a Latin beat,' " she said.

In addition to King, other toastmasters at the reception were Senator Dennis De

Concini (D-Arizona); Mario Obledo, Secretary of Health and Welfare, State of California; Daniel F. McKeithan, Chairman of

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Raúl Yzaguirre; Mario Obledo, Secretary of Health and Welfare, State of California; and Coretta Scott King in San Antonio, Texas.



Photo by Gloria Rubio
Cong. Edward R. Roybal and René Cárdenas at Capitol Hill Reception

NCLR Honors Villa Alegre

Dr. René Cárdenas, Executive Director and founder of Bilingual Children's Television, and members of the band of the Emmy Award winning series "Villa Alegre," were honored on May 5 at a reception on Capitol Hill sponsored by the National Council of La Raza.

"Villa Alegre" ("Happy Village") is an entertaining educational, multicultural television series for youngsters of all social backgrounds. Spanish and English are used interchangeably to stimulate bilingual learning. "Villa Alegre" is produced by Bilingual Children's Television, Inc., and is shown on Public Broadcasting Stations.

In honor of "Villa Alegre's" visit to the District of Columbia, Mayor Marion Barry, Jr., proclaimed May 1-7, 1980, "Bilingual Cultural Week" in the city. ☺

Rapid Settlement Urged for Refugees

The Carter administration and the Immigration and Naturalization Service have been urged by the Cochairmen of the National Committee on the Concerns of Hispanics and Blacks to assure that both the Cuban and the Haitian refugees be assisted in every way possible for rapid settlement in the United States.

In a statement issued jointly, Raúl Yzaguirre, President of the National Council of La Raza, and M. Carl Holman, President of the National Urban Coalition, supported the rights of both the Cuban and the Haitian refugees to seek political asylum and urged that the INS "examine closely the policies regarding equal treatment for Mexicans, Cubans, Haitians, and other Hispanic groups in accordance with the law and the history of this country."

Yzaguirre and Holman also denounced "the continued use of deadly force by police throughout the nation against minority groups under their jurisdiction. The pattern has been repeated in Houston and other Southwestern cities, in New York and Philadelphia, and now in Miami. The U.S. Attorney General can no longer view police acts of brutality as isolated incidences, but rather as the systematic abuse of minority groups which these acts have become." They urged that state and local officials review and correct practices and procedures of the law enforcement and judicial agencies over which they have jurisdiction.

The Cochairmen also urged "that both Blacks and Hispanics resist the inclination

to turn against each other during this time of stress and, instead, demonstrate the mutual support which will be necessary to rise above the obvious and ever-present racist elements which are apparent in the current crises. The time has long passed for Blacks and Hispanics to stand together and be counted together. The alternative is continued separate battles within a never-ending war. ☺

Valdez Receives Honorary Degree

Bernard Valdéz, one of the founders of the Southwest Council of La Raza, which evolved into the National Council of La Raza, received an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Public Service from Metropolitan State College in Denver, Colorado, in May. He is the first Hispanic to receive an honorary degree from the college.

Valdéz was honored for almost 40 years of service to Hispanics. Metropolitan State College Trustee John Vigil called Valdéz "a legend in his own time. Poverty and ignorance were his enemy and he attacked them with vigor, energy and conviction."

After retiring as Manager of Social Services for the City of Denver in November, a post he held for more than 16 years, Valdéz accepted the position of Interim Director of the Latin American Research and Service Agency (LARASA) in Denver, a post which he held until May. Valdéz was a cofounder of LARASA, an NCLR affiliate. ☺

In Memoriam

zona.

Maclovio Barraza was born March 8, 1927, in Superior, Arizona, and lived most of his adult life in the Phoenix area. His involvement in labor activities began during his teenage years. At the age of 14 he began working at a copper smelter, and at 16 went into the copper mines of Arizona. While there, he helped organize the Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers Union (MMSU), and in 1952 became a member of the Union's staff. Barraza was a member of the Union's Executive Board from 1961 until 1967, when the MMSU merged with the United Steelworkers Union.

Barraza was the founding Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Council of La Raza, which was incorporated in 1968, and served with the Board in

various capacities until 1978, completing a decade of providing guidance and assistance to NCLR during its early years of formation and growth.

In addition to his work with NCLR, Barraza was a founder of the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project (SVREP) and founding Secretary/Treasurer of the Labor Council on Latin American Advancement (LCLAA). At the time of his death, Barraza was Chairman of the SVREP Board and was still serving as LCLAA Board Secretary/Treasurer. He also was Sub-District Director of District 38 of the United Steelworkers and was leading major negotiations with the copper industry.

In recognition of his years of commitment and service to the National Council of La Raza, the family has requested that remembrances take the form of donations to the National Council of La Raza.

Youths Testify Before Congressmen

Six youths who testified before members of Congress at the close of the National Conference on Hispanic Youth Employment, "Hispanic Youth: An Emerging Force," criticized the educational system of the United States and said they were ill-prepared for the future.

"When I went to my kindergarten class, they put me in a retarded class, not a slow learner class, not with any other nice little title you want to give those kinds of courses; they put me in a retarded class. When I went to that retarded class, there were only Chicanos there. We were left to rot. We were not taught. We were not looked after. We just sat there and we vegetated," said Rosa Martínez, the Chairperson of the State CETA Youth Advisory Council in California. In later years, Martínez said she received a great amount of attention in school, but that was only because she is handicapped. "I was fortunate. I was one of the lucky ones, but not because of my race. I wasn't lucky because they thought I was smart. It was because I was handicapped. That's the only reason why they put me in college prep," she said.

One-by-one, the six youths told four Congressmen how they had been essentially ignored by the country's educational system. One youth, Raymond Rosario of Chicago, Illinois, recommended that the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act and other government programs implement mandatory counseling for all participants, especially the youth.

Congressman Augustus Hawkins (D-California), Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder (D-Colorado), Congressman Thomas Tauke (R-Iowa), and Congressman Robert García (D-New York) took the opportunity to listen to the youth. "It is relevant and it is rather timely that this conference is being held. Tomorrow morning, in my Subcommittee, we will be marking-up—that means drafting in final form—a legislative recommendation pertaining to youth employment, which will cover at least the next fiscal year," said Congressman Hawkins.

Congressman García told the youth, "You have a direct responsibility yourself,



Photo by Toni Breiter
Raymond Rosario

the Vice President's Task Force on Youth Employment. The series is designed to take a more intensive look at diverse population subgroups that suffer a disproportionate share of unemployment.

The conference was coordinated by the National Council of La Raza in cooperation with seven other Hispanic organizations which formed an Advisory Committee. This effort marked the first time that a diverse group of Hispanic advocacy organizations had cooperated in such a venture. The member organizations of the Advisory Committee are: Council of Hispanic Community and Agencies, Cuban National Planning Council, Mexican American Women's National Association, National Association of Cuban American Women, National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, National Puerto Rican Forum, and Ser—Jobs for Progress.

At the conference new information and data on Hispanic youth employment were released. One report, "A Profile of Hispanic Youth," was published by the Office of Youth Programs, U.S. Department of Labor. A second document, "Hispanic Youth and Federal Youth Employment Policies," was specifically prepared for the conference by the Puerto Rican Youth Public Policy Institute in Washington, D.C.

A proceedings document is being prepared for dissemination. Information can be obtained by contacting the National Conference on Hispanic Youth Employment, National Council of La Raza, 1725 Eye St., N.W., Second Floor, Washington, D.C. 20006. ☺

Yzaguirre Honored

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the Board, Joseph E. Schlitz Brewing Company; Alfredo Sanguinetti, Senior Vice President, Levi Strauss and Company; and Wilman Espinosa, President, Mexican American National Women's Association (MANA).

In his remarks, Senator De Concini said, "When we toast Raúl Yzaguirre, we are toasting persistence, tenacity, faith in the cause, love of fellow man, hard work, and the desire to make a difference."

The reception and toast were hosted by Henry Zuniga, Director, Region VI Minority Business Development Administration; Antonio Morales, Director, American G.I. Forum Educational Administration; Juan Patlan, Director, Mexican American Unity Council; Rick Vela, Avante Inc.; and Jose Cano, State Chairman, American G.I. Forum of Texas. ☺

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NCLR is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1968 and dedicated to promoting the social and economic well-being of Americans of Hispanic descent.

Raul Yzaguirre, President
Toni Breiter, Director of
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Affiliate Spotlight

AAMA is a Uniting Force in Houston

A recent fundraiser for the alternative secondary school administered by the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans (AAMA) was successful not only because it raised \$83,000, but because it united the Mexican American communities in Houston for the first time. Houston's Mexican American population rallied behind two area Spanish radio disc jockeys who undertook a three-day marathon fundraiser for the school founded by AAMA.

In the name of education, approximately \$83,000 was raised in March for the operating expenses of George I. Sánchez Alternative Junior and Senior High School, which is attended by more than 100 students. The majority of the monies raised was pledged by members of the community, with additional contributions made by Houston area corporations.

AAMA, now in its tenth year of serving Houston's inner-city Hispanic youth, started out as a recreation and cultural community center operated by volunteers who pooled their resources. Its budget for Fiscal Year 1979 was \$933,000 for the seven programs then in operation.

AAMA's growth has been extensive since Luís Cano was hired as the organization's Executive Director in 1973. AAMA's estimated annual budget at that time was \$50,000. Cano, according to Assistant Director Gloria Guardiola, has been an effective leader and administrator of AAMA because he runs the organization not only as a social service agency, but also as a business.

As Executive Director, Cano designed and implemented the concept of the alternative education center upon which the George I. Sánchez Alternative Junior and Senior High School was founded. He wrote and produced the documentary film, *The*



Photo by Gloria Rubio


Hawaiian day at Angelita Fraga Day Care Center

Aztecs and Their Medicine: A Chicano Legacy, which received the 1975 National Robert Kennedy Journalism Award.

AAMA's target area includes Houston's Northside, Second Ward, East End and Magnolia. The present staff of nearly 100 carry out the eight programs currently funded by local, state, federal, public, and private sources. The programs include:

- George I. Sánchez Junior and Senior High School, which provides individualized instruction to 12 to 19 year olds in an attempt to motivate

them to become leaders and to complete their education (in May 1980 the second class of graduating seniors held commencement exercises); Drug abuse education and counseling intended to obtain a volunteer reduction of inhalant and polydrug abuse among the youth between the ages of 13 and 18 through public information presentations conducted by the staff for social service agencies, schools, and civic groups upon request;

- Peer guidance, a drug abuse prevention project designed to involve volunteer counselors in one-to-one counseling with youth, primarily in elementary and junior high school grades;
- Northside Family Center, which provides individual and group counseling to youth and their parents who reside in Houston's Northside area and involves them in alternative educational and recreational activities;
- Angelita Fraga Day Care Center, which provides bilingual day care services for 120 children, ages 2-5;
- Alternative Volunteer Program, which matches youth between the ages of 16 and 21 with volunteers for career counseling and activities;
- School-to-Work Transition Demonstration Project, which provides juniors and seniors in high school with the knowledge, practical skills, and confidence to enter the job market; and
- Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program, which trains 125 youths between the ages of 14 and 21 in electronics, key punch, auto mechanics, bookkeeping, or college preparation courses. 

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