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Christmas is not as much about opening our presents
as opening our hearts. ~ Janice Maeditere



Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008
Volume 22
Number 7

HISPANIC NEWS

The Inland Empire's only Hispanic-owned English language newspaper

San Bernardino ♦ Riverside ♦ Colton ♦ Rialto ♦ Fontana ♦ Moreno Valley
Ontario ♦ Corona ♦ Bloomington ♦ Rancho Cucamonga ♦ Highland ♦ Redlands

OBAMA NAMES RICHARDSON AS COMMERCE SECRETARY

By BRIAN KNOWLTON



The president-elect said that his nominee would be dealing with the economy, the most significant issue facing the new administration, and added that "his mixture of diplomatic experience, hands-on experience as governor, experience in the cabinet, experience in Congress, means that he is going to be a key strategist on all the issues that we work on."

"I think the notion that somehow commerce secretary is not going to be central to everything we do is fundamentally mistaken."

In addition, Obama said that by the time he was done his administration would be seen as among the most diverse ever put together.

Richardson was the first cabinet nominee to be presented on his own by Mr. Obama rather than as part of a group, which some saw as a gesture of consolation.

For his part, Richardson vowed - in Spanish as well as English - to revive the nation's sagging economy.

Richardson, 61, has a résumé of unusual breadth, having served as energy secretary and ambassador to the United Nations - then a cabinet-level position - under President Bill

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President-elect Barack Obama named Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico as his choice for secretary of commerce, pointedly denying that the job was a "consolation prize" for the two-time cabinet officer who had been considered a candidate for secretary of state.

"Commerce secretary is a pretty good job," Obama said, after being asked by a Hispanic reporter about the appointment of Richardson to a post not considered among the cabinet's more prestigious or influential.

A PERMANENT DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY

Hispanic voters played a pivotal role in this election. If current trends continue, they may turn other parts of the country as blue as they just turned New Mexico.

By Alex Koppelman-November 13, 2008

Publisher's note: IEHN published a two-part series on a critical analysis of the recent presidential election on November 4, and the impact of the Hispanic vote nationwide and specific states. Part 1 of the series published on the November 26, 2008 issue reviewed the results of the recent national elections, which through the Obama's efficient political campaign and its priority to reach out to the vast Hispanic voters, resulting in an overwhelming voter turnout to capture Florida, New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada into blue states.

Part 2

None of this means that Democrats can take the Hispanic vote for granted. In fact, the party's success this year comes in large part because it began a concerted effort focusing on Hispanics. Simon Rosenberg, the president of the New Democrat Network, which has been studying the changing electorate and especially the impact of the Hispanic vote, says, "Increased turnout happened because Democrats finally woke up to this Hispanic opportunity ... It's really only in the last few years that

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IRENE MORALES-A LEGAL ADVOCATE FOR THE UNDER-SERVED



Irene Morales was appointed director of the Inland Counties Legal Services in 1983, a dedicated attorney with 32 years of legal practice and

outstanding community outreach service in the Inland Empire.

Growing up in the Westside San Bernardino with parents, stepfather Lorenzo Fierro, now deceased, mother, Alice Fierro, now 81, Morales and her seven siblings were taught by their parents the attributes of hard work and doing the best at all times.

Morales attended local schools, active at San Bernardino High School, where a teacher, Mrs. Rivera, a role model, encouraged her students to succeed in their studies. Morales graduated in 1966 with high grades, and was accepted at UCLA.

"While attending junior high," Morales said, "I decided to become

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INLAND COUNTIES LEGAL SERVICES CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Retired judges, attorneys, legal association representatives, advocates and community supporters, and elected officials joined in celebration of the Inland Counties Legal Services (ICLS) 50 years of Advocacy for Equal Justice for the many in need in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties at the Riverside Convention center; and to give testimony to individuals for their outstanding financial support and legal services in communities throughout the vast Inland Empire.

Barbara A. Purvis, President of ICLS Board of Directors, welcomed the audience. "This is a joyous occasion for our legal system in celebration of 50 years of professional service by ICLS personnel and volunteer attorneys who have contributed many hours of selfless dedication within our communities. We are also recognizing many individuals in the legal profession that have supported our mission's goal to provide services," she said.

Keynote speaker retired California Court of Appeals Earl Johnson Jr., known as the "father of modern legal services" presented an extensive review of the history and process of legal services in California to the

disadvantaged.

Inland Counties Legal Services, formerly Legal Aid Society of Riverside, was founded in 1958, and thru the last five decades has provided an array of legal services and advocacy for the poor and disadvantaged in the area of housing, domestic violence, elderly abuse, consumer legal rights, disabled persons, employment, tenant and landlord assistance and legal protection for those individuals unable to cope with everyday challenges.

ICLS has developed a wide network within the legal professional member associations in the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino who have generously contributed financially to ICLS' mission; and association(s) members who have continually volunteered to provide legal services in geographical areas in the Inland Empire.

Inland Counties Legal Services, at its 50th Anniversary Gala, recognized attorneys and individuals for outstanding contributions and volunteer legal services since the non-profit legal agency was established in 1958.

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OBAMA: "NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL!"

BY ROBERTO DR. CINTLI RODRIGUEZ

Sen. Barack Obama's resounding victory is a generational victory. As one friend told me, it is 400 years in the making. In that sense, that explains the tears and the dancing in the streets across the nation and across the suddenly very small world we live in.

In this state of euphoria, we can see that the impact of imperialism and colonialism of some 400 and 500 years ago continues to reverberate. And in the celebrations, it is clear that the world sees a real possibility for change. Part of the change equates with the possibility of abandoning war as the policy of first resort. Part of that change also equates with always putting humans above the needs of multi-billion dollar corporations.

For African Americans, Obama's victory represents reaching that elusive mountaintop. To reach that metaphorical promised land on the other side of the mountain, it won't be easy, but hundreds of years of dehumanization has not been easy either. Martin Luther King Jr. dreamt it, but he didn't quite get there.

As a brown man, that's how I view Obama's victory; not simply as a dream, but as a very long and bloody struggle against dehumanization.

Like many, I see this not simply as a

victory for African Americans, but as a victory for this nation, waiting to be transformed, and for a world community, waiting for that transformation, waiting for rehumanization.

No one is naïve; the wars will continue, the economic chaos will also linger and dehumanization will still be with us into the foreseeable future. But symbols are important and his victory is greatly symbolic.

While I am celebrating, I also remain hopeful. But more than hope, I still fight for another dream. It is the dream of many; that one day all human beings will be viewed, treated and respected as full human beings. I have to believe that when president-elect Obama is inaugurated, that he will loudly proclaim that there is no such thing as an illegal human being. Such a proclamation would be the most radical advancement in civil and human rights law since the 1964 Civil Rights Act in which the U.S. government codified the ideal that all people are created equal.

But more than proclaim it, just as Obama has the vision to proclaim that within 10 years the United States will no longer be dependent on foreign oil – he should also proclaim that by the end of his first term, there will no longer be such a category of illegal aliens and that all the walls along the Southern border will also be dismantled. All this, while working on trade agreements that place human beings front and center.

In the realm of symbolism, Obama may immediately put an end to the Draconian raids and the immoral police-migra collaborations taking place nationwide. Yet beyond symbolism, proclaiming that "no human being is illegal" would go even further, setting more than a tone, but rather, a clear path of rehumanization and citizenship. On this path, it is not simply the undocumented who would begin to be treated as full human beings, but just as importantly, it might also contribute greatly to the rehumanization of our entire society.

NCLR HAILS APPOINTMENT OF CECILIA MUÑOZ TO WHITE HOUSE STAFF

Cecilia Muñoz was appointed by President-elect Obama to Director of Intergovernmental Affairs in the new administration. Muñoz was previously head of NCLR's Office of Research, Advocacy, & Legislation.

WASHINGTON, DC—The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) hailed announcement by President-Elect Barack Obama that Cecilia Muñoz will become the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs in his administration. Muñoz currently

serves as Senior Vice President for NCLR's Office of Research, Advocacy, and Legislation.

"I am deeply honored and very heartened that one of the Obama Administration's first Latino appointments is someone who has so ably served this organization and the Latino community with dedication and distinction for more than 20 years," stated Janet Murguía, NCLR President and CEO. "Cecilia leaves a legacy of advocacy and accomplishment virtually unmatched in the Latino community, and we will miss her greatly," continued Murguía. "But I can say with absolute certainty that no one will work harder for her country and for the ideals and priorities of the Obama Administration. We congratulate her and salute President-Elect Obama for this inspired appointment."

"We hope to see more Latino appointments in the upcoming weeks," concluded Murguía.


With Obama as president – despite possible trepidations from Democratic leaders in the House and Senate – perhaps the notion of dividing up all human beings into legal and illegal populations can now be placed into the trash bin of history.

To do otherwise would be to continue with eight years of Bush policies. To recoil at the thought of full citizenship – with full human rights for the undocumented – would be to succumb to those whose policies and reactionary ideals were thoroughly repudiated in this historic election. That Latinos overwhelmingly supported Obama by more than a two-to-one margin – and

that they provided the crucial votes in many swing states – is beside the point. The point is that to do otherwise would be to continue with the hundreds-of-years-old policies of dehumanization. What is the point is that I have full confidence that Obama will indeed one day declare that there is no such thing as an illegal human being, not because of favors owed or demographics, but because it is the moral thing to do.

Si Se Puede – Yes we can.

Rodriguez, a research associate at the University of Arizona, can be contacted at: XColumn@gmail.com



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OBAMA NAMES RICHARDSON AS COMMERCE SECRETARY

By BRIAN KNOWLTON

Continued from page 1

Clinton; as an informal envoy abroad during his seven terms as a member of Congress, and then as a two-term governor of New Mexico.

Having thrown his support to Obama shortly after ending his own presidential candidacy - a source of raw feelings among the Clintons - and then helping draw substantial Hispanic support for Mr. Obama, Richardson was expected by many Hispanic-Americans to be in line for a more high-power post.

With Richardson at his side, Obama underscored his nominee's capabilities, saying that the governor had the background to help create "green" jobs, support U.S. exports and "start laying the groundwork for long-term prosperity."

"Bill has seen from just about every angle what makes our economy work and what keeps it from working better," Mr. Obama said.

Richardson, whose mother is Mexican-born, is the first nominee of Hispanic background to be named by Mr. Obama, and his appointment is viewed at least partly as a show of thanks to the country's Latino voters, and to Richardson for helping turn them out. Two-thirds of Hispanic voters supported Obama.

As a congressman, Mr. Richardson had a penchant for undertaking unofficial diplomatic missions to places like North Korea, Sudan, Cuba and Iraq. He met in 1995 with Saddam Hussein, and persuaded the Iraqi president to free two Americans who had wandered into the country.

His international experience, persistence and good-humored style appear to prepare him well for a job that effectively makes him the point man for American business to the international community and an ambassador on trade issues. And his political skills are underlined by his popularity in New Mexico, where he was re-elected in 2006 with 69 percent of the vote.

But his résumé is not entirely untainted. He was energy secretary when a firestorm erupted over accusations of Chinese spying at the nuclear weapons laboratories at Los Alamos and during the widely criticized prosecution of the scientist Wen Ho Lee - issues that could come up during his confirmation hearings. All but one of the charges against Mr. Lee were dropped after a judge found significant problems with the government's case.

Obama also injected a light note into proceedings when asked about a beard that Mr. Richardson grew after suspending his presidential run but shaved off before Wednesday's announcement.

"I think it was a mistake for him

to get rid of it," Obama said as Richardson looked on with a grin. "I think that whole Western, rugged look was really working for him."

Gov. Bill Richardson appointed by President-elect Obama as secretary of commerce

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN FLORIDA

By Kingsley Guy - South Florida Sun-Sentinel

November 30, 2008 - Florida Gov. Charlie Crist had some savvy advice for his Republican colleagues during the recent Republican Governors Association conference in Miami.

"You have to be inclusive," Crist said. "You have to work for a big tent. That's about as obvious as the nose on your face."

Yet, it's amazing how many Republicans can't tell their noses from their tightly shut eyes. Unless GOP leaders, across the board, open their eyes and work to broaden the GOP base, the party could find itself relegated to permanent minority status.

Among those whom the GOP must welcome into the tent are Hispanic voters. George W. Bush and his brother Jeb recognized this. Strong support among Hispanics, the fastest growing

segment of the U.S. population, helped them win the governorships of Texas and Florida respectively, and for George W., the presidency.

Exit polls indicate that in the 2004 presidential race, President Bush may have won as much as 44 percent of the Hispanic vote. In 2008, the Hispanic vote for GOP candidate John McCain nose-dived to about 31 percent.

The GOP should find the Hispanic defection in Florida particularly troubling. Historically, Republican presidential candidates have carried the Hispanic electorate, for years dominated by Cuban-Americans who supported the GOP's tough-on-Castro policies. Attitudes are changing, however.

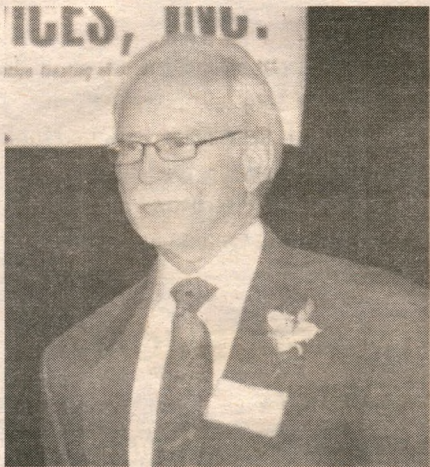
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INLAND COUNTIES LEGAL SERVICES CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Judge Ronald L. Taylor-Access to Justice Lifetime Achievement Award

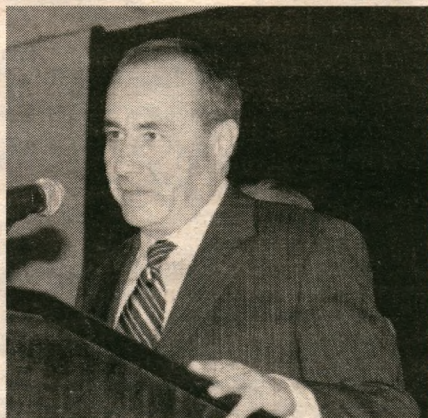
•Access to Justice Lifetime Achievement Award: Hon. Ronald L. Taylor, Ret., presented by Hon. Justice Earl Johnson, Jr., Ret.



Florentino Garza-Inspiration, Leadership & Vision Lifetime Achievement Award

•Inspiration, Leadership & Vision Lifetime Achievement Award: attorney Florentino Garza, presented by Hon. John Pacheco.

•Joseph E. Cohen Pro Bono Service lifetime Achievement Award to attorney Ralph Hekman (photo not available), recognized by the Public Service Law Corporation (PSLC) of the Riverside County Bar Association, Inc., and presented by Forrest E. Wright, Esq., President, PSLC & the Hon. Helios J. Hernandez.



Kathleen M. Gonzales Pro Bono Service Award-Rene H. Pimentel, Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association, Inc.

•Kathleen M. Gonzales Pro Bono Service Award to attorney Rene H. Pimentel, recognized by the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association, Inc., presented by Rina M. Gonzales, Esq., President, IELLA & Carlos Juarez, Esq.



Kenneth W. Nydam Pro Bono Service Lifetime Award-George S. Theios, Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino Inc.

•Kenneth W. Nydam Pro Bono Service Achievement Award to Attorney George S. Theios, recognized by the Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino Inc., and presented by Hon. Wilfred Schneider, Jr., Michael A. Scaffidi, Esq. & Roberta Shouse Lifetime Achievement in the Provision of Legal Services for the Poor:



Lifetime Achievement in the Provision of Legal Services for the Poor:-Charlene Nelson, Program Director, Public Service Law Corporation, Inc.

•Charlene Nelson, Program Director, Public Service Law Corporation, Inc., recognized by Inland Counties Legal Services and presented by Forrest E. Wright, Esq., President, PSLC and Treasurer, ICLS.



Lifetime Achievement in the Provision of Legal Services for the Poor-Roberta Shouse, Executive Director, Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino, Inc.

•Roberta Shouse, Executive Director, Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino, Inc., recognized by Inland Counties Legal Services and presented by Hon. Wilfred Schneider, Jr.



Lifetime Achievement in the Provision of Legal Services for the Poor-Aurelia Wick, Managing Attorney, ICLS

•Aurelia Wick, Managing Attorney, ICLS, presented by Barbara A. Purvis, Esq., President & Irene C. Morales, Esq., Executive Director, ICLS.

For information on ICLS, call (951) 368-2531 or visit its website at www.inlandlegal.org.



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CAR WASH FOR SB FAMILY A DOUBLE HUGE SUCCESS

Henry and Michelle Ramirez and family have faced several devastating events during the last two years: a son, Anthony, age 12, was shot while playing basketball in June, 2006 at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School in San Bernardino and killed by a 15-year old youth.

The Ramirez couple has been out of work for several months. And to add to their difficult situation, the family was evicted from their home last month, and forced to live in motels. Lately, the family has stayed with relatives.

The double good news is the family is moving into a modest home and will be paying for the rent on a limited basis, thanks to their landlord who was sympathetic with their situations.

There was a Christmas angel named Armida Salgado who organizes a carwash on Saturday, December 6, and involved many Westside resident to have their car, regardless of whether the car needed

cleaning.

The car wash campaign was successful in washing cars to the tune of over \$700 for the Ramirez family! The Ramirez family also received the key to their new rental.

Salgado is known in the Westside San Bernardino as an organizer through her group, More Action Regarding Community Havoc, (MARCH) which comes to the aid of families impacted by violence or tragedy in the family.

Salgado organized the group in 1989 after her 18-year-old granddaughter, Alicia Chagolla, was shot and killed at a high school graduation party. Since then, she has been organizing fundraisers to help families in distress.

"I am glad we were successful, especially when the Christmas holiday is with us," she said.

Her son, Richard Salgado, Tracy Cook and other volunteers were involved in the fundraising project.

IRENE MORALES-A LEGAL ADVOCATE FOR THE UNDER-SERVED

an attorney. I realized the injustice, when our Pledge of Allegiance stated "for a liberty and justice for all". I observed poor minorities segregated on the west side of the tracks, lawyers and doctors who were White, police abuse of Mexicans and Blacks. However, I didn't feel poor because we were loved unconditionally by our parents, who also disciplined us."

At UCLA, Morales majored in English and minor in Journalism; and involved in student activities: Mexican-American Student Group, UCLA Daily Bruin, and a Vista Volunteer in Washington, D.C.

In 1971, Morales transferred to UCR, graduating with a B.A. in a Joint Major: Sociology and Mexican-American Studies. While at UCR, she was editor-in-chief-UCR Highlander (first Chicana editor), research assistant to Dr. Carlos Cortes, MECHA member and tutoring children in San Bernardino County.

Morales passed the California State Bar and was admitted to the Ninth Court of Appeals in 1976. She became the first Latina attorney in Riverside County.

In 1975, Morales was appointed managing attorney at ICLS, working in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties with low income families and disadvantaged persons, establishing legal services: Housing Hotline, ICLS/Court Partnerships for the Spanish-speaking, and addressing litigation issues on low income housing.

In 1983, Morales was appointed ICLS Executive Director, administratively responsible for the operation of the agency and its multiple legal services in the bi-county areas.

Always active in her community, Morales is current member of: Self-Represented Litigants Committee-Riverside County Courts; California Legal Services Project Directors; National Legal Aid/Defenders Civil Policy Group; and Riverside County Long Term Care Advisory Committee.

Her previous involvement was an

array of legal and civic groups: LSC Advisory Committee, LSC National Conference Committee, Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association (founding member-first president), Casa Ramona Community Center, Mujeres Unidas-Riverside County, and National Alliance for Human Rights, and many others.

Morales has participated in numerous panel discussions at UCR, college-level venues, service clubs, community forums, and at national and state conferences.

Morales was selected as the City of Riverside YWCA's Annual Woman of Achievement in 2005.

"During my tenure as director, extended services have been provided in the Upper Desert communities and other cities, obtained funding for senior legal services, assisted the Spanish-speaking, collaborated with the courts system, working with the Homeless Coalition, provide federal funding and oversight to auxiliary legal aid agencies, participated at the state and national with agencies and associations, among other services. At ICLS, we have a dedicated board, lawyers, legal and support staff who believe in the mission for the pursuit of justice," Morales said.

Irene and her husband, Danny Morales have been married for 29 years.

Irene Morales is one of the ablest program executives offering high quality legal assistance to low-income individuals. I am amazed at her breadth of knowledge on myriad regulations and willingness to make hard decisions in the interest of Inland Counties Legal Services. Her willingness to give back to the community is one of the reasons she received the YWCA Woman of Achievement. She is a woman of great achievement.

Barbara Purvis, President, Inland Counties Legal Services

STINE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF S.B.COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

SAN BERNARDINO, CA- The San Bernardino County Board of Education elected David Stine as its new president of the five-member body on Dec. 1.

In addition, new Board members Michael Tahan and Alen Ritchie were sworn into office.

In a unanimous vote, Stine takes over as board president and succeeds Al Waner, whose one-year term ended Monday. In addition, the board voted unanimously to elect Mark Sumpter as vice president. He succeeds Stine as vice president.

"Our County Board will continue to function to provide high quality educational service to all of our districts and students," Stine said. "The Board is constantly monitoring what is taking place in our county and supporting County Superintendent Gary Thomas and his staff in their service.

We all want to do what's best to educate children."

Stine represents Trustee Area B, which includes the districts of Alta Loma, Central, Etiwanda, Mt. Baldy, Ontario-Montclair and Upland. He was first elected to the board in 1989.

Sumpter represents Trustee Area

A, which includes the districts in the High Desert. Sumpter has served on the County Board since 2006.

New Board member Tahan represents Trustee Area C, which includes the districts of Chino Unified, Cucamonga, Fontana and Mountain View. He replaces Tom Rabone, who did not seek re-election.

Ritchie represents Trustee Area E, which includes the districts in Bear Valley, Colton, Morongo, Redlands and Yucaipa-Calimesa. He replaces Al Waner, who did not seek re-election.

The Board establishes policy, adopts an annual budget, approves building plans and hears student expulsion or interdistrict transfer appeals. The Board meets monthly, regularly the first Monday of the month, at the Roy C Hill Education Center in San Bernardino.

The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other. ~Burton Hillis

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A PERMANENT DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY Hispanic voters played a pivotal role in this election. If current trends continue, they may turn other parts of the country as blue as they just turned New Mexico.

By Alex Koppelman-November 13, 2008

Continued from page 1

Democrats woke up to this new reality. If you're a Hispanic voter, particularly in the Southwest or the West, the Democratic Party sort of woke up and started to speak to you."

Figueroa, too, credits the success to organization. "I think we've learned from previous elections and we've learned from this election now that if you spend the resources and you pay attention to the community, you can win," he says. "The West in general is ripe territory for Democrats, and it's an area where you see not only the party structure investing huge amounts of resources in the West but progressive organizations investing a huge amount of time and money."

Assuming Democrats can keep up this momentum, a couple of big prizes await: Arizona and, yes, perhaps even Texas. The experts with whom Salon spoke were all but unanimous in saying that Arizona could be in play very soon, and that Texas could become a battleground within the next eight years and perhaps even by 2010.

"Whether in four years or whether

in eight years, I do see potential there in Texas, because of just the sheer magnitude of the numbers, the Hispanic voters," Figueroa says. "But I think what has to happen in Texas is they — 'they' meaning the party structure — has to show they can put together an operation that can win. And 2010 would be a great example to show where they're at."

If that happens, if Democrats can count on Hispanics to deliver the nine states, including those two, where their population is at or exceeds the national average, then the party would have a formidable advantage in every presidential election. Combined, those states represent 212 Electoral College votes. Add the dependably blue Northeast, and the Dems win the White House every time.

But just as Democrats can't take the Latino vote for granted, so can they not depend on the opposition to keep screwing up. For all the abuse heaped on him, Karl Rove saw the Hispanic juggernaut coming and tried to get the GOP ready. Rove had visions of appealing to Hispanics and thereby ensuring a political future for

his party. And it almost worked, but then his fellow Republicans went nativist and mucked it all up.

"If the party doesn't embrace the kind of change that is out there in the way that our country's demographics are changing... they're going to relegate themselves to a permanent minority," says Dan Gurley, the Republican National Committee's field director during the 2004 election. "I think Karl Rove is absolutely right when it comes to where the party needs to be with the Hispanic community. I think he totally gets it, and the unfortunate thing is that a lot of people, a lot of the base of the party, don't."

There's an old political cliché:

CONGRESSMAN BACA AND TEAMSTERS JOIN TO SUPPORT TROOPS WITH HOLIDAY CARE PACKAGES

San Bernardino, CA - Congressman Joe Baca joined Teamsters Joint Council #42 on Saturday, December 6, in Rialto in assembling boxes of donated items for shipment to American troops in the Iraqi theatre to help celebrate the holiday season.

The Congressman joined the assembly line to help package razor blades, beef jerky, batteries, CD's, fresh socks, body powder, powdered drinks and other items for shipment to our veterans serving in Iraq.

The Congressman said, "It is a

Demography is destiny. The Latino share of the national electorate has increased a full percentage point in each of the last two national elections. It will only increase more quickly in the coming years, since so much of the Hispanic population, 46 million strong, consists of the U.S.-born children of nonvoting immigrants. The country's changing demographics left the GOP with a choice — prevent Hispanics from forming a reliably Democratic bloc or face what could be decades of minority party status. For the moment, the Republican Party has chosen poorly. Now it's time to face the consequences.

privilege to support our brave troops, especially at this time of year. Being several thousand miles from home makes these care packages especially meaningful. I just hope this helps to bring a little bit of home to those vets during this time of year."

Teamster care package drive has become an annual event since the war in Iraq began and local teamster members had been called to serve.

The holiday care package drive will continue as long as there is a need to support American troops in harms way, a Teamster spokesman said.



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Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time. ~ Laura Ingalls Wilder

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WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN FLORIDA

Continued from page 3

By Kingsley Guy - South Florida Sun-Sentinel

In the 2004 presidential election, 56 percent of Florida's Hispanic voters chose Bush. This year, 57 percent went for Barack Obama. The divisive immigration debate, more than anything, soured Hispanic voters on the GOP. Near the end of his first term, President Bush presented a plan for immigration reform that offered a road to the legalized status for immigrants living illegally in the United States. Bush's plan recognized the legitimate labor needs of the country.

Bush's immigration reform initiative had the support of the editorial page of the influential and conservative Wall Street Journal. Along with endorsing the plan as a practical response to an intractable problem, the Journal also warned that caustic opposition to it would cost the Republican Party elections.

That didn't stop right-wing radio talk show hosts from tossing red meat to their listeners as they opposed Bush on immigration. Republican members of Congress responded to the vitriol by turning against their president in droves. As a result, the GOP came off looking like a party of exclusion and xenophobic anger, hurting it among Hispanics and non-Hispanics alike.

Bush's immigration reform was

doomed, and as the Journal foresaw, so were the chances of the Republicans' 2008 presidential candidate winning strong Hispanic support.

In this year's presidential race, the formerly red states of Florida, New Mexico, Nevada, Virginia and Colorado, switched to blue. Republican leaders should note that all of them have growing, Hispanic populations.

The Republicans' trek back from the wilderness could take a while. They can begin by offering constructive, rather than destructive, input to any Democratic immigration reform legislation.

Republicans also need to look at the way former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich engineered a Republican resurgence in 1994 with his "Contract for America." Gingrich insisted the contract avoid social issues like school prayer and abortion, and stick strictly to economic issues and government reform. As a result, both the House and Senate switched from Democratic to Republican control.

That should tell GOP leaders something as they strive to rebuild their moribund party.

THREE COMMUNITY LEADERS TO RECEIVE FOUNDATION'S 2008 CALIFORNIA PEACE PRIZE

Violence in California has truly reached epidemic proportions and is slowly destroying the quality of life in many areas. With little help from outside sources, everyday heroes from all over our state are working hard to combat the harsh effects of drug abuse, homelessness, and gang activity. In recognition of their efforts to prevent violence and promote peace, The California Wellness Foundation will present a cash award of \$25,000 to three honorees.

This year's Peace Prize recipients are:

Kismet Evans, a former drug addict who was once incarcerated for drug-related crimes, now strives to educate others about the dangers of substance abuse. Over the past decade, she has shared her truly heartbreaking story and inspired others to take a stand against drugs.

Orlando Ramos, principal of a low-income Bay Area high school, puts a stop to violence by mediating conflict between student gang members. His efforts have made the high school, and his city, a safer and healthier place.

Billie Weiss, a public health

crusader for more than twenty years, conducts research that helps violence prevention programs succeed in today's society. Weiss's goal is to take an honest look at prevention instead of simply incarcerating California's youth.

Each of the three honorees has helped youth and families touched by violence, and supported organizations that work to make our communities safer," stated Gary L. Yates, president and CEO of The California Wellness Foundation. "They represent thousands of unsung heroes dedicated to improving the health and well-being of California's youth."

For information contact at Laurie Kapp, (415) 616-3930 or Cecilia Laiché-The California Wellness Foundation (818) 702-1900

*Christmas is forever, not for just one day,
for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put
away like bells and lights and tinsel,
in some box upon a shelf. The good you do
for others is good you do yourself...*

~ Norman Wesley Brooks,

"Let Every Day Be Christmas," 1976

California's Climate Change Plan Could Change Our Economy – For the Worse

by Kenneth A. Macias

With all the uncertainty about our nation's banking system and the state's precarious fiscal situation, the small business community has great concern about the climate change plan put forward by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Our concern is not about the need to reduce carbon emissions to the goal established in Assembly Bill 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act, but rather the means to achieving that end. We are not convinced that the state has chosen the most effective and least costly means of reaching the target of 30 percent reduction in emissions by 2020. Therefore, we are concerned about how to survive and keep our businesses alive during this massive environmental transformation.

The small business community has not been fully informed about the specific costs and benefits of the proposals — even though we will be directly or indirectly responsible for funding the program.

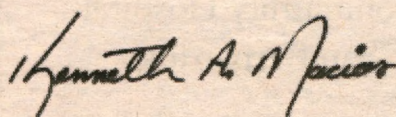
CARB's recently released AB 32 economic analysis acknowledges that there will be increases in the costs for small businesses. However, the report fails to address how the state will minimize those costs. If this increase in costs was the only challenge that small businesses currently face, then the risk might be manageable — but we have already incurred substantial cost increases in almost every area of our daily operations budgets. The cost of doing business has been skyrocketing in recent years, and the economic crisis has not helped us grow at the same rate as those costs. That's why the prospect of new AB 32 government mandates with major price tags has us worried about our own survival.

The plan assumes that California's economy will experience robust economic growth between now and 2020 as AB 32 is implemented. While we hope those assumptions are realized, several California institutions have instead forecasted significant near-term problems with the state's economy. Therefore, we are skeptical about CARB's claims that "small businesses will experience many of the benefits associated with this growth in the form of new jobs, greater production activity and rising personal income."

CARB's analysis does predict increased energy costs for electricity, natural gas and transportation fuels, which will directly result in higher retail costs, especially in areas such as food production and service. California's restaurants and food processors already face severe problems meeting their current operating budget; any new increase in cost will force them to cut back on their production or jobs. Yet, these challenges are seemingly ignored by CARB's plan, and we are left to wonder how we are supposed to pay our rising bills under AB 32 when we can barely manage the existing costs in this tough economy.

CARB needs to implement AB 32 in the most cost-effective way possible while still achieving the same environmental goals. This means exploring different options and market strategies in a more serious way before voting to lock our state into the framework of the current scoping plan. CARB needs to examine more closely the economics of the small business community, and more fully understand the impact their scoping plan will have on the very businesses that drive California's economy.

With so many uncertainties and dark clouds over the state and nation, this program has to be done right. We simply cannot afford to get it wrong.



Kenneth A. Macias, D.P.A., M.B.A., CPA, is Chairman of the Board of the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

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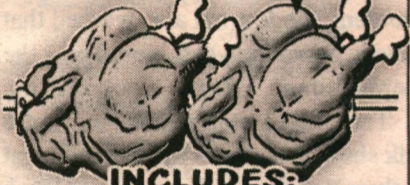
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