

HISPANIC FORUM



IN QUEST OF PRIDE AND EXCELLENCE



A desire to expand his personal growth, the ability to initiate action to bring this about, and a constant presence of his Hispanic roots have guided Ernie Almanza Jr. in his quest for excellence in his chosen field.

At a January 5, 1982 Oxnard City Council meeting, this young man along with six fellow cadets were recognized by our City Fathers for their accomplishments. Each in their own right has earned our respect. They are:

- U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis**
- Seniors:** Mr. Edward W. Hart and Mr. Victorino G. Mercado
- 2nd Year:** Mr. Noel G. Vinzon
- 1st Year:** Mr. John Villanueva

- U.S. Military Academy**
- West Point**
- Seniors:** Mr. Ernest Almanza Jr. and Ms. Rosemay Stewart
- 1st Year:** Mr. Timothy Lawrence

Each Cadet received the City's ribbon of commendation. The proceedings were presided over by

Mayor Tsujio Kato and Mayor Pro-Tem, Dr. Manuel Lopez.

In a follow-up interview the day after, Ernie informed me that he was born in El Rio, California and was now 22 years old. He grew up in El Rio and attended the El Rio Elementary School system, including Rio Mesa High School. He remembers the many good talks he had with his school principal, Mr. Mike Michaelson and speaks fondly of his counselor, Mr. Rupert Cisneros whom he visits whenever he is home from the academy.

Being athletically inclined, Ernie also spoke about sports in his senior year of high school. He reminisced over the football games he played and recalled that it was about this time that he saw a television commercial on West Point. He was interested, but had no immediate information on it. Thus began his quest.

In researching West Point, he consulted his counselor, Mr. Cisneros, he went to the library and read books on the Academy, he spoke to others whom he thought had knowledge on the subject. Finally he contacted his Congressman, Mr. R. Lagomarsino. All this he did without telling his parents. After gathering all the information he needed and after speaking with his Congressman, he informed his parents of his intentions.

At the city council meeting the day before, Ernie's parents stated

that at first they didn't like the idea of their son being almost 3000 miles away from home. In fact, they didn't even know where West Point was. Today, Ernie Almanza Sr. and his wife Bertha express understandable pride in their son. They speak enthusiastically of their own visit to West Point during "Plebe Parent Weekend", a weekend when parents come to visit their freshmen sons or daughters.

I asked Ernie Jr. to tell me the most significant thing about being in West Point. His answer, accompanied by a sensitive smile was, "Proud to be among the first Mexican Americans there, Proud of never forgetting where I come from, and Proud of being able to familiarize people with West

(Continued on page 11)



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of interest to local governments, Municipal, County, State, Federal, and to all Civil Service Agencies. The Ventura County Hispanic Community and those who impact the Hispanic Community speak through this Forum.

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Please send me 12 issues of the Ventura County Hispanic Forum for the next 12 months beginning with the Month of _____, 1982. Enclosed please find a check for \$12.00.

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HISPANIC FORUM

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In Quest of Pride and Excellence



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Gonzalo R. Casillas

AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME



There is no holding back an idea whose time has come. And so it is with the Ventura County Hispanic Forum. The consensus is that it provides a needed service. No idea succeeds because of one individual anymore than it fails over the objections of a few. An idea must in and of itself stand on its own merit.

In deed, the Forum is such an idea. Already many in and out of the Hispanic community are both complementing and constructively criticizing one another on a professional basis. An exercise that allows people to reflect on what they say before they say it. Committing ones thoughts to paper provides the opportunity of thinking about what is to be said, to whom it is to be said, and the manner in which it is to be said. This gives definition to the community's involvement and development.

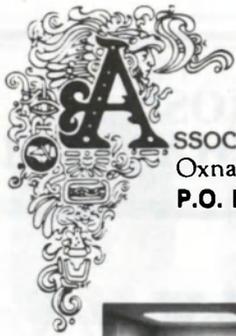
In getting the word out, the Forum has created a by-product. That by-product is the merchandizing of communication. We are providing the community with a commodity that is needed, but that is not otherwise available. For this reason, communication merchandizing must be a product of top quality. It must be imaginative and sensitive, it must be constructive with positive goals, and above all, it must fill a need in an objective manner.

THE FORUM IS:

- A professional magazine addressing opinions within the Hispanic as well as the Anglo and other communities in Ventura County.
- A top quality professional publication that carries in it referral information on organizations using it.
- A communications expander within the Hispanic and other communities that impact the Hispanic population in Ventura County.
- A meeting place of words expressing opinions of individuals for or against issues that impact the Hispanic community and subsequently all residents of Ventura County.

The Forum continues picking up momentum and seeks your input and opinions. You will notice that each issue has been an improvement over the prior publication. In this manner, we strive to improve the quality of our work.

Sincerely,
Gonzalo R. Casillas
Publisher/Editor



ASSOCIATION OF MEXICAN AMERICAN EDUCATORS, INC.
 Oxnard Chapter
 P.O. Box 566, Oxnard, CA 93032



President's Message

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and honor in being elected the 1982 AMAE president in Oxnard.

I plan to involve the expertise of as many members as possible from the local chapter to enlarge our AMAE scholarship fund that is available to local high school graduating Hispanic students. Donations are, of course, welcome.

Scholarship funds will be used to assist students to begin their college or university career. We need to encourage, invest, and develop future leaders in our growing Hispanic community. There is a great need for: Hispanic bilingual teachers, reading specialist, special education personnel, doctors, nurses, dentists, policemen, firemen, and school administrators.

Since the Oxnard chapter has one of the biggest memberships in California, I feel that "working together, we can succeed together" and therefore, as a non-profit organization we can spend our human energies pursuing positive goals such as raising funds for our scholarship program.

Due to the goals and objectives of the Reagan Administration, there will be cutbacks in social programs and, therefore; less federal money to be spread around.

In this time of limited economic resources, it behooves the membership of AMAE and the Hispanic community to consolidate our forces and support the goals of this organization to raise monies for our students who have the aspiration to continue their education and succeed.

I challenge you, "to support our scholarship program" and question yourself about the following: "Ask not what AMAE can do for you, but ask what I can do for AMAE's scholarship program.

Remember that education is an investment for our graduating Hispanic high school students, also remember, In union there is strength.

Thank you,
 Pete R. Placencia
 1982 AMAE President



AMAE 1982 Officers



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Lorraine Bishop



Judge Art Gutierrez

Annual
 Installation
 Dinner



Sandie Zubia

Lorraine Bishop

Tony Zubia



Manny Vega
Vice-President
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IMAGE

VENTURA COUNTY CHAPTER



COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF MINORITIES NEEDED

IMAGE wishes to extend a well deserved congratulation to one of its members, James Gallardo, who was recently appointed Board of Trustees to the Oxnard Elementary School District. The presence of a Hispanic on that Board is long overdue considering that this ethnic group makes up to 44% of the City of Oxnard population.

The powers, vested and inherent, in a school governing body are extensive and the decisions made, whether good or bad, have far reaching influence and impact. IMAGE wishes James success in his many challenges and offers these suggestions for his considerations: (1) learn your job well, (2) seek help and advise from those whom you represent, (3) express your opinions on school issues after thorough research, and (4) exercise your board powers judiciously, compassionately, and supportively of those who need your support the most, the neglected Hispanic school children.

Recently three Hispanics levied serious charges against Ventura County Officials and the Board of Supervisors. Those charges alleged discrimination and included verbal name calling of racists and bigots. It is the consensus of IMAGE members that such verbal abuse is unwarranted and counterproductive to the issue which those individuals were trying to accomplish, establishing a County of Ventura Commission on Status of Minorities.

I happen to agree that such a commission is needed using the same logic that one commission already exists for the Status of Women and another one for the furtherance of senior citizens. One can build a good case that both of these groups do not have a formidable language barrier as one finds among many Hispanics that are monolingual. Such a commission would provide a vehicle for those non-English speaking citizens to air their issues to someone who understands them. It has been argued by the Ventura County Chief Administrator and some Board of Supervisors members that the Commission for Senior Citizens is mandated by Federal law and that a large number of county advisory boards already exist.

No argument was given why the Commission on the Status of Women was approved except that women are organized and powerful and to refuse them a platform is considered politically "noli me tangere". Furthermore, economics is not a factor in setting up another commission because it would be made up of non-paying volunteers. I have every confidence that with a little effort on the part of our able county officials, innovation and proper delineation of functions the commission could function effectively without usurping other board prerogatives.

Another allegation made by the three Hispanics is the Chicanos are not properly represented in county

commissions in the areas of housing, employment, health, law enforcement/criminal justice, recreation, and community services. The County has provided me a copy of a report that was forwarded to the Board of Supervisors identifying membership in sixteen commission in those areas cited. The ethnic and sexual breakdown of those sixteen commissions total 159 members and ethnicity is as follows: male 65%, women 37%, Caucasian 75%, Hispanic 21%, Black 2%, and other 2%. Further communication with County Supervisor John Flynn, reveals that 29 Hispanics have been appointed in the 5th Supervisorial District to County commissions out of fifty appointments. This constitutes a 38% Hispanic representation. This impressive track record in Flynn's district hardly fits the label of racists and bigot.

The real problem seem to be that in the Recreation and Employment commissions, Hispanics are heavily represented (17 out of 44 in Recreation and 8 out of 31 in Employment), while there are only 1 of 11 in Housing, 1 of 13 in Criminal Justice, and 2 out of 46 in Health (including none in Mental Health).

If all supervisors would strive towards appointing Hispanics to commissions where they are not represented, the system would be more equitable especially in those commissions that are mandated by federal law for program funding.

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Manuel Muñoz

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE



The Colonia Village Tenants Improvement Association is an organization composed of residents who are aware of the conditions of their community and are working hard to improve them. Their main concern has been and is, to improve living conditions.

This organization was first formed in 1979 at a time when conditions were less than desirable. Among those items were such concerns as *crime*, where residents were being victimized, *education*, where residents lacked a proper understanding of their rights, and *living standards*, which have improved through direct resident advocacy. By engaging in different programs and activities, residents through their Tenants Association have been able to bring changes that have made their places of residence a more peaceful and safer place to live.

The Colonia Village Tenants Improvement Association has organized many activities beneficial to its residents. The month of February includes the following activities:

- A Gardening Project
- Sewing Classes
- Girl Scout Program
- Counseling for Families
- A Cub Scout Program
- Soccer Classes
- Ballet Folkloricc Classes
- A Reading Contest

Plans for future months:

- A Ten Kilometer Race
- A Fundraiser Dance
- Live Theatre Classes
- Painting Classes
- A Scholarship Grant Program
- Presentations on Cable T.V.
- Trips to Different Universities

The Association, in conjunction with the Oxnard Authority, submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the implementation of an Anti-Crime program. Our application was selected from among many others. There were thirty-nine Anti-Crime programs in the nation and only three of these programs were to be in the state of California. Our was one of those three programs.

Recently, an evaluation was made of the sixteen programs and our program received the highest marks in the evaluation. This is something that makes us proud of our organization.

Another form of our participation is that of creating and maintaining relations with other organizations, so that together we

can provide and serve our community in a more efficient way. How many times have we seen organizations and institutions which have services they can provide to the community, but are unable because of lack of communication or simply just lack of knowledge of the community. As a result of this, citizens tend to reject such organizations. It is here where our organization plays an important part; servicing as a linkage between our community and other organizations.

If you are interested in knowing more about our association or you believe that we can work together in the implementation of any activity that will benefit our community, please feel free to come to our office at 1236 Felicia Court, Oxnard, California, or phone 486-4572.





Rita Anaya

VENTURA COUNTY WOMEN'S
EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION, INC.
374 Poli Street, Suite 204
Ventura, California 93001



WOMEN'S RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

The Ventura County Women's Employment and Education, Inc. is a pilot welfare reform program in California. Our program has set up an organizational structure to assist women of low-income, particularly A.F.D.C. Welfare to obtain and retain private sector employment and skills training.

We want healthy, highly-motivated, energetic women to attend three weeks of job readiness training workshops. At the end of the three weeks, or sooner depending on the motivation and abilities of these women, they will be assisted in securing permanent, full-time positions in the private sector. Our target area is A.F.D.C. welfare recipients, of course, but any displaced homemakers, underemployed, low-income women can qualify. Our office accepts applications between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The applications will be screened by our Outreach Counselor and potential participants will receive a letter of acceptance in the mail within a week of qualifying.

If the ladies need help in identifying their individual skills and talents applicable to employment our "Skills Discovery Program" can do just that. The program also provides a forum for women to develop problem solving techniques as they identify barriers to employment and develop solutions to these barriers.

We try to match the employer to the employee or vice-versa. Our Job Developer may have a "job package" in which she has developed specific jobs from one or

more employers, our Outreach Counselor will then recruit participants for these jobs. If we have applicants who qualify and there isn't a job package set up for the types of jobs they may be interested in, then our Job Developer will assist them with securing non-package jobs in their field of interest. By the end of the workshops you will know your career goals! You will have identified some problems you may encounter such as child care and transportation, but you will have also developed ways of handling those problems. You will have developed short and long range goals. You will have considered what training or education is necessary for your final career goals.

Once you're employed you will look back at your employment plan and consider your progress. Was your progress going according to your plans? If not, review alternate plans for these areas, previously worked out.

If you should be undecided about where your interests are, our Employment Readiness Training Instructor and Employment

Counselor will work with you to reassess your skills. These self evaluations will be done in a classroom setting with a peer group and instructor and on a one-to-one basis with the Employment Counselor.

The program workshops will include:

- Skills Assessment
- Vocational Assessment
- Goal Setting
- Resume Writing and Interviews
- Job Search Strategy
- Job Conflict Management
- Local Education and Training Opportunities
- Non-traditional Employment
- Personal and Family Services

Mr. Bob Garcia
Chairperson

Ms. Doreen Adamache
Vice-Chairperson

Mr. Gary Burkhurtsmeier
Secretary/Treasurer

Our Staff includes:



Molly Carrillo, Program Director
Rita Anaya, Administrative Assistant
Vicky De La O, Secretary/Receptionist
Marilyn Weixel, Employment Counselor
Roz McGrath, Employment Readiness Instructor
Gayle Johnson, Job Developer
Ellen Gaynor, Outreach Counselor



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Opinion

Observing, Learning, and Working Together

It is interesting to note the differentiation that exists in the Anglo American community between organizations. First, there are the "old established" organizations and those that are up and coming. The former is made up of the "old guard" and the latter of primarily youth and newcomers. Most often they remain separate except in those instances where the old established organizations sponsor the younger groups or make them affiliates of their own thereby increasing the younger organizations credibility.

To suggest that those of us in the Hispanic Community in Ventura County would do well to consider incorporating the above as something beneficial to us, may be threading on thin ice. We are so new to the principal of democratic social interaction, that we dread offending others by unintentionally excluding them. In society this differentiation generally takes place when higher levels of specialization occur.

Yes, the Hispanic community would do well to mark these differences. These organizations apparently know that if one mixes "apples and oranges," a long lasting and satisfactory solution to a serious problem is not likely to be easily found.

Keeping the above in mind, we have now been informed by President Reagan's Administration that we must learn to do for ourselves whether we be a county, a city, or an organization. The Hispanic person cannot possibly agree with the many cutbacks by Reagan that adversely impact us, other minorities, and the poor. Yet, this may be an opportune time for the Hispanic community to work together through their own organizations to deal with the problems affecting the Ventura Latin Community.

Recognizing that some Hispanic organizations in the county have been around longer than others, no one would attempt to assign priority of importance to any of them. Back in 1976 it became apparent that a centralized meeting place or instrument for communicating among Hispanics was needed. Thus was formed the *Concilio del Condado de Ventura* (Concilio) at Moorpark Junior College in Moorpark, California.

The old saying about leading a horse to water but being unable to force it to drink comes to mind at this juncture. We would merely suggest that the Concilio would be an excellent instrument through which concerns can be shared. You may wish to appraise yourself on how your organization would benefit by being a part of it. You may find it surprisingly useful.

As duly elected officials representing various Hispanic organization in the county, the Concilio Board of Directors will be only to happy to work with you.

Feedback

Dehumanization Process

The atmosphere circulating amongst the American Mainstream is truly a negative attitude toward others who also exist in that mainstream. In my social-professional and community life I am a victim of Mainstreamers who are mean and clearly unhappy persons. I do not construe this experience to be limited to myself. Recent articles (SFP 1-21-82 Re. Justice Cruz Reynoso) reflect the on-going victimization of others with a Chicano identity.

North American Society is not only in an economic crisis, but is in a social crisis as well. It should be clear, regardless of a persons station in life, *dignity* to her or him is a prerequisite in daily relations with others. *Dignity* produces a bond of sisterhood and brotherhood amongst the individuals of the society. Otherwise we will continue to find ourselves in the same social deterioration of North American Society.

Humans who continue to abuse others with adverse labeling are truly the perpetrators of the *Dehumanization Process* be they liberal-Moderate-Christian-Conservative.

/s/ Gabriel Serrano
Ventura

Thumbs-Up



Thumbs-Down

CAFE

- Thumbs Down to Reaganomics and the flow of State budget cuts which have reduced services to the Chicano community by reducing the bilingual Chicano workforce in service agencies.
- Thumbs Up to those individuals and organizations who bring this situation to light so that Chicanos can work together in dealing with these problems as they occur.

/s/ Monica L. Martinez
President, CAFE Ventura/Oxnard



MACA



- Thumbs Down to the many detractors, many of whom serve within the Criminal Justice System, to Governor Brown's appointment of Justice Cruz Reynosa to the California Supreme Court.
- Thumbs Up to Governor Jerry Brown for his excellent choice and foresight in appointing Justice Cruz Reynosa to the California Supreme Court.

/s/ Santos Hernandez
President, MACA-Ventura



Left to right representing the U.S. Military Academy of West Point are Mr. Ernest Almanza, Jr., Ms. Rosemary Stewart and Mr. Timothy Lawrence.

In Quest of (Continued from page 1)

Point." He pointed out that he has enjoyed fighting the odds in doing something few others have tried. Out of nine-hundred classmates graduating in May 1982, twelve will be Mexican American. Six from Texas and six from California. Ernie believes he is the only Mexican American from Ventura County in

California.

From the hard competing football player he was when he played for the Rio Mesa Spartans, to the hard competing individual he has become at the Academy, Ernie has had opportunity for great personal growth. This growth is apparent in his animated conversations in what is, without question, a work of love for him. Next to actually being at West Point, he enjoys talking about it. Because of this, he was made spokesman for the Academy during the 1980 Christmas holidays and made presentations at many of our local high schools. Apart from talking about West Point, Ernie emphasized education, education, and more education.

Ernie Jr. will tell you that it takes persistence, determination, and a lot of hard work to succeed at anything. But now that he is over the roughest part, he expressed relief to be only five months from graduation.

Upon graduating, young Ernie will receive a Bachelor of Science Degree and a commission as a Se-

cond Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. It is here that his career as a professional officer begins.

As Ventura County's only Hispanic Native son attending the prestigious West Point Academy, this young man deserves our plaudits and our respect. The Hispanic community joins the community at large in recognizing all the cadets who represented their respective academies at the January 5, 1982 City Council meeting.



Representing Annapolis Naval Academy, left to right are, Mr. Edward W. Harter, Mr. Victorino G. Mercado, Mr. Noel G. Vinzon and Mr. John Villanueva.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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