

EL OBSERVADOR

L.A. Mayor Talks Family Values

Urges political response toward Latino concerns

(AP) - Democrats must talk more about family values if they want to keep the support of Latino voters, according to Los Angeles' newly elected Democratic mayor.

Republicans were able to gain Hispanic votes in last year's presidential election because they focused on religion and seemed comfortable with Latino voters, Antonio Villaraigosa told reporters at the National Association of Hispanic Journalists Convention last week.

He said Democrats need to take the discussion beyond the issues



Antonio Villaraigosa

of gay marriage and abortion. Villaraigosa mentioned the homeless, health insurance for children and improving education as issues

that should be addressed as part of family values.

Villaraigosa became Los Angeles' first Latino mayor since 1872 when he beat incumbent James Hahn last month. The election saw a record 25 percent Hispanic voter turnout, though blacks and left-leaning whites also spurred his victory.

"It wasn't just a black-brown coalition," said the mayor-elect, who added that he will continue to try to unite a city that has faced racial clashes in the past. During his campaign, he emphasized that he wanted to be the right candidate for every resident in the city and not just a Latino candidate.

Villaraigosa, the son of Mexican immigrants and a city councilman, takes office in July.

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Explorando el Columbia Slough

Festivities include bilingual storytelling, canoe rides

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council invites the public to the fourth annual Explorando El Columbia Slough on Saturday June 25 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Explorando is an afternoon of free festivities celebrating the nature and history of the Columbia Slough. The event is targeted to the Hispanic community with events and activities being offered in both Spanish and English.

Highlights of Explorando El Columbia Slough will include free canoe trips, music, bird watching,

environmental games and displays, bilingual storytelling, dancing by the group Ballet Folklorico Sol Azteca, refreshments and more.

Explorando will be held at Whitaker Ponds Environmental Learning Center at 7040 NE 47th Ave in Portland.

Participants receive a free t-shirt while supplies last. Activities are family friendly and fun for all ages.

Para mayor información acerca del evento por favor llame al Fernando Velez at 503-329-0895.

Latina Artist Featured at Onde Arte

Artist Olga Montes de Oca de Porter will have her ceramic sculptures, paintings and mixed media work featured at Onde Arte Latina/Cross Currents Gallery, 2215 N.E. Alberta St., until June 28.

Porter, currently working with the Mt. Hood College Art Department, has galleries in Portland and Puerto Vallarta. Born in Mexico City, she received her art education at the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes in Mexico City and San Miguel de Allende. She came to the states 12 years ago.



For more information on gallery hours, visit www.ondagallery.com or call 503-493-1909.

A ceramic sculpture by Olga Montes De Oca de Porter



Hispanics Measure Half of Population Growth

(AP) - One of every seven people in the United States is Hispanic, a record number that probably will keep rising because of immigration and a birth rate outstripping that of non-Hispanic blacks and whites.

The country's largest minority group accounted for one-half of the overall population growth of 2.9 million between July 2003 and July 2004, according to a Census Bureau report being released recently.

"Looking toward the future, we see a different face of the U.S. population," said Audrey Singer, an immigration and census specialist at the Brookings Institution. "But I don't think that's necessarily new. It's a confirmation that this hasn't

Looking into the future, we see a different face of the U.S. population.

- Audrey Singer, Brookings Institution

stopped or changed much."

The agency estimated there are 41.3 million Hispanics in the United States. The bureau does not ask people about their legal status; that number is intended to include both legal and other residents.

The population growth for Asians ran a close second. Increases in both groups are due largely to immigration, but also higher birth rates.

Most immigrants to the United States tend to arrive in their 20s, when many people have children. A far greater percentage of whites than Hispanics is 65 or older; the opposite is true of those under 18.

The Census Bureau counts "Hispanic" or "Latino" as an ethnicity rather than a race, so Hispanics can be of any race. The population of non-Hispanic whites indicating no other race increased just 0.3 percent in the past year, to 197.8 million.

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RELIGION

Gospel Singer Ronald Winans Dies at 48

(AP) - Ronald Winans, a Grammy-winning member of the Winans gospel family who was part of the quartet The Winans, has died. He was 48.

Winans, who had suffered a heart attack in 1997, died Friday at Harper Hospital of heart complications, his family said. He had recently been admitted for observation, the family said, after doctors realized he was retaining fluid.

"The family wishes to thank everyone who joined us in prayer and will continue to extend their unwa-



Ronald Winans

ivering support during our time of loss", BeBe Winans, one of Ronald Winans' brothers, said in the statement.

Ronald Winans, along with brothers Marvin and Carvin and Michael, were discovered by Grammy-winning gospel singer Andrae Crouch. They released their first album in 1981 titled, "Introducing The Winans."

Ronald Winans, who sang on five Grammy-winning albums, released his final CD, a live recording, in January.

Stevie Wonder Pays for Children's Funerals

(AP) - Stevie Wonder has arranged to pay the funeral expenses for five children who were killed in a Philadelphia row house fire.

Wonder was heartbroken after hearing about the blaze and wanted to do something to help the family, said his publicist, Ira Tucker.

Wonder, 55, also hopes to visit with the families while he is in Philadelphia for the Live 8 concert on July 2.

"Stevie feels good about this," Tucker said. "It's

been just a heart-wrenching thing." The June 12 blaze in the city's Kensington neighborhood killed three sisters, Summer Cooke, 5; Samantha Bowers, 4; and Sabrina Dickson, 22 months; and two of their cousins who lived nearby, Amber Johnson, 3; and Reginald Ringgold, 1.

The three sisters' mother, Shannon Bowers, 21, and her boyfriend, Lester Cooke, 33, escaped by jumping from a second-floor window into a children's wading pool on the sidewalk.

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