

LA VOZ NUEVA

VOL. XXXIII NO. 5 National Association of Hispanic Publications January 31, 2007



ATTRACTIONS

Bunky Echo-Hawks acrylic painting, *Hometown*, is part of the contemporary art included in *Tribal Paths* at the Colorado History Museum

PAGE 9

Coming to America

More than 200 Latino leaders from all over Colorado met during two days, Jan. 28 and 29, at a hotel in downtown Denver to participate in the Colorado Latinos:

Forging the Future conference, a forum focusing on immigration and on legislative issues.

According to the organizers, the goal of the non-partisan

forum held last Sunday was "to bring together Colorado Latino/a leadership and Latino community with state and federal lawmakers in order to discuss, debate, dia-

logue and address serious problems and issues with recently enacted (2006) state immigration legislation and impending federal immigration reform."

A second goal was "to set up a mechanism by which to address 2007 upcoming state and federal legislation on immigration."

The conference began with an Interdenominational Prayer Service led by Rev. Fidel "Butch" Montoya, director of Confianza (a local association of Latino ministers), followed by opening remarks by Dr. Estevan Flores, executive director of the Latino/a Research and Policy Center (LRPC), and Polly Baca, executive director of the Latin American Research and Service Agency (LARASA).

After a session on the new immigration laws and another one about the politics of immigration, the Honorable Andrew Romanoff (D), Speaker of the House, was the keynote speaker.

"We passed more laws on this subject last year than any other state in America, now our job is to make sure those laws are working," Romanoff said.

"It's clear to me that there have been some unintended consequences to these laws," he added.

"I think our system is broken," Romanoff said, adding, "The appropriate level of illegal immigration in America is zero." For that reason, "we should redouble the pressure on Congress to deliver comprehensive reform."

Also on Sunday, but in the afternoon, there was a meeting with Latino political leaders (all of them Democrats), and a final session on strategic planning.

On Monday, the conference

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Esta Semana This Week

COMMENTARY COMENTARIO

How much longer?

When Bush spoke about the immigration issue in his State of the Union address, he offered some hope in a generally mixed message. The real question is how long will meaningful immigration reform take?

4

MIS RECUERDOS

Attention Trivia Buffs

We need your help in finding the English word for a berry referred to as "lemitas." For years this writer has had no luck in finding that answer. Lemitas has a delicious citrus taste and scent, and ironically resembles the great scent of Estee Lauder's Pleasures.

7

AUTOMUNDO

Need a little car?

Many manufacturers are putting out new commuters cars in hopes of getting the attention of buyers more concerned with economy and practicality in this age of ever more valuable gasoline and ever increasing insurance costs. We compare the Toyota Yaris and Nissan Versa.

13

¿Qué Pasa?

WHAT'S HAPPENING
EVENTS CALENDAR, PAGE 8



LA VOZ Nueva photo by Shannon Garcia

Shown above are (l-r) Sarah Fraiser, born in Wyoming; Virgilio Urbano, born in Italy; Jackie Summers, born in Japan; Zoya Savova, born in Bulgaria; and Gabriel Monge, born in El Salvador. Four of the five individuals are immigrants who have traveled to the United States in pursuit of the American dream. All four are employees at Virgilio Pizzeria Napoletana in Lakewood. Many immigrants, documented or otherwise are here for the same reason.

Latinos debaten soluciones para problemas cruciales

Más de 200 dirigentes latinos de todo Colorado se reunieron durante dos días, el 28 y 29 de enero pasado, en un hotel del centro de Denver para participar de la conferencia Latinos de Colorado: Forjando el Futuro, un foro comunitario dedicado este año a temas de inmigración y legislativos.

Según los organizadores, la meta del foro del domingo pasado fue "reunir a los líderes latinos de Colorado y a la comunidad latina con legisladores estatales y federales para discutir, debatir y dialogar sobre los serios problemas causados por las leyes de

inmigración aprobadas el año pasado y por las propuestas de reforma migratoria a nivel federal".

La segunda meta para ese día fue "establecer un mecanismo para responder a las leyes federales y estatales de inmigración en el 2007".

La conferencia comenzó con un servicio interdenominacional de oración, a cargo del Rev. Fidel "Butch" Montoya, director de Confianza (una asociación local de pastores latinos), seguido de los comentarios iniciales por parte del Dr. Estevan Flores, director ejecutivo del Latino/a Research

and Policy Center (LRPC), y por Polly Baca, directora ejecutiva del Latin American Research and Service Agency (LARASA).

Luego hubieron dos sesiones, una sobre leyes migratorias y otra sobre la política de la inmigración. Y al mediodía el orador central fue el Representante Estatal Romanoff (D), presidente de la Cámara Baja en la Asamblea Legislativa de Colorado.

"Aprobamos más leyes sobre inmigración el año pasado que cualquier otro estado en Estados Unidos. Ahora debemos asegura-

CONTINUA EN PÁGINA 13

PRST STD
US POSTAGE PAID
DENVER, CO
PERMIT NO. 1613