



Boletín

A Publication for Members and Friends of Valiente • March 2006

National LGBT media watchdog sets sights on Spanish media

GLAAD hires Latino to outreach to growing Latin market

As the U.S. Hispanic population grows at a faster rate than other minorities, the Spanish-language media continues to expand as well. Today's 35 million Hispanics in America can choose to get their news and entertainment from English and/or Spanish media.

Gone are the days where the Latin community had only one news source to rely upon. Univision and Telemundo are billion dollar empires, Spanish radio is no longer relegated to the AM dial, and Spanish-language papers now run as dailies in major cities.

With growth comes responsibility. To ensure that LGBT community is being fairly portrayed and correctly reported on news stories, GLAAD has hired a full-time staff member to not only monitor the media but engage its gatekeepers.

Carlos Macias recently joined GLAAD as its new People of Color Media Manager. Macias will promote GLAAD's mission, which states that the organization is "in the business of changing people's hearts and minds through what they see in the media. We know that what people watch on TV or read in their newspaper shapes how they view and treat the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people around them. And we have a responsibility to make sure those images foster awareness, understanding and respect."

GLAAD hopes that Macias' outreach to Hispanic media can translate the success the group has experienced with the mainstream media since its inception in 1985. To read about GLAAD's milestones, visit www.glaad.org.

Macias met with board members of Valiente in February. He talked about future projects and the need for more Hispanic LGBT community members to be out and



Carlos Macias travels across America meeting with the nation's Spanish media outlets to address LGBT issues.

be ready to represent the community. He agreed to an interview with the *Boletín*.

Boletín: What prompted GLAAD to put you on this mission to reach out to Spanish Media?

Carlos Macias: "GLAAD has been a pioneer in combating homophobia in Spanish language media. It was about time a national organization realized how big and important Spanish media is and reach out to media professionals to offer information on how to deal with LGBT issues in their work."

Boletín: Was there a position like this before you took on the duty?

Carlos Macias: "My position was recently created and came as a result of the great work of Monica Taher, GLAAD's People of Color Media Director, who has been conducting work with Spanish media for the past four years."

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GLAAD: Macias works to improve LGBT image in Spanish media



Valiente met with Carlos Macias in February to learn more about his role with GLAAD. (Left to right) Valiente Board Member Cesar Reyna, Valiente Vice President Juan Ayala, Carlos Macias and Valiente President Fernie Sanchez.

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Boletín: You had mentioned that sometimes things “get lost in the translation” in our February meeting. Do you have an example where the Spanish Media had misconstrued something which ended up being negative towards the LGBT community?

Carlos Macias: “Yes. DFW’s paper *Al Dia* translates many of their stories from English to Spanish and since they did not know the right terminology for our community they would translate transgender as transvestite. Since then, we’ve reached out to the paper who met with us and will refer to the lists we provided to be more accurate in their translations.”

Boletín: Have the editorial boards been receptive to you?

Carlos Macias: “Yes. One example is Los Angeles’ paper *La Opinion*. In January, we conducted an editorial meeting and training about LGBT issues, since then they have ran five stories about our community so far. *Al Dia* and *La Estrella* (Fort Worth’s Spanish newspaper) also were receptive and are trying to find stories they can write.”

Boletín: What are some success stories

from your outreach?

Carlos Macias: “In radio, we have been able to negotiate public service announcements not only for GLAAD, but for local LGBT groups for Univision and Entravision Radio. We also conduct two weekly radio shows with Univision in Los Angeles and New York that deal with our issues. Newspapers in Los Angeles, Miami and New York have picked up the stories we’ve presented to them and have given fair, accurate and inclusive coverage to our stories. We will do the same thing in Texas in the coming months as we are trying to have a bigger presence in the south.”

Boletín: What can members of Valiente do to help the image of LGBT community in the media?

Carlos Macias: “The best thing we all can do is to be prepared to talk to the media when they approach an organization for comments or stories. Valiente can write Op-Eds for newspapers, letters to the editor and gives quotes to make Valiente more visible.”

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Carlos Macias
GLAAD

— GO MINERS! — last year. I’ve been living in New York for six months.”

Boletín: Do you plan to visit Dallas again and hopefully meet with our group?

Carlos Macias: “I will be back for sure. There is still a lot of work to be done in Texas. Valiente is a great ally in Dallas. I would love to meet all of the members of Valiente. The best way that I’ve learned how to better do my job is from talking to the ones that are doing all the work locally and have so much experience in the movement.”

To contact Macias with a question or a media complaint, e-mail macias@glaad.org. V

News Briefs



Valiente met with Southwest Regional Media Manager for GLAAD Coral Lopez (center), in March. She will return this summer to meet with the general membership.

Valiente Meets on March 16:

Valiente will have its general meeting on Thursday, March 16, at 6:30 p.m., at the Havana Bar & Grill, located on 4006 Cedar Springs Rd., Dallas, TX 75219 (corner of Cedar Springs Rd. and Throckmorton St.). The featured guest is Chris Davis of Legacy of Success Foundation. As a reminder, Valiente meets every third Thursday of the month at Havana’s at 6:30 p.m.

New Committee Chairs Selected:

As part of a “reorganization of responsibilities” request suggested at the all-day Valiente board retreat, the Valiente board decided to make board members the chair of committees in order to hold the leadership of the organization more accountable. The new chair of the Education Committee will be Joe Hernandez, Jr. The new chair of the Membership and Fundraising Committee will be Cesar Reyna. Members interested in serving on these committees may contact Hernandez at joehernandezjr@sbcglobal.net and Reyna at reyna_cesar@yahoo.com.



On March 11, Valiente held a six-hour yard sale at the John Thomas Gay and Lesbian Center. The group raised \$462.10. V

Mundo Latino

Latino LGBT Political Action Committee forms in California:

On Feb. 24, a California political action committee, whose purpose is to raise awareness of Latinos and Latinas within the LGBT community, formed. "Honor PAC" will address the issues of religion, language and social acceptance that serve as barriers for Latina/o LGBT residents. The PAC's main goal is to elect LGBT Latinas/os to office.

A Guest Worker Plan in the U.S.?:

On March 7, the head of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Emilio Gonzalez told the media that his agency is ready to administer a guest worker program, bringing millions of illegal immigrants into a more structured, legal working system. Around 11 million immigrants work in the U.S. Since the 9/11 attacks, Congress has pushed for more scrutiny of illegal immigrants in America. Critics of Gonzalez's agency say it is not ready to handle the workload due to the agency's problems with fraud and abuse.

Coming to America? Bring a Diet.

Dr. Marta Tienda, a sociology professor at Princeton University, released a report this month that finds that the longer that Hispanics who come to America to work stay here, the more likely they are to develop diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. Obesity rates in immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for more than five years registered at 22 percent, compared to 16.1 percent for those who have lived here less than five years. The rate of diabetes climbed from 6.9 percent in the new immigrant population to 7.5 percent in immigrants with five or more years in the states.

Catholic Church Weighs into America's Immigration Debate:

On the first Sunday in March, Cardinal Roger Mahoney called on Roman Catholics to embrace immigrants. He is one of many Catholic leaders who are promoting "Justice for Immigrants" to combat the December legislation passed in the U.S. House, criminalizing immigrants and those who help them. The law would require churches to require legal documents before providing services. Mahoney said he would not observe the law. ▽

Youth First seeks bilingual mentors for its growing Hispanic clientele

At the February general meeting, Valiente members were treated to a guest speaker from Youth First, Dr. Nancy Dodge.

Youth First is the only non-profit organization in Dallas committed to providing social services, leadership opportunities and recreational activities for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender and Questioning youth, ages 14 to 22.

It is estimated that there are 50,000 LG-BTQ youth in North Texas.

Dr. Dodge told the 25 members in attendance that nearly 600 youth came to Youth First activities last year. A good percentage of them were Hispanic.

"When we first started it 1999, it was mainly Anglo youth participating," Dr. Dodge said. "Today the numbers are 60 percent Hispanic."

She called on Valiente members to consider volunteering with Youth First.

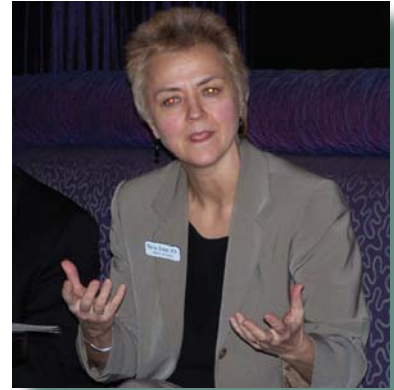
"We do not have counselors who speak Spanish," she said. "We would like our own staff to look like the population we serve."

Dr. Dodge shared with the group that even though it may seem that times have gotten easier for LGBTQ acceptance, problems still persist — especially with vulnerable youth.

Forty percent of homeless youth in Dallas County are LGBTQ, said Dr. Dodge. She also cited a study on LGBTQ youth, which found that 65 percent felt unsafe, 50 percent were threatened, 40 percent were diagnosed with depression, and 15 percent trade sex for shelter and food.

Sadly, 50 percent considered suicide in that study. To help combat those statistics and improve the livelihood of area LGBTQ youth, Youth First provides a "safe space" and someone to call, no matter what time of day. The organization has 20 staff members and its operating budget has increased dramatically over the last three years: \$17,000 in 2004, \$63,000 in 2005 and \$100,000 in 2006, thanks to the generous support of local LGBT organizations.

Training sessions for mentors/facilitators will be held in April. To volunteer, contact Youth First at 214.879.0400. ▽



Dr. Nancy Dodge of Youth First.



Above: Alicia Molina, S. Rios and Rosalinda Gomez of Valiente.



Above: Sergio Ramirez and Jesse Garcia of Valiente.



Letter From The President

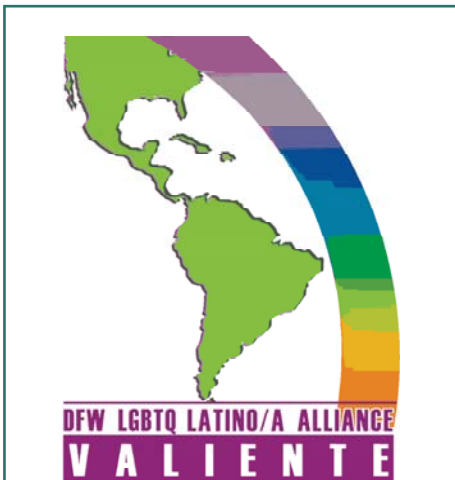
Latino LGBT groups in the DFW area have come and gone over the years. There can be any number of reasons and explanations as to why groups and organizations dissolve. However, I think it can be safely said that the one of the primary reasons why new non-profit groups sometimes "go away" is because of the lack of information, education, vision and skills of the organizations' leadership.

Valiente's board of directors is committed to the longevity of the organization. As the organization's first board, we have a responsibility to set the foundation and do all that we can to assure that Valiente doesn't disappear in a few years. To that end, on Feb. 25 Valiente board members participated in an all-day board training workshop presented by Dr. Elliott Stephenson with WES Training and Consulting. Board members acquired valuable information/education about what it means to be a board member of a non-profit organization. Workshop goals included: identifying major roles and responsibilities of board members, developing strategies to enhance the governance of board members and to provide tools and resources to board members to enhance the governance of the organization.

After the training session, board members sat around discussing the day's events. We recognize the level of commitment we have undertaken and realize that as a board there is still much work for us to do. One of the things we learned is that it is important that we start grooming and developing leaders within the

organization so that efficient governance can continue long after our tenure is up. It is also imperative that we consider other capable individuals in the community that can contribute to the growth and development of the board and the organization. In the near future, we will be increasing the number of members on the board. Our board meetings are open to all members and take place the first Friday of the month at the offices of AIDS Arms, Inc. We welcome any member who has an interest in the organization to come listen and observe the board in action. Our next step as a board of directors is to develop a two to three year strategic plan for Valiente. A strategic plan serves as a guide and a map and provides direction for the organization. It is a vision of what we want Valiente to look like in the future and includes goals and action steps for achieving those goals. While strategic planning is rarely fun and easy it is necessary. After all, how will we get to where we want to go if we don't know have a clear picture of our desired destination? ▽

Sincerely,
Fernie Sanchez
Board President



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Boletín is a monthly publication of Valiente. Views and opinions are those of the members. To contact the editor, e-mail Jesse Garcia at Jgarcia71@aol.com. No portion of this newsletter may be reproduced without permission.

President • Fernando Sanchez
Vice President • Juan Ayala
Treasurer • Alicia Molina
Secretary • Jesse Garcia

****Remember:

Valiente General Meeting
Thursday, March 16, 6:30 p.m.
Havana's on 4006 Cedar Springs Rd.,
Dallas, TX 75219
Guest Speaker: Legacy for Success