



Boletín

A Publication for Members and Friends of Valiente • April 2007

Valiente featured at New American Rally

On April 1, Valiente took part in the "New American Rally" at Dallas City Hall. More than 5,000 people attended the peaceful rally held on a bright sunny day.

Elected officials and various activist organizations joined forces to rally for comprehensive immigration reform, which calls for stronger border security and a pathway to citizenship for the more than 12 million undocumented immigrants.

Dallas was one of six cities that held citizenship rights rallies in America in April.

Valiente was one of the first organizations in Dallas to donate money to sponsor the rally.

"Comprehensive Immigration Reform is a human rights issue that must be dealt with today. Advocating on behalf of all

LGBT Latinos regardless of their documentation status is within the scope of Valiente's mission," said Valiente President Fernie Sanchez.

Sanchez was one of two dozen speakers that addressed the crowd. His speech on how the LGBT community stands in solidarity with the immigrant community and how Valiente urges those in the audience to denounce discrimination of all kinds -- including discrimination against the LGBT community -- was warmly accepted.

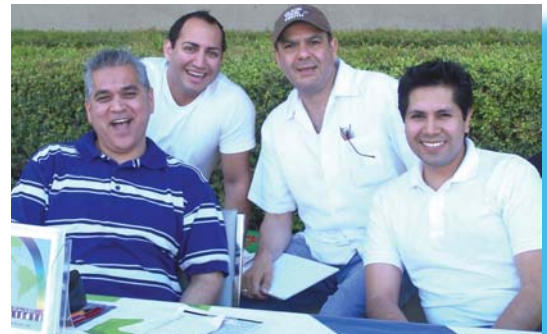
According to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 33 percent of males in Latino same-sex couples and 26 percent of women in Latina same-sex couples are not U.S. citizens.

In 2006, a record 190,000 children and families were deported under the guise of Homeland Security with thousands more currently being held (imprisoned) in inhumane detention facilities.

With an estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants supplying the demand for inexpensive labor, the majority of fair-minded U.S. citizens believe that hard



Above: More than 5,000 marched in front of Dallas City Hall on April 1. Left: (Left to right) Juan Hernandez, a Mexican-American who served in Mexican President Vicente Fox's cabinet, meets with Valiente member Jesse Garcia. Below: (Left to right) Valiente members Jose Reymundo, Ben Leal, Fernie Sanchez and Jerry Martinez worked an information table at the event.



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working law abiding immigrants should be legalized and that a new fair and humane worker program should be adopted.

Valiente supports fair and just Comprehensive Immigration Reform that must take place this year to prevent a two and half year delay by Congress, after campaigns and the presidential election has passed.

"The Gay community should know what hate, discrimination and ignorance feels like," said Sanchez. "Valiente encourages all LGBT organizations to support and encourage immediate Comprehensive Immigration Reform." V

Lambda Legal puts resources into Spanish-speaking community

Recently, Valiente held successful English and Spanish workshops to educate the Latino community about discrimination toward those with HIV and AIDS. The presenter Francisco Duenas, who is the Proyecto Igualdad (Equality Project) Outreach Associate for Lambda Legal, gave a thorough presentation about the matter and has extended his services to the North Texas region. He agreed to an interview with the Boletín to talk about his mission:

Boletín: What is your position?

Francisco Duenas: "I am the primary staff person for Lambda Legal's Proyecto Igualdad, which is a national project that extends Lambda Legal's resources and information to Spanish speakers and seeks to engage the many Latino/Hispanic communities. At Lambda Legal, we provide bilingual educational materials, host community events and trainings and offer bilingual legal assistance through our help desks around the country."

Boletín: What goals do you have?

Francisco: "Currently my goal is to connect with national latino legal groups. While we have made many of Lambda Legal's publications and informational materials Spanish-language accessible, we still face the challenge of getting information into the hands of LGBT Latino/as and their advocates. We are reaching out to Latino/a legal communities as part of a strategic campaign to increase their support for LGBT and HIV rights. As a legal organization, we share a natural affinity with these legal groups and believe they will be good allies in addressing the legal concerns of LGBT Latino/as. I am also working to develop and deepen Lambda Legal's relationships with Latino organizations in some target areas. I recently traveled to Texas, where I worked with Lambda Legal's South Central Regional staff to provide two presentations on HIV and Civil Rights and met with a number of organizations, including Valiente."

Boletín: What are some of the common forms of discrimination that you encounter when talking to clients?

Francisco: "Employment discrimination issues are the number one reason people



call our help desks. In Lambda Legal's 2005 Workplace Fairness Survey, 39 percent of respondents reported experiencing some form of discrimination or harassment in the workplace because of their sexual orientation during the past five years. Even though polls show that more than 80 percent of Americans believe that sexual orientation discrimination in the

workplace is wrong, there is still no federal law that expressly forbids discrimination and most states do not provide protections. For Latinos who call our help desks, after workplace issues, other common concerns are relationship issues, parenting rights and immigration."

Francisco Duenas
Lambda Legal

"Many of us don't always know what our rights are. That is why I think it is so important for Lambda Legal to educate our communities."

Boletín: "Why do you think people who have been discriminated against because of their HIV or citizenship status or language barrier refuse or are reluctant to get help?"

Francisco: "Well, sometimes we would prefer to pretend that we have not been discriminated against, as a way of coping with our situation. Other times, fear of being discriminated against will also stop many of us from seeking help. Finally, sometimes, I also believe we just don't know where to go or who to turn to for help. Many of us don't always know what our rights are. That is why I think it is so important for Lambda Legal to educate our communities about the legal protec-

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News Briefs



(Left to right): Dawnetta Miller of Equality Texas and Valiente Member Jesse Garcia lobbied for LGBT rights at the State Capitol in Austin on March 5. Miller will speak at Valiente's April mixer.

Valiente members meet April 19:

The April mixer of Valiente takes place Thursday, April 19, at 6:30 p.m., at Havana's, located at 4006 Cedar Springs Rd., Dallas, TX 75219.

Valiente holds a membership drive:

Valiente will hold a membership drive at the Crossroads Market Cafe and Bookstore on Saturday, April 21, from 6 to 9 p.m. The cafe is located at 3920 Cedar Springs Rd., Dallas, TX 75219. To participate, contact Cesar Reyna at reyna_cesar@yahoo.com.

Valiente Committees meet soon:

- *Social and Cultural Committee*, Saturday, April 28, 1 p.m., at the Crossroads Market Bookstore and Cafe, 3930 Cedar Springs Rd., Dallas, TX 75219. To join, email jgarcia71@aol.com.
- *Membership and Fundraising Committee*, Wednesday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m. (location TBA). To join, email reyna_cesar@yahoo.com.
- *Education Committee*, Saturday, May 5, 1 p.m. (location TBA). To join, email gaefren@yahoo.com.

LULAC 4871 meets April 24:

LULAC Council 4871 - The Dallas Rainbow Council meets Tuesday, April 24, at 6:30 p.m., at the LULAC Housing Commission, located at 6500 Greenville Ave., Suite 515, Dallas, TX 75206. For more information, visit www.lulac4871.org.

LGBT Community early votes:

The J.P. Joyce Community Vote Foundation, a nonpartisan voter education project, will hold a "Pride at the Polls" rally on Sunday, May 6, from Noon to 6 p.m., at Sue Ellen's, located at 3903 Cedar Springs Rd., Dallas, TX 75219. The foundation will give free rides to residents to go early vote. ▽

Mundo Latino

Sole Latino running for president proudly says he is LGBT-friendly:

Bill Richardson, governor of New Mexico, has visited several prominent LGBT national groups touting his Gay-friendly political background. Richardson, whose mother is Mexican, said he wants to end the U.S. military ban on Gays and Lesbians. During his tenure as governor, he signed legislation that included provisions for the LGBT community in hate crime laws and same-sex benefits for state employees. He is pushing for civil unions in his state. Richardson has raised \$6.2 million for his campaign, placing him in the middle of the nine Democrats running.

Millions of undocumented immigrants paid taxes on April 17, too:

The New York Times reported last week that while the U.S. Congress debates comprehensive immigration reform several million undocumented immigrants filed taxes -- a record number of returns. Even though immigration raids are now commonplace in the U.S., immigrants still want to pay their fare share. It helps that the Internal Revenue Service does not ask about immigration status and cannot, by law, share its information with any other agency -- such as the Department of Homeland Security.

GLAAD condemns Azteca America host for homophobic slur on TV:

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation condemned Inés Gómez-Mont's on-air use of the word "maricón" (faggot). Gómez-Mont hosts *Ventaneando América*, Azteca América's highest-rated entertainment show. Gómez-Mont used the homophobic slur while she and the program's other hosts were commenting on Mexican actress Irma Serrano's companion, Patricio "El Pato" Zambrano. Gómez-Mont mocked Serrano's sexual orientation by saying, "She says he's a 'maricón.'" "Inés Gómez-Mont's use of this derogatory slur is vulgar, defamatory and unacceptable," said Mónica Taher, GLAAD's People of Color Media Strategy Director. "And by allowing the slur to go unchecked, Azteca América is helping foster an environment of intolerance and bigotry against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people." ▼

10 Questions

with
Vanessa Negron

One of the best things that happened to Valiente in 2007 was the arrival of Vanessa Negron. Negron not only became a member, but she joined the membership and fundraising committee. She looks forward to recruiting more women.

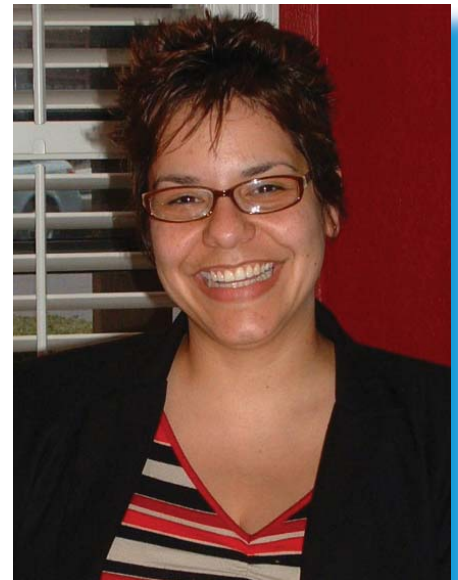
Boletín: How did you hear about Valiente? Vanessa Negron: "I met Cesar Reyna during a Human Rights Campaign meeting at Ciudad. I thoroughly enjoy volunteering and knowing that my Latino community has its own organization, makes it even better!"

Boletín: What are your goals for the organization? Vanessa: "I would like to have more women involved."

Boletín: What is your background? Vanessa: "I was born in Texas, but I grew up in Puerto Rico. My father was in the service so I have even lived in Germany. I speak, read and write Spanish. I also understand Italian."

Boletín: What do you do for a living? Vanessa: "I work for the first title company in the United States, First American. I proudly coordinate relocation closings for big name clients in all 50 states, Canada and the Virgin Islands."

Boletín: Where did you go to school? Vanessa: "I received a business degree with a minor in accounting from National Education Center in Fort Worth. Plus, many training courses to get certified as an escrow professional."



Boletín: How long have you lived in the Dallas area? Vanessa: "I've lived here for about 10 years. I lived in a little town called Watauga when I first moved to Texas back in '86."

Boletín: What other organizations do you belong to? Vanessa: "Human Rights Campaign."

Boletín: Why is it important to volunteer? Vanessa: "Volunteering is the best way to let our political leaders know that we do care. That we will continue until we have equality! Our community is too important to be ignored! And furthermore we truly do care!!"

Boletín: What's tougher: being a lesbian, Latina or a woman? Vanessa: "Being an opened-mouth human being. Being a woman is my destiny. Latina is my passion and a Lesbian is my religion."

Boletín: What is your favorite hobby? Vanessa: "Travel." ▼



(Left to right) State Rep. Rafael Anchia, Councilwoman Pauline Medrano and Valiente President Fernie Sanchez.

NOCHE DE FIESTA

Valiente invites you to a Cinco De Mayo celebration featuring State Representative Rafael Anchia & Councilwoman Pauline Medrano Saturday, May 5, 7 p.m. to Midnight For directions and to reserve a spot: DallasPartyRSVP@aol.com

Event sponsored by Valiente, LULAC 4871 and Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

Lambda Legal: offering bilingual legal assistance

Continued from Page 2

tions that do exist as well as inform people about the allies and advocates who are working to increase our rights.”

Boletín: What can Lambda Legal do to help people with HIV that have been discriminated against?

Francisco: “Lambda Legal fights to protect the rights of people living with HIV. We won the first AIDS-discrimination lawsuit in the country, and since then, we’ve demanded fair treatment in all aspects of life for people living with HIV. Our help desks offer bilingual legal assistance for people who have been discriminated against because of their HIV status or for being LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender). People should not hesitate to give us a call. A small number of callers become plaintiffs in our precedent-setting lawsuits, but everyone is assisted, with information, resources and/or support. Recently, we took the case of Joey Saavedra. Joey was fired from his job as an auto glass installer at Nodak Enterprises because his employer mistakenly

believed his HIV status made him a danger to others. Even before he was hired, Joey let the company know that he has HIV. But three months later, when news of his HIV status made its way up to the company’s leadership, Joey was fired and was even given a notice telling him that he was fired because he has HIV. Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit against Nodak, arguing that Joey’s civil rights had been violated. Just months later, Lambda Legal reached a settlement with Nodak. The company agreed to adopt a nondiscrimination policy, conduct extensive training on HIV issues for its employees and pay an undisclosed amount to Joey. This case sends a strong message to employers that HIV discrimination in the workplace must not be tolerated.”

Boletín: Since the Latino HIV population is also made up of immigrants, what legal channels do you have to protect those who are not citizens?

Francisco: “First of all, it must be understood that the U.S. has a general immigration ban on people living with HIV who attempt to enter the country. An immigrant living with HIV can apply for



Duenas gave presentations at AIDS Arms in Dallas, Texas, on March 28.

a waiver of this ban, but there are strict requirements, and an attorney should be consulted. Lambda Legal’s help desks can provide callers with resources to find attorneys who are experienced in HIV immigration issues. In addition, generally laws that forbid discriminating against someone in employment or housing because of their HIV status protect people regardless of their immigration status. Anyone who has a problem with HIV discrimination, regardless of his or her immigration status, should contact the Lambda Legal’s Help Desk.” ▽



Valiente

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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 • Jerry Martinez
Treasurer • Rey Franco
Secretary • Ben Leal

****Remember:

Valiente Mixer

Thursday, April 19, 6:30 p.m.

Havana’s on 4006 Cedar Springs Rd.

Featured guest: Dawnetta Miller of Equality Texas