

THE BRONX
Journal

Publisher: Lynne Van Voorhis
Editor-in-Chief: Patricio Lerzundi
Editor/English: James Anderson
Editorial Staff Consultant: Hernán Guerrero
Production & Art Director: Orlando Lorca
Assistant Art Director: José R. Grisales
Technical Consultant: Louis Cruz
Sports Editor: Greg Van Voorhis
Photo Editor: Lenore Schultz
Entertainment Editor: Rafael Mieses
Copy Editors: María Castro, Ileana Ferreras.

Staff Writers: Dwight R.B. Cook, Gaunet Davis, David Davitt, Estelle Holt, Emmanuelle Louis, Lisa Lugo, Yudelka Núñez, Lydia Obasi, Mara Palermo, Alex K. Payne, Lesley Powell, Vicky Rodríguez, Mariella Sánchez, Maya Shved, Román Sierra, Joan Snaith, Anita Spearman, Shirlene Williams, Angela Zanders.
Faculty Advisors: Maria G. DiPaolo, Marlene Gottlieb, Julian Laderman, Bertrade MBom, Gerardo Piña, Elvira Pirraglia, José Luis Rénique, Asako Tochika, Robert Whittakers.

The Bronx Journal is published monthly during the academic year by the Multilingual Journalism Program, Lehman College 250 Bedford Park Blvd West, Carman Hall 259 Bronx, New York 10468-1589 Telephone: (718) 960-8217 Fax: (718) 960-8218 e-mail: tbj@lehman.cuny.edu

Editorial

MORE LATINOS IN PRINT, BROADCAST NEWSROOMS

The National Association of Hispanic Journalists called on the news industry this week to increase dramatically the employment of Latino journalists during the next five years.

NAHJ will seek to work with the news industry to double the percentage of Latinos employed by daily newspapers from the current 3.8 percent to 7.8 percent and to boost the percentage of Latinos working for local English-language television stations from the current 6.1 percent to 9.0 percent by 2008.

The five-year strategic plan adopted this past October is NAHJ's first comprehensive strategy that marshals its resources to address the momentous changes in the U.S. media since the group's founding in 1984.

The centerpiece of the plan is the Parity Project. The NAHJ will identify cities with significant Latino populations where Latinos are underrepresented in the newsrooms of local media outlets. In those cities, NAHJ will offer to work jointly with existing print and broadcast outlets, area journalism schools, foundations and Latino community leaders to develop comprehensive model programs that will increase Latino newsroom presence and influence.

The Parity Project will focus mainly on medium-sized cities. Recent studies by the Brookings Institution and the Pew Hispanic Center found that during the 1990s Latinos migrated to the suburbs and medium-sized cities faster than any other ethnic or racial group in the nation's history. Media outlets in those cities have historically been the "weak link" in minority newsroom employment.



Miguel Pérez is a Columnist for The Bergen Record

It wasn't supposed to happen until 2015. That's when the Census Bureau predicted, back in 1997, that Latinos would become the nation's largest minority. But we have been awarded that title in 2003!

Or have we? It all depends on how we count black Latinos.

The bureau reported that, as of July 2001, Latinos number 37 million -nearly 13 percent - of America's 284.8 million people. African-Americans number 36.1 million, or 12.7 percent. But there were 1.4 million Latinos who also identify themselves as black.

If they consider themselves Latinos first and black second - as most probably do - then you can say Hispanics are now the largest minority. But if you add just half of those black Latinos to the African-American population, and subtract them

from the Hispanic population, then you have a draw.

And because the Census Bureau doesn't ask black Latinos to prioritize their ethnicity and their race, statistically, the title of largest minority has been awarded to Latinos prematurely.

No skin off my back. I, for one, don't see any good reason to brag about the potential of becoming a member of the nation's largest minority. That's because I've been asking myself what it all means.

The answer is *nada* - not unless those population numbers can be translated into long-overdue political, social, and economic empowerment.

And if that doesn't happen, the largest minority title can be more detrimental than positive. It can make non-Latinos apprehensive about superfluous matters.

For some white Americans, it could fur-

Opportunities at NAHJ

I am writing to ask you to please make sure that your students are aware of the below opportunities which are offered by the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. NAHJ will hold its 2003 convention at the Marriott Marquis in the Times Square area of New York City from June 26 - 28, 2003. Since it is so close to your campus, I thought that this would be something that you and your students would want to know about.

NAHJ is proud to announce its 2002-2003 Rubén Salazar Scholarship Fund competition as well as the NAHJ2003 Convention Internship Program competition!!

NAHJ offers several scholarships for students who are pursuing careers in English or Spanish-language print, photo, broadcast or online journalism. They include:

The Newhouse Scholarship Program
The new María Elena Salinas Scholarship Program
The Cristina Saralegui Program
The NAHJ Newsroom Bound Program

NAHJ also offers opportunities for

students to have internships during the association's 2003 convention at the Marriott Marquis in the Times Square area of New York City. The NAHJ convention will run from June 26 - 28, 2003, but students who are accepted into these programs must be available to participate in them from June 23 - 29, 2003. If accepted, students might get a chance to take part in the convention as an actual journalist, and take part in one of five NAHJ convention internship programs:

The NAHJ Latino Reporter newspaper project

The NAHJ El Noticiero television project

The NAHJ Radio Ondas radio news project

The NAHJ Latino Reporter Digital online news project

The NAHJ Student Campus program

Most of the expenses would be paid. Students would have the chance to work along side professional journalists. To check out work done by students who participated in the 2002 NAHJ Convention Internship programs, please visit:

<http://www.nahjdigital.org>

Letters to the Editor

To find out more about radio projects opportunities, please visit:

<http://www.npr.org/about/nextgen/> or e-mail Doug Mitchell at: nextgenerationradio@npr.org

Applications must be posted on or before January 31, 2003. Click on this link to download a free NAHJ 2003 Scholarship/Convention Internship application.

<http://www.nahj.org/student/2003/Aplica.pdf>.

Kevin Olivas, Educational Programs Manager
National Association of Hispanic Journalists
1000 National Press Building
529 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20045 (202)
662-7168 toll-free: (888) 346-NAHJ, ext. 7168
fax: (202) 662-7144
e-mail: kolivas@nahj.org
web site: <http://www.nahj.org>

Letters to the Editor must include your name, address, and telephone number so we can verify your comments. The letters may be edited to conform to space limitations.
Readers may also send comments via e-mail to:
tbj@lehman.cuny.edu



By: Wiley

Commentary

Hispanics are the No. 1 Minority

ther distort their false perception that Latinos are "taking over."

We already have enough xenophobia. Why ask for more?

For some African-Americans, getting knocked down to the No. 2 spot could fortify their false perception that Latinos are going after their small slice of the American pie. We already have enough black and Latino fools fighting over crumbs. Why create more?

Instead of helping Latinos, without empowerment, the title of largest minority can further alienate us from our fellow white and black Americans.

Yet for many years, Latino politicians have banked on the prospect of becoming the largest minority, as if mere population figures were going to solve all our problems.

"Soon we will become the nation's largest

minority," they preached in almost every speech, as if that automatically was going to improve our quality of life.

And now that the premature headlines have assured us Latinos have surpassed African-Americans, you can bet the politicians will be making premature - and hollow - speeches.

In fact, in many cities and counties in New Jersey and throughout the nation, Latinos already had been the largest minority for many years. But that distinction has meant absolutely nothing in places where the population figures are not turned into naturalization and voter-registration numbers.

What the Hispanic politicians should be saying is that unless Latinos become American citizens, register to vote, and go to the polls on Election Day, the largest minority title is a farce.

Reproduced with permission from The Record