

The National Council of La Raza: Mainstreaming Its Agenda

By Kevin Mooney

Summary: The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), a charitable foundation founded nearly 40 years ago, is the largest Hispanic-American advocacy organization in the U.S. Once known for its radical activism, the nonpartisan group has gone upscale and bipartisan, drawing major contributions from corporations and leftist foundations.

The National Council of La Raza had planned to hold its 2009 annual conference in Kansas City, Missouri. But in October it told city fathers that it was moving the conference elsewhere because Mayor Mark Funkhouser was refusing to comply with one very specific demand: The city must remove 73-year-old Frances Semler from her appointed position as one of five members of the city board of parks and recreation. Semler, a neighborhood activist and grandmother, had not violated any laws; neither had she done anything unethical, nor did La Raza object to her positions concerning Kansas City recreation programs and the city's parks. Semler's offense was that she is an outspoken proponent of upholding U.S. laws against illegal aliens.

According to La Raza, the problem is that Semler is an active member of the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps, a group dedicated to securing the U.S. border from unlawful entry by illegal aliens. Mayor Funkhouser, who appointed Semler to the parks board in June, has so far resisted La Raza's call for Semler's removal. He notes that her views on illegal immigration are unrelated to her duties on the parks board, which deals with issues such as outdoor party permits and off-leash dog ar-



The National Council of La Raza, headed by Janet Murguia (center), embraces lawmakers in both major political parties. The group honored Senator Tom Harkin, an Iowa Democrat (left) and Representative John Boehner (right), an Ohio Republican at a Washington, D.C. gala in March 2006.

reas, and her right of expression is protected by the U.S. Constitution. Semler says she joined the Minutemen because the government had failed to enforce immigration laws. Minutemen members "sit on lawn chairs with binoculars and a can of Coke or something and watch to see if anyone is coming across" the U.S.-Mexico border, she says.

But city boosters are dismayed that Semler remains on the board and want a compromise. The Kansas City Star, which reports that the city stands to lose up to \$5 million in business, blames the mayor for not vetting Semler's background. It labels the Minutemen a "militant group" that "demonizes immigrants" while it characterizes La Raza as "a national Hispanic civil rights organization."

No city official quoted in the press dares criticize La Raza's bullying tactics.

The sheepishness of Kansas City's political elite is a consequence of La Raza's own carefully calibrated communications strategy. By skillfully appealing to "civil rights"

December 2007

CONTENTS

The National Council of La Raza

Page 1

Philanthropy Notes

Page 8

Please remember

Capital Research Center

in your will and estate planning.

Thank you for your support.

Terrence Scanlon, President



Capital Research Center's
next online radio shows
air live on

December 18, 3:05 p.m.

January 15, 3:05 p.m.

February 12, 3:05 p.m.

(Eastern time)

at <http://www.righttalk.com>

(replays follow at 5 minutes

past the hour for the

following 23 hours)

Editor: Matthew Vadum

Publisher: Terrence Scanlon

Foundation Watch

is published by *Capital Research Center*, a non-partisan education and research organization, classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public charity.

Address:

1513 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-1480

Phone: (202) 483-6900

Long-Distance: (800) 459-3950

E-mail Address:

mvadum@capitalresearch.org

Web Site:

<http://www.capitalresearch.org>

Reprints are available for \$2.50 prepaid to Capital Research Center.

and playing the “race” card, La Raza creates sympathy for itself and draws attention away from its controversial public policy agenda. La Raza deliberately tries to blur the line between legitimate opposition to illegal immigration and outright racism, smearing as bigots those who oppose its agenda. The technique has been very lucrative for another hyperbole-driven organization, the Southern Poverty Law Center, whose report on the Minutemen La Raza cites in denouncing the border security group.

After La Raza decided to abandon Kansas City as convention host, Monica Lozano, who chairs NCLR’s board of directors, implied the decision struck a blow against racism. “Our decision is a clear expression of support for Kansas City’s Hispanic community,” said Lozano. “An active member of the Minutemen should not be an official representative for a city that purports to believe in diversity.”

Janet Murguia, the 46-year-old president and CEO of La Raza, denies that her group opposes free expression. But she has said La Raza is ready to send a “warning to those elected officials who believe immigrant bashing is a strategy without consequence.”

Those threats don’t faze Al Garza, executive director of the Minutemen. A Mexican-American, Garza contends that Murguia uses misleading rhetoric laced with racial overtones to advance an agenda of lawlessness. “La Raza is holding city politicians hostage to their bulk of money,” he said. “But their finances come from U.S. taxpayers and those funds should not be used in a way that is damaging to U.S. interests. La Raza should go and hold their convention in Mexico, that’s where they belong.”

Garza’s heated comments reflect the views of many Americans. “I have never seen such a disconnect between American people and the elite in our country as on the issue of illegal immigration,” says Representative Peter King (R-New York). “If we are going to restore the confidence of the American people we have to show we can secure borders. People ask me – if you can’t secure the border, how can you win the war on terror? If we are going to control our destiny as a nation, we must control our borders.”

La Raza’s Origins and Outlook

The Southwest Council of La Raza (SWCLR) was founded in Phoenix, Arizona, in 1968 with funding from the Council of Churches, United Auto Workers, and the Ford Foundation, according to “The National Council of La Raza: The First 25 Years,” by Emily Gantz McKay. (The NCLR monograph, published in 1993, is available at <http://www.nclr.org/content/publications/download/42951>.)

In the late 1960s and 1970s, Ford, currently the third-wealthiest U.S. foundation in terms of assets (\$12.2 billion as of September 2006), was intent on launching public interest law firms and civil rights activist nonprofits for race, gender and other special interest groups. Initially, SWCLR had a tiny staff and was meant to be a multi-purpose organization: It would provide administrative assistance to local Hispanic affiliates (17 in 1974), coordinate Washington lobbying efforts, and handle research and media outreach on Hispanic concerns.

The first chairman of the board was Maclovio Barraza, a labor organizer from Tucson who served nine years in the post. The legendary union activist Cesar Chavez was elected to the board but was unable to serve because of the demands of running the United Farm Workers of America, which he founded in 1962.

In 1973, the organization changed its name to the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) and relocated its headquarters to the nation’s capital. La Raza’s president from 1974 to 2004 was Raul Yzaguirre, an old-style activist who was always ready to rumble.

But these days La Raza doesn’t want to bring down the corporate elite; it wants to ride their backs. The 501(c)(3) public charity had 2005 revenues of \$33 million and \$114 million in total assets. Its office building on Washington, D.C.’s 16th Street cost \$14.2 million, according to NCLR financial statements.

NCLR’s Corporate Board of Advisors, created in 1982, is made up of 28 senior executives from among the major corporations that comprise its “Honor Roll of Donors.” Former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, at the time president and CEO of G.D. Searle &

Co., was a founding member of the advisory board and “played a particularly important role in recruiting the initial members,” according to McKay.

The honor roll includes PepsiCo, State Farm, GM, Bank of America, Wal-Mart and Coors. NCLR’s 2006 annual report lists 40 grantmakers—corporate, foundation and government—that each contributed at least \$200,000 to it. A 2006 capital campaign secured \$37 million in pledges.

La Raza has relied on federal grants since the 1970s. It had two federally funded projects in 1976, and two years later the number had grown to 15. La Raza received at least two congressional earmarks in 2005: \$4,762,000 for housing programs, and \$496,000 for workforce development programs. The late Representative Charlie Norwood (R-Georgia) put the 2005 total higher, writing last year that the group received \$15.2 million in federal grants in 2005. (The column is available at <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=13863>)

Currently NCLR has 300 affiliated groups and participates in an array of task forces and partnerships with foundations, universities, corporations and federal and state agencies. It supports a network of 115 charter schools, runs a subsidiary community development bank and sponsors health clinics and homeownership programs. NCLR has come of age.

Ira Mehlman, spokesman for the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), a group critical of illegal immigration, has observed: “La Raza is a pretty slick operation and they have enough public relations savvy, most of the time, to avoid saying anything that’s going to be inflammatory. They are clever enough to avoid sounding too radical.”

Yet old suspicions die hard. “La Raza” means “the race” in Spanish, which carries overtones of a political mythology that appealed to Chicano activists in the 1960s and 1970s. John Stone, president of the U.S. Freedom Foundation and former chief of staff to Representative Norwood, claims that La Raza has links to separatist “Reconquista” (i.e. reconquest) groups. The Reconquista movement is a shadowy network of multiculturalist



Former La Raza president Raul Yzaquirre (center) poses with Jose Miguel Insulza (left), Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), and President George W. Bush (right) following Bush’s July 2005 speech promoting free trade.

extremists who agitate for ethnic balkanization and dream about reclaiming Colorado, California, Arizona, Texas, Utah, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington state for indigenous Hispanic peoples. (Activists refer to California as “Califaztlan.”) It looks back to the land of the Aztecs before Europe colonized the New World.

Stone says La Raza supports groups like the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan, otherwise known as the Chicano Student Movement of Aztlan (MEChA). Founded in 1969, MEChA members bought into the Reconquista mythology of detaching the southwestern United States to recreate the land of “Aztlan,” a mythical pre-Columbian civilization with territory on both sides of the current U.S.-Mexico border. MEChA’s motto is “Por La Raza todo. Fuera de La Raza nada,” which translates to “For the Race, Everything. Outside the Race, nothing.”

According to Miguel Perez of Cal State-Northridge’s MEChA chapter: “The ultimate ideology is the liberation of Aztlan.” He added that “Communism would be closest” to the ideology, and vowed that when Aztlan is established “Non-Chicanos would have to be expelled ... opposition groups would be quashed because you have to keep the power.”

Stone says some college chapters of MEChA even made it a requirement for their prospective members to join La Raza.

NCLR admits in a tax return that it gave a \$2,500 grant to the MEChA chapter at Georgetown University in 2003, but nowadays La Raza officials deny any connection to MEChA separatists and disassociate themselves from Reconquista romanticism. Murguia, often described in news reports as “sophisticated” and part of a “new generation,” even goes so far as to deny that La Raza means “the race.” She says it means “community” or “the people.” The group’s website also seems to favor references to “NCLR” over “La Raza.”

NCLR also distanced itself from a much-hyped May 1, 2006, nationwide boycott of U.S. businesses known as “A Day Without Immigrants.” Leaders of the pro-illegal immigrant protest, also known as “The Great American Boycott,” called for supporters to refrain that day from buying anything “gringo” (Spanish slang for “foreigner”).

La Raza’s website “acknowledges” allegations of extremism: “NCLR freely acknowledges that some of the organization’s [MEChA’s] founding documents, e.g. Plan Espiritual de Aztlan, contain inappropriate rhetoric, and NCLR also acknowledges that

rhetoric from some MEChA members have been extremist and inflammatory.”

Its Policy Agenda

While visions of “la raza” and “Aztlán” may arouse some activists, it is La Raza’s policy proposals that have generated real controversy. Here are just a few:

- * La Raza opposes efforts to allow state and local police to enforce U.S. immigration law and it goes to court to block local initiatives.
- * It favors amnesty for illegal aliens.
- * It endorses allowing illegal aliens to apply for drivers licenses
- * It wants to require states to offer in-state tuition rates to illegal aliens, giving them benefits not enjoyed by out-of-state U.S. citizens.
- * It opposes legislation to declare English the official language of the U.S.

Representative Ted Poe (R-Texas), a proponent of “enforcement first” legislation regarding immigration control, says, “They [La Raza] are against anything that will stifle the flow of illegal aliens into the United States. You really have to weed through what they say to see what it means. Their interests are not America’s interests. They instead lobby on behalf of foreign nationals. So to me they have a credibility problem.”

Don’t Let Police Enforce Immigration Law

Representative Marsha Blackburn (R-Tennessee) has introduced HR 3494, which, in her words, “targets violent criminal aliens and gives local law enforcement the tools they need to get them off the street.” The measure would have the federal government reimburse state and local governments for costs they incur enforcing immigration law, and it would require the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to take aliens detained by the police into federal custody within 48 hours. So-called “sanctuary cities” that promise to harbor illegal aliens would lose federal funding. “Illegals know they are safe from deportation in sanctuary cities, so there is no deterrent to crossing the border and breaking the law,” Blackburn has said. “If these cities won’t enforce the law, it’s going to cost them.”

La Raza is mobilizing to stop the measure. On its website it offers immigration activists

a “toolkit” containing talking points explaining why state and local police officers should not have more latitude to enforce immigration law. And when state and local officials float local initiatives to enforce federal immigration law, La Raza calls in the ACLU and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), legal groups with



Arizona Secretary of State Jan Brewer successfully fought La Raza’s efforts to nullify a popular voter ID law.

which it works closely, to scuttle the proposals.

Use the Courts to Block Local Laws

Recently, La Raza and its allies enjoyed a series of legal victories when courts nullified local ordinances that attempted to impose sanctions on employers who hire illegals and landlords who rent to them.

In July, U.S. District Judge James M. Munley, a Clinton appointee, struck down as unconstitutional Hazleton, Pennsylvania’s Illegal Immigration Relief Act. The city law would have fined landlords \$1,000 per day for renting to illegal aliens and revoked for five years the business license of employers hiring them. The Hazleton law received wide public attention and it has inspired similar legislation across the country. But in his ruling Judge Munley argued that the U.S. Constitution gives far-ranging rights to illegal aliens, a position championed by La Raza and the ACLU. In Riverside, New Jersey, township officials recently rescinded their immigration ordinance after they concluded

that they could not absorb the legal costs associated with defending it.

La Raza did suffer a rare setback in Arizona when voters approved Proposition 200 in the 2004 elections. The measure requires state residents to provide proof of U.S. citizenship in order to register to vote as well as proof of citizenship or legal immigration status to apply for public benefits. Murguia attacked the proposition as “anti-immigrant” and said the measure would cost “more than \$50 million” (a pittance in a state whose fiscal 2008 budget is \$27 billion). Proposition 200 passed with 56% of the popular vote. Exit polls suggest nearly half of the state’s Hispanics supported the measure.

The spirits of Proposition 200 opponents were lifted briefly a month before the November 2006 election when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Court in San Francisco temporarily suspended the voter ID requirements. But following an emergency appeal by Arizona Secretary of State Jan Brewer, the U.S. Supreme Court slapped down the circuit court and lifted the stay on October 20, 2006, 18 days before the election. (The case was *Purcell v. Gonzalez*, 549 U.S. 1. It is available at <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/06pdf/06A375.pdf>.)

Support “Comprehensive Immigration Reform”

La Raza has cultivated alliances with both parties to win support for what is now called “comprehensive immigration reform,” a package of measures that backers say will provide a “pathway to citizenship” for millions of “undocumented immigrants” in the U.S. Opponents say the assorted proposals are a euphemism for amnesty for lawbreakers and that lawmakers should first get control of our borders to prevent further illegal entries into the U.S.

Last year La Raza opposed a border control bill that passed the House of Representatives, calling it “punitive” in its emphasis on U.S.-Mexican border security. It pushed instead for a Senate bill that offered illegal aliens eventual citizenship and organized a coalition that included the UNITE-HERE and SEIU unions, the radical group ACORN, the NAACP and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to mount a media campaign for pas-

sage. La Raza expressed “deep concerns” about an array of carrot-and-stick mechanisms added to the much-amended Senate bill (e.g. a point system, a guest worker program, required waiting periods and payment of fines) but expressed the hope that most of these hurdles would be struck out when the bill went to a House/Senate conference committee.

However, the legislation, which had the support of the Bush administration, failed to assemble a coalition of bipartisan support, and on a procedural issue the bill failed by a vote of 46 to 53. NCLR blamed 36 Republicans, 15 Democrats and Independent Bernie Sanders, saying they had “turned their back on America” and “passed the buck” on immigration reform now. (See the Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform’s ad at <http://www.cirnnow.org/file/802.pdf>.)

Give Illegal Aliens Drivers Licenses

Hillary Clinton got into trouble in a recent presidential debate when she waffled after being asked about New York Governor Eliot Spitzer’s plan to give drivers licenses to illegal aliens. In fact, eight states already do just that (Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington).

NCLR argues that licensing illegal aliens as drivers will improve public safety and lower insurance costs. It has no fear that illegal aliens will abuse a driver’s license by using it to obtain the privileges of legal residence—such as opening a bank account or getting on an airplane.

Give Children of Illegal Aliens In-State Education Benefits

La Raza champions S.774, a bill that would let states offer in-state tuition to alien minors (i.e. children of illegal aliens) by repealing the provision of a 1996 federal law that says if states do that, then they must give lower in-state tuition to out-of-state students as well. It tried to sell the “DREAM Act” (which stands for the “Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) as a states rights measure that would protect aliens from deportation and put them on the “path to citizenship.” Opponents say the bill is another effort to accommodate illegal aliens. Last October they successfully thwarted an effort to bring the measure to a Senate vote.

The House sponsors are California Democrats Howard Berman and Lucille Royball-Allard and Florida Republican Lincoln Diaz-Balart. Senate sponsors are Illinois Democrat Dick Durbin and Republicans Chuck Hagel (Nebraska) and Richard Lugar (Indiana).

Oppose English as America’s Official Language

In 2006 a Zogby poll commissioned by the group ProEnglish found that 84% of Americans support making English the official language of the United States, and 71% of Hispanics agreed. A 2007 Zogby poll found that 92% of all Americans agree that preserving English as a common language is important for preserving national unity.



Extremist Marcos Aguilar is principal of a Reconquista charter school in Los Angeles that is funded by La Raza.

These are not NCLR’s views. It testified against bills introduced in the House by Steve King (R-Iowa) and in the Senate by James Inhofe (R-Oklahoma) declaring English the national language. It also supported a provision in the Voting Rights Act requiring bilingual ballots in districts with large numbers of non-English speaking citizens.

Do Americans Care?

Col. Al Rodriguez is chairman of the group “You Don’t Speak For Me,” which represents Hispanic Americans opposed to illegal immigration. He believes the public is worried about criminal activity and rising costs along America’s open borders. La Raza is a potent force, but it’s overplaying its hand, observes Rodriguez.

You Don’t Speak for Me (YDSFM) was organized in May 2006 in response to the protest marches that groups supporting citi-

zenship for illegal aliens staged across America. By contrast, the new advocacy group puts a premium on U.S. sovereignty, opposes amnesty for illegals, and favors the cultural cohesion of the American melting pot.

“We seek to counter a lot of the myths La Raza has been able to put out there in the media because it has such a large war chest of funds,” Rodriguez said. “They’ve very skillfully manipulated the media into believing all Hispanics have this monolithic view on immigration in the U.S. But most Hispanics do not agree with La Raza’s agenda.”

YDSM vice chair Mariann Davies points out that many Hispanics support state and local laws cutting off benefits to illegal aliens. The sizeable Hispanic support for Proposition 200 in Arizona and for California’s Proposition 187 in 1994 shows that La Raza is out of step. “Their very reason for being has everything to do with separating Hispanics from American society,” Davies said. “But we don’t agree with this whole concept of separation.”

When Representative Louie Gohmert (R-Texas), who attended field hearings in his district on the Senate-proposed immigration bill, says he was struck by what he heard. “The great irony in all this discussion is that people come here from countries like Mexico because those countries have a great deal of corruption,” Gohmert said. “They do not do as good a job as the United States in enforcing the law. This country has done a better job enforcing laws across the board than any nation in history... They are not a nation of laws as we have been,” he added.

“Now we have this big influx who have been driven from their own countries because of poverty and corruption,” Gohmert continued. “They come here and begin demanding that we ignore enforcement of our own laws, which ironically would make us more like the countries they fled.”

La Raza’s Financial Network

Since it was founded in 1968, La Raza has cultivated financial support from corporations and left-leaning foundations. What’s amazing is that despite its self-proclaimed role as a political advocacy group the group also receives taxpayer dollars.

In its 2006 annual report, La Raza indicated it took in “federal revenues” of \$4.2 million in 2004 (20% of total revenues), \$4 million in 2005 (16% of total revenues), and \$3.8 million in 2006 (14% of total revenues). (The report is available at <http://www.nclr.org/content/publications/download/46871>.)

La Raza’s current biggest donor is the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which has given it \$20,822,840 since 2000, according to philanthropy database FoundationSearch. All but \$130,000 has gone to support La Raza’s charter school network. La Raza also continues to be funded by the Ford Foundation (\$10,615,000 since 1999), and it receives major grants from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation (\$3,070,000 since 1999), the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (\$2,475,000 since 1999), Annie E. Casey Foundation (\$1,635,358 since 2002), W. K. Kellogg Foundation (\$1,072,000 since 2002), George Soros’s Open Society Institute (\$1,060,000 since 1999), Carnegie Corporation of New York (\$925,081 since 2002), and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation (\$455,137 since 2003).

Corporate foundations generously fund La Raza as well. Grantmakers include the PepsiCo Foundation (\$3,665,790 since 2001), Bank of America Charitable Foundation (\$2,200,000 since 2004) and Bank of America Foundation (\$600,000 in 2004), Metlife Foundation (\$1,385,000 since 1999), UPS Foundation

(\$1,232,296 since 2000), Verizon Foundation (\$1,075,000 since 2001), AT&T Foundation (\$630,000 since 1998), Wal-Mart Foundation (\$538,749 since 2002), General Motors Foundation (\$530,000 since 2004), and Ford Motor Company Fund (\$492,934 since 2000).

Funding Separatism, Struggle And Aztec Math

What do these financial titans get for their money? According to John Stone, the U.S. Freedom Foundation president, these groups fund political causes, institutions and advocacy groups hostile to the United States and the concept of national unity. Stone says La Raza’s strategies resemble those of Islamists: Both create, finance and perpetuate schools that help spread a “Reconquista” ideology among young people.

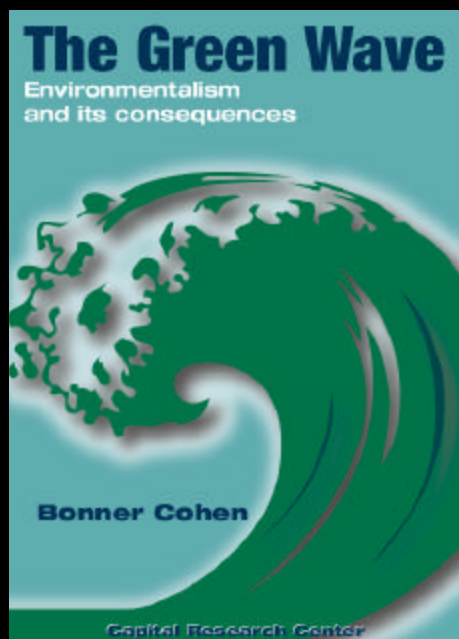
La Raza funds its charter schools and other ventures through the National Council of La Raza Hope Fund. In 1999 the Bank of America pledged \$20 million over 10 years to the fund. This commitment includes a \$7 million low interest loan, a \$3 million equity investment and \$10 million in grants for development, research, and counseling. The Hope Fund is administered by Raza Development Fund (RDF), the community development lending arm of La Raza created in 1998. RDF also runs the Latino Social Venture Fund (housing development, charter schools, health care), the RAZA School Building Fund (charter school facilities), and the Site Acquisition Fund (community development).

One of these charter schools is Academia Semillas del Pueblo Xinaxcalmecac in Los Angeles. The school’s website (<http://www.dignidad.org>) states that the Academia is “dedicated to providing urban children of immigrant families an excellent education founded upon native and maternal languages, cultural values, and global realities.” It also states that the school’s name means “the house of higher learning for the seeds of our people.” The language is not Spanish but Nahuatl, the native language of the Nahuas, an indigenous people in Central Mexico.

Academia’s founder and principal, Marcos Aguilar, told an online journal that he believes “We have to get away from the welfare mentality and the welfare society and more and more develop self-reliance and resolve our problems by organizing our own resources.”

Sounds good, right? But Aguilar also denounces American society: “Ultimately the White way, the American way, the neo liberal, capitalist way of life will eventually lead to our own destruction. And so it isn’t about an argument of joining neo liberalism, it’s about us being able, as human beings, to surpass the barrier.”

Aguilar believes his school can be “a resistance, a starting point, like a fire in a continuous struggle for our cultural life, for our community.” Separating the Hispanic race from the rest of America is key to this struggle.



MUST READING from Capital Research Center...

Today’s environmental activists are well-established Washington insiders determined to impose their ideals on the rest of us. In this groundbreaking new book, Bonner R. Cohen, a longtime observer of green do-gooders, traces the rise of environmentalism in America, a movement so thoroughly ingrained in DC culture that the installation of one of its own as Treasury Secretary was barely noticed. Cohen describes how activists created an ideology that now dominates public debate, along with a movement of nonprofit groups that is well-organized and well-funded.

\$14.95 (plus shipping)

To order, call 202-483-6900

or visit http://www.myezshop.com/capital_research/

or mail your check and book order to:

Capital Research Center, 1513 16th Street, NW Washington, DC 20036

“We hope that it can organize present struggle and that as we organize ourselves and our educational and cultural autonomy, we have the time to establish a foundation with which to continue working and impact the larger system.” Aguilar has mastered the politically correct, multiculturalist lingo of today’s education establishment.

What’s most unique about Academia is that students are taught Nahuatl, which is spoken by fewer than 2 million people in Mexico, and they learn the Aztec’s vigesimal or base-20 numeral system, which Aguilar says will help students “understand the relationship between the founders and their bodies, what the effects of astronomical forces and natural forces on the human body and the human psyche, our way of thinking and our way of expressing ourselves.” (The interview is available at <http://www.tcla.gseis.ucla.edu/equalterms/dialogue/2/aguilar.html>.)

Teaching students a second language may make them well-rounded, but when the rest of the world uses a base-10 (decimal) numeral system, how will Academia’s graduates function using Aztec math? Local KABC radio host Doug McIntyre says this approach borders on “educational malpractice.”

“What high schools are they preparing kids to go to?” McIntyre asks. “The whole multi-culture-diversity argument is blowing up in our faces... What’s lost is, we have a culture, too. But when you defend American culture – which I believe is the most diverse in the world – you are branded a xenophobe.”

Conclusion

La Raza’s agenda sends the wrong message. Despite the many failures of federal immigration policy and the government’s inability to control our nation’s borders, one thing is clear: Americans reject the identity politics and multiculturalism that La Raza champions. While Establishment America continues to invest heavily in ethnic “diversity,” rank-and-file citizens – including most Hispanics— place a greater premium on an American identity that transcends race and bolsters cultural cohesion.

Kevin Mooney is a journalist based in the Washington, D.C. area.

FW

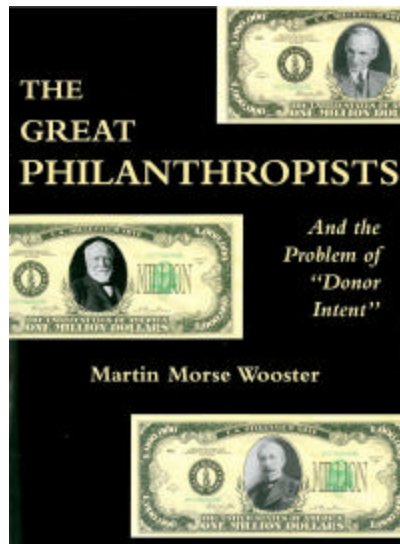
**An Important Reminder for CRC Supporters
70½ Years of Age or Older**

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 permits taxpayers to directly contribute funds from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Specifically, this law lets you transfer funds from your IRA to a qualified charity without paying tax. Under the previous law you had to report as taxable income any amount taken from your IRA. Any tax deduction you took for charitable contributions was limited to 50% of your adjusted gross income. By contrast, the law now allows IRA gifts without these tax complications. You may take advantage of this law if:

- *You have attained the age of 70½ on the date of transfer.
- *You own a traditional IRA or Roth IRA.
- *You transfer no more than \$100,000.
- *Your transfer is an outright gift.
- *Your transfer is made directly from the plan administrator to the charity.

The law does not apply to gifts from 401(k), 403(b), defined benefit, profit-sharing, Keogh, and employer-sponsored SEP accounts.

This option is only available for gifts made on or before December 31, 2007. Capital Research Center does not offer legal or tax-planning advice. Contact your investment professional for additional information.



**GOOD DEEDS,
SQUANDERED
LEGACIES**

A cautionary tale first published in 1994, this third edition by Martin Morse Wooster testifies to the continuing importance of the issue of donor intent. It contains new material focused on the ongoing *Robertson Foundation v. Princeton University* case and an update on the tragic battle over the Barnes Foundation. An Executive Summary is also included.

Wooster, senior fellow at Capital Research Center, tells a cautionary tale of what has gone wrong with many of this country’s preeminent foundations. But he also shows that other foundations, such as those established by Lynde and Harry Bradley, James Duke, and Conrad Hilton, safeguard their founders’ values and honor their intentions.

\$14.95 (plus shipping)
To order, call 202-483-6900
or visit

http://www.myezshop.com/capital_research/
or mail your check and book order to:
Capital Research Center
1513 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

PhilanthropyNotes

Billionaire do-gooder **Warren Buffett** carried his crusade against inherited wealth to Capitol Hill last month, urging senators to keep the hated death tax alive. “Dynastic wealth, the enemy of a meritocracy, is on the rise,” he said. Buffett, the second-wealthiest man in the world, said tax rates should be raised and that newspaper owners “want you to believe” that estate taxes prevent owners from passing the business to the next generation, reports The Hill newspaper. Buffett’s philanthropy was examined in the October 2006 *Foundation Watch*.

With the publication of its recent ad in the Washington Post, **the Pew Charitable Trusts** move deeper into the world of political advocacy. The ad by **The Pew Campaign for Fuel Efficiency** features the word “Enough!” above a barrel of oil marked “\$98.62,” a reference to the New York oil futures price on November 7, an all-time high. It continues: “Oil nearing \$100 a barrel. Gas above \$3.00 a gallon. No increase in gas mileage standards in 32 years. Where’s Congress?” **Capital Research Center** has previously described Pew’s surreptitious but successful effort to manipulate Congress into passing the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law (see *Foundation Watch*, June 2005) and CRC senior fellow **Martin Morse Wooster** has exhaustively documented Pew’s betrayal of donor intent in his book, *The Great Philanthropists and the Problem of “Donor Intent”*.

Compensation for presidents at the nation’s top colleges and universities is “escalating rapidly,” the Chronicle of Higher Education reports. Although only two schools paid their presidents at least \$700,000 in 2005, eight did so the following year.

Wealthy people are increasingly giving to politically active 501(c)(4) lobby organizations because federal regulators are clamping down on the 527 political organizations that became popular in the 2004 elections. Contributions to 501(c)(4) groups are not tax-deductible, unlike gifts to 501(c)(3) charities. But unlike 527s, 501(c)(4) groups are not required to disclose the names of their donors. The Washington Post (November 12) reports that **George Soros**, Hollywood producer **Stephen Bing**, and other mega-wealthy donors who comprise the Democracy Alliance met in Washington in late October with former Clinton chief of staff **John Podesta**, who now heads the **Center for American Progress (CAP)**, and **Anna Burger**, a senior official at the **Service Employees International Union (SEIU)** to discuss new funding strategies. First step: CAP, SEIU and other liberal groups have filed papers to create a new 501(c)(4) group.

Three former leaders of a defunct Islamic charity called **Massachusetts Care International** (not affiliated with CARE International) who are alleged to have deceived the government in order to secure tax-exempt status and then used the group to fund Muslim militants abroad went on trial in federal court in Boston last month. The prosecution alleges that **Samir Al-Monla**, **Muhamed Mubayyid**, and **Emadeddin Muntasser**, helped run an office of **Al-Kifah Refugee Center**, which aided Muslims participating in armed conflict abroad, the Boston Globe reports. Members of the New York branch of Al-Kifah were linked to the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center.

The **National Council of La Raza**, profiled in this issue of *Foundation Watch*, has joined a coalition to launch an “unprecedented campaign to increase the Latino vote” in the 2008 presidential election. The coalition, which includes the **Mi Familia Vota Educational Fund**, the **National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund**, and **Univision Communications Inc.**, will use “aggressive non-partisan field efforts to ensure that Latinos are an important vote in the new Southwestern battleground states.”

Ellwood “Bunky” Bartlett, a Wiccan high priest who recently won \$33 million in Mega Millions lottery, said he plans to open a Wiccan spirituality center somewhere in Baltimore County, Maryland. “I chose to educate. I believe that’s what the gods wanted,” says Bartlett, who adds he might also found a Wiccan university.

