



1st Quarter 2011
"VISTA L.A." MAGAZINE SHOW

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SUMMARY:

THE DEBATE ON IMMIGRATION

With the passing of Arizona's controversial SB 1070 law, the debate on immigration reform has picked up steam once again. The City of Los Angeles, where nearly half of residents are foreign-born, continues to be a hotbed for immigration issues, legal and undocumented. Vista L.A. spoke with residents, scholars and government officials about immigration reform and what it means to Angelenos.

THE DREAM ACT

The DREAM Act was proposed federal legislation intended to help an estimated 65,000 undocumented students by facilitating a pathway to citizenship. These students were brought to the United States illegally by their parents as babies or as small children. And, now as college-bound young adults, they find themselves fighting for both U.S. citizenship and a higher education. We spoke with 19-year-old Jennifer Lopez about her personal struggle with this reality and what she's doing to try to finance her studies at UCLA. Although the bill was recently voted down in the Senate, the dream still lives on for these students.

FLIGHT OF THE PEDRO PANS

From December 1960 to October 1962, more than 14,000 Cuban children ages two to 17 years old arrived alone in the United States. The fortunate kids were placed with extended family members, the rest were placed in orphanages, camps, foster homes. They became known as "Pedro Pan" children. This mass migration was a result of rumors in Cuba that Fidel Castro was going to take all parental authority away from Cuban parents and that some children would be sent to the Soviet Union. Decades later, Vista L.A. spoke with the Pedro Pan children who are bound together by the "Operation Pedro Pan Group" and the experience of a journey that changed them and their families.

SABER ES PODER

"Saber es Poder," which is Spanish for "Knowledge is Power," is an L.A. based organization that reaches out to Spanish-speaking Americans. By providing educational information on topics such as finance, health care and technology, plus holding seminars and workshops, their impact has had a positive effect on the Latino community.

THE NATIONAL CHAVEZ CENTER OPENS

Nobody has done more for the rights of immigrant farm workers than the co-founder of the United Farm Workers, the late Cesar Chavez. Vista L.A. attended the recent grand opening of the National Chavez Center that honors his legacy.

HOSTS:

Jovana Lara, ABC7 Anchor/Reporter; Danny Romero, ABC7 Weathercaster

GUESTS:

City of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, Actor/Activist Ed Begley Jr., Musician Pete Escobedo, U.S. Congressman Xavier Becerra, California Lieutenant Governor Abel Maldonado, UCLA Professor Abel Valenzuela, Asian Pacific American Legal Center Attorney, Connie Choi, UCLA Student Jennifer Lopez, Pedro Pan Immigrants Julio Vera, Lourdes Birba, Ely Chovel, Judge Francisco Firmat and Candi Sosa, "Saber Es Poder" Executive Chairman Raul Lomeli-Azoubel, "Saber Es Poder" President Amir Hemmat, U.S. Treasurer Rosie Rios, Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros, United Farm Workers of America President Arturo Rodriguez, Photographer George Rodriguez and Cesar Chavez Foundation President Paul Chavez.