

Media Report

by Sirena J. Scales



DISINVITED OR A 'TYPO'? The National Association for Bilingual Education raised eyebrows and ire the week of Jan. 22 when syndicated columnist and self-professed bilingual education foe Rubén Navarrette, Jr. made an appearance on its Web site as a keynote speaker for its conference, scheduled for Feb. 7-10 in San José, Calif.

Navarrette is an editorial board member and columnist with the **San Diego Union-Tribune**. After initially being listed as a key-

note speaker, his name was removed from the Web site.

However, through a Google search on the Internet, a cached link to NABE's Web site reveals a seven-page PDF under the heading "keynote for website" featuring Navarrette alongside scheduled fellow speakers including civil rights activist Dolores Huerta and Congressman Mike Honda (D-Calif.).

Huerta and Honda remain under the heading "Partial listing of confirmed speakers."

In an email written by NABE President Pedro Ruíz and posted on former NABE executive director James Crawford's Language Policy Web site, Ruíz stated, "Rubén Navarrette is not a keynote speaker, nor was he ever considered for an award."

Crawford, an author and nationally recognized expert who left NABE after a feud with some board members, stated that Navarrette was clearly "disinvited."

Denying that, former executive board member Jorge García responded by referring to program inclusion of Navarrette as a "typo." That typo included a one-page biography.

Navarrette served as anti-bilingual education activist Ron Unz's media consultant and has regularly called for the dismantling of bilingual education programs. He termed them "linguistic prisons."

Several phone calls and emails to Navarrette, Ruíz and board member Mary Jew by Weekly Report all went unreturned.

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