

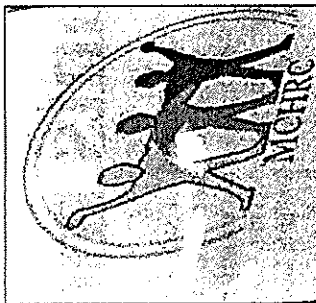
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Asbury Park Press

**New look**

County human relations commission gets a new logo. **B4**

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**N O R T H E R N  
 MONMOUTH**



MICHAEL GOLDFINGER/Staff Photographer

● Maurice Castro explains the meaning of his logo design.

# Logo is bridge to goal of teaching tolerance

By **KRISTIN H. GEISLER**  
 CORRESPONDENT

**FREEHOLD** — Madison County in Wisconsin is not the only place boasting unique bridges. The Monmouth County Human Relations Commission presented its new logo yesterday, depicting a bridge of unity.

The winner of a countywide contest to develop the logo is Maurice Castro, a designer at Merck & Co. Inc. in Rahway.

The design, with the group acronym MCHRC, shows three human figures, each a different color. It shows them forming a human bridge by linking their arms together.

A broken circle surrounds the figures as an invitation to others to join the group's efforts, Castro explained.

The new logo will adorn such things as commission handouts, pamphlets, stationery and proposals, a symbol of the group's mission that also will help provide an easy way to recognize its work.

"I wanted to symbolize unity among cultures and the commission's effort to build bridges of hope and respect," he said.

A native of El Salvador, Castro came to the United States in 1975. He has a bachelor's degree in fine

arts from the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan.

The Human Relations Commission was created in 1990 by the county Board of Freeholders. Its focus is to foster acceptance and tolerance among the various ethnic and cultural groups and disabled residents in Monmouth County. The commission is an outgrowth of the "Many Faces — One Family" initiative launched by Gov. Whitman in 1994.

"Our role is to put together programs that don't just react to bias incidents, but create programs that will prevent future discrimination," said Ray Rodriguez, chairman of the board.

To recognize Disability Awareness Month, the meeting ended with a puppet show, "The Kids on the Block," which offer program in more than 30 topics.

The nearly life-size puppets are a very special group. The characters sing. They dance. Most important, they talk about real-life concerns. Some have mental, physical or emotional disabilities. Others are abused, drug-addicted or pregnant. All teach children to accept and appreciate each other.

The commission will next meet on Dec. 15 at the Human Services building on Kozloski Road in Freehold Township.