

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

HEARD & SCENE

A26 Monday, June 7, 2010

Gala Bolsters College Dreams

By MARSHALL HEYMAN



The other night, the "I Have a Dream" foundation held its spring gala.

The evening honored Cesar Conde, the president of Univision. The actress Sofia Vergara showed up in a simple black Michael Kors dress. Ms. Vergara began her career in the U.S. on Univision and now is a big—OK, medium—star thanks to the sitcom "Modern Family." Ms. Vergara said she isn't one to dream.

"It's better to not plan and just be surprised," she said.

The evening raised just under \$700,000 for the organization, which was founded in 1981 by Eugene Lang to help children pursue higher education. Mr. Lang was there with his son, Stephen, who recently played a bad guy in "Avatar."

According to a publicist for the event, \$100,000 of the evening's earnings came from Haim Saban, the media titan who brought "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers," among many other entertainments, to the western world.

As he was sitting down for dinner with his wife, Cheryl, Mr. Saban explained how he got involved.

"Whenever we are approached to support a cause that supports children, we look at it very seriously," Mr. Saban explained. "This time we looked at it double seriously

because the president of Univision, of which I'm the chairman, is being honored. So all the stars aligned for us to be co-chairs of this event. Or chairs, or whatever our title is."

Mr. Saban thumbed through the evening's program, then turned to Ms. Saban. "What's our chair?" he asked. "What's our title?"

"I don't know, my darling," Ms. Saban said.

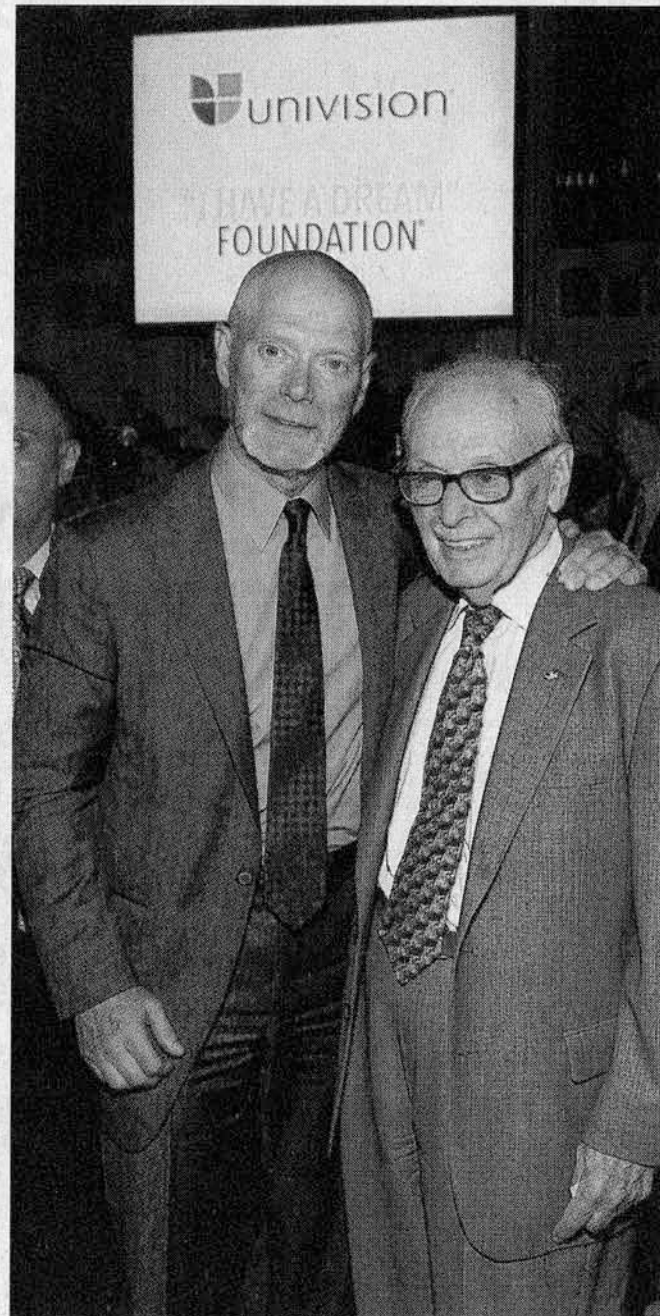
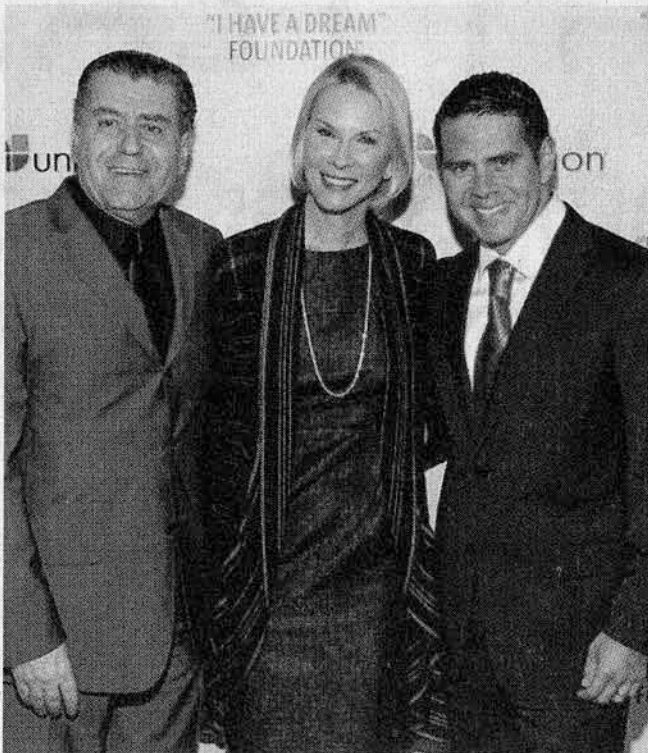
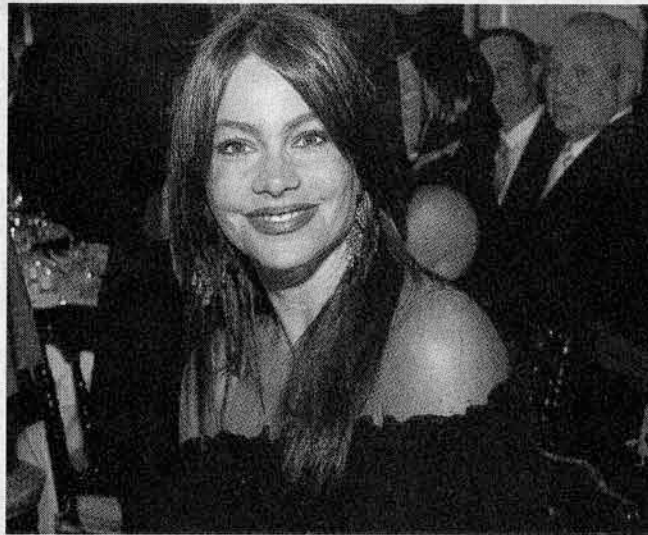
"There's a picture of you and me here. But I don't know what our title is. Well, whatever our title is, that's secondary. We're happy to support this cause."

The subject turned to the Power Rangers. Mr. Saban said new episodes will air on Nickelodeon in the first quarter of 2011.

"They're going to be different," he explained. "They won't be so different from their first seven years, but they will be different from their last eight years. The answer is yes, I believe they're still going, not because I'm so smart and I know what works, but because it's been working for 40 years in Japan. It's stronger some years, it's weaker others, but over the years it's a hit. I'm going to be watching it. I love it. It's campy, it's fun, it's colorful."

A reporter asked Mr. Saban if he was working on anything else interesting.

"My salad," Mr. Saban replied. "I'm going to start working right now on my salad. How about that?"



Getty Images (3)

Top left: actress Sofia Vergara at the spring gala for the 'I Have a Dream' Foundation. Above left: philanthropist Haim Saban, Cheryl Saban and Univision president Cesar Conde, who was honored. Right: actor Stephen Lang with 'I Have a Dream' Foundation founder Eugene Lang.