



# THE

Power, influence and hair color also factor in the equation. And it

# HOT

along with staff writers Debbie Weight, Meenoo Mozayeny and David C. Savage, interviewed

# 25

Compiled by the OCM editorial staff

What defines hot? Some say it is money, lots of it. • Others measure it by the size of one's office or the high rise where they work, or even the vehicle they drive (Jeeps are major status these days).

doesn't hurt to appear regularly on the society page. • Orange County is loaded with greats and near greats. Names like Bren, Karcher and Segerstrom top everybody's list. • But what about the next generation of movers and deal makers? Metropolitan editors Jacob Schreiber and Tom Vasich went looking for them, finding many just beyond the spotlight. • Some of the 25 people who follow are better known than others. But each is an impact player in their chosen field. And in our book, that's what counts. • Schreiber and Vasich,

dozens of people to compile Metropolitan's second annual "Hottest 25 People in Orange County." Here's who they found . . .

**Ron Cedillos**  
Political advocate, businessman

■ The only thing as quick as Ron Cedillos' rise to the upper echelons of political powerbrokers is his spinning back-fist.

A former karate champion and film side-kick to movie star Chuck Norris, Cedillos, a 41-year-old Huntington Beach resident, purchased Cedillos Testing Co. in 1979 and built it into a highly prosperous aerospace subcontracting firm. Now, his name is



being floated in Washington as a likely candidate for a Cabinet post, replacing Commerce Secretary Robert A. Mosbacher, who is expected to resign shortly to run President Bush's reelection campaign.

And it all started with a phone call.

Never having followed, much less participated in politics, Cedillos phoned Gov. Pete Wilson's Senate campaign headquarters in 1988 and offered to fundraise for him. Wilson's campaign staff had little expectations for what this political unknown could produce, but accepted his help.

And Cedillos delivered. In a big way.

"One thing about Ron is that when he gets involved, he delivers," says Greg Haskin, executive director of the Orange County Republican Party. "Many people in politics talk 1,000 percent and deliver only 40 percent. But Cedillos delivers all of what he says he will."

Though exact figures are not available, insiders put Cedillos fundraising totals somewhere in the "hundreds of thousands." His rewards have been in terms of increased political clout. Cedillos enjoys close relationships with Gov. Wilson and Vice President Dan Quayle, and the respect of OC Republicans.

Appointed to the California State University Board of Trustees by Gov. Wilson last August, Cedillos says he now spends 90 percent of his time as an advocate for philanthropic causes and public policy issues.

"My primary interest is to help enact legislation that will improve the business climate in California," he says. To that end, he serves as a consultant for writing such legislation and works behind the scenes and within the aerospace industry to garner support for the programs and politicians he favors.

**Julie Newcomb**  
Homebuilder