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Workers' Jobs Are Seeing Few Signs of Recovery

The recession officially ended more than two years ago, but don't tell that to the 6.2 million Americans who have been out of work for half a year or more.

For the long-term unemployed, the downturn feels more like a depression -- a word that is starting to pop up in economists' blogs and business news.

"The last time we had a depression in this country, the unemployment rate hit 10 percent by early 1931 and kept on going up. By March of 1933, it was 25 percent," said Gary Burleson, a labor economist with the Brookings Institution in Washington.

"We're not remotely close to what would have been called a depression in the 19th or early 20th to 1945."

But we are in a severe recession with a recovery that "seems to be spattering," Burleson said.

Other economists say unemployment is pushing depression levels. "Some people argue that if we measure the way it did during the Great Depression, we'd be over 20 percent" unemployment, said Yves Smith, who writes the Naked Capitalism blog site. She is also the author of "ECONOMY," a book about how economists in key positions contributed to the financial melt-down by putting doctrine ahead of evidence.

The problem is the way the statistics are kept, Smith said.

"Literally, if you worked one hour in the week, you're considered to be employed," Smith said.

If you add discouraged workers, people who become "consultants," and those forced to settle for part-time work, the nation's unemployment rate is closer to 16 percent or 17 percent, Smith said.

On Friday, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported an overall national unemployment rate of 9.1 percent for September, unchanged from August and down from 9.6 percent in September 2010.

Robert Reich, a professor of public policy at the University of California at Berkeley, calls it "the American jobs depression."

Since the start of the recession in 2007, the number of Americans who want to work has increased by 7 million, while the number who have jobs has shrunk by more than 300,000, Reich said in an e-mail.

"In other words, we're in a deep hole and the hole is deepening," Reich wrote.

As of July, there were 4.3 job hunters for every opening, said Heidi Shierholz, a labor economist with the Economic Policy Institute in Washington. That made 134 consecutive weeks -- or more than 1 1/2 years -- that the ratio was higher than 4 to 1.



we'd have to create 400,000 jobs a month, Shierholz said.

Slow job growth The U.S. economy created about 103,000 non-agricultural jobs in September, but the unemployment rate remained steady at 9.1 percent, numbers released Friday by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics show. About 14 million Americans remain without work.

There was job growth in professional and business services, health care, and construction, while employment in the public sector continued to decline. Some of September's gains were due to about 45,000 Verizon workers returning to the job after a strike in August, the report added.

About 45 percent of the jobs

had been out of work for 27 weeks or longer, up from 43 percent in August. The median duration of unemployment rose from 21.8 weeks in August to 22.2 weeks in September.

About 9.3 million Americans are working part time, either because their employers cut back their hours or they could not find a full-time job, the report states. That is up from 8.6 million a year ago.

Growth in population means the economy must create about 125,000 jobs a month just to keep the unemployment rate steady, Burleson said. And the statistics do not count discouraged workers who stopped looking for a job.

"You're not counted as unemployed unless you're actively

seeking a job and haven't found one," Burleson said.

Vicious cycle In January 2001, it took a median of 5.8 weeks for a terminated worker to be rehired, and only 11 percent were unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, the Bureau of Labor Statistics figures show. Those figures have just about quadrupled in the past decade.

"We haven't seen that kind of duration of unemployment since World War II," Burleson said. Economic forecasters had hoped the past trend -- the more severe the recession, the stronger the recovery -- would be the case this time, Burleson said. It was believed consumers and businesses would release their pent-up demand for goods and services, and start spending again.

But for several reasons, that isn't happening, he said. Sales in key industries such as housing and automobiles are nowhere near their pre-recession levels, Burleson said.

Meanwhile, worker productivity is going up, so businesses don't need as many workers to get the job done, he said. The statistics don't show whether that rise is due to employees working harder or because technology made work more efficient.

About 70 percent of the U.S.

economy is based on consumer spending, and people just aren't buying stuff like they used to, Reich wrote. Many Americans own more on their homes than they are worth, and those who are still employed aren't seeing wage cuts.

Burleson said that business has to grow in order to reduce unemployment, and so far, government policy has been to stimulate the public sector. Jobs such as repairing roads and bridges are only temporary.

Businesses are afraid to expand because they're uncertain about when their tax rates will be next year, he said. A project that can be profitable at one tax rate might not be at a higher one.

The small-business owners he knows are reluctant to hire because those with more than 50 employees will have to provide health coverage under Obama's health care plan, Burleson said. They would rather pay overtime to current employees and cut back on hours if needed.

"The worst thing in business is uncertainty," Burleson said. "You can't plan unless you have some idea of what's going to happen."

"They don't see any growth in their business, so why should they hire people?" she said. "You don't hire people because you are a charity."

Reforma de salud entre el amor y el odio Obama pide ayuda a hispanos con ley a hispanos

Los votantes latinos tienen una relación complicada con la Ley de Reforma de Salud que se aprobó en marzo de 2010, ya que por un lado apoyan la mayoría de sus cláusulas y se oponen a su aplicación, pero se resisten, como otros votantes, a la disposición de la ley que les obligará a comprar cobertura, el llamado "mandato".

Así lo reveló la encuesta Impresmedia/Latino Decisions (IM-LD), la quinta en una serie de seis encuestas nacionales que exploran las opiniones de la población latina más integrada a la sociedad estadounidense: los votantes registrados. Esta entrega del sondeo se enfocó en el tema de la cobertura de salud y la ley de reforma sanitaria.

Los resultados revelan que el 50% de los votantes latinos apoyan a la ley que se mantenga la legislación denominada "Ley Federal de Salud Accesible" (Affordable Health Care Act) y sólo un 29% apoya que se revierta, cifra similar a la opinión de la población en general.

Pero un 59% de estos votantes no responden en la disposición conciente de la ley que les obliga a comprar un seguro si no tienen cobertura y se oponen a la misma. Es el mandato de compra de seguro es precisamente la parte más controversial de la ley de sanidad más importante aprobada en Estados Unidos en muchos años y ha sido objeto de varias demandas, así como de al menos dos decisiones de tribunales a nivel de apelación, una sosteniendo su legalidad y otra rechazándola. Se cree que finalmente la Corte Suprema decidirá este asunto en el próximo año.

Por otra parte, los votantes latinos presentan niveles alternados de apoyo por disposiciones individuales de la ley, como por ejemplo un 85% está a favor de que el gobierno ofrezca créditos impositivos a negocios pequeños que ofrezcan cobertura a sus empleados, y 83% respalda que se prohíba a las compañías de seguro rechazar a potenciales asegurados



basándose en su historial médico. Apoyan reforma sanitaria

"Los votantes latinos apoyan la reforma sanitaria y particularmente, apoyan muchas de sus cláusulas excepto el mandato. Cuando exploramos un poco más sobre las razones, vemos una preocupación mayor entre los latinos de más bajos recursos", indicó Matt Barreto, profesor de la Universidad de Seattle en Washington y asesor de Latino Decisions.

El rechazo latino hacia el mandato puede responder en parte a la idea de que quien no cumple con el mandato podría ser multado, explicó Barreto. Entre los latinos menos ingresos inferiores a 40,000 dólares anuales, la oposición es del 65%, la más alta del grupo.

Barreto apunta al perfil político conocido de la mayoría de los votantes latinos, donde la idea de un "gobierno intruso" que interviene en asuntos privados no es una preocupación importante. Este es un punto clave en la oposición de los conservadores y en particular el "Tea Party" republicano, que busca revertir la ley.

"Al contrario, la mayoría de los latinos ve favorablemente la acción gubernamental en temas sociales como este", señala el católicador.

Gabriel Sánchez, profesor de ciencias políticas de la Universidad de Nuevo México, cree que siendo esta la provisión que más

han usado los grupos republicanos para cuestionar la ley en general, este resultado refleja el éxito de esa estrategia.

"El mandato no es popular entre ningún grupo de la sociedad. Obviamente, es all donde se han enfocado quienes cuestionan la reforma" y está resonando con fuerza", dijo Sánchez.

No obstante, esto no quiere decir que el votante latino favorezca revertir la ley, un tema popular entre los conservadores que nunca apoyaron la reforma y uno de los puntos más populares de discusión dentro de la primaria presidencial republicana.

Todos los precandidatos republicanos han prometido que, de llegar a la presidencia, buscarían revertir la Ley Federal de Salud Accesible y han criticado el mandato, el gasto público en la expansión de cobertura y otros aspectos de la ley.

Pero los latinos apoyan la expansión de cobertura que viene con la reforma, ya que apoyan disposiciones individuales cuyo objetivo es ofrecer seguro a quienes no lo tienen. Mis ejemplos de la encuesta: 75% respalda la cobertura del "hueco de donut" para medicamentos en Medicare y 80% está a favor de asistencia financiera a quienes no puedan comprarla.

No obstante, el optimismo sobre los efectos de la ley es moderado y hay porciones de este sondeo que revelan que estos ciudadanos no

esperan mucho de la medida. Seguirá igual

Cuando se les pregunta cuál será el efecto de la ley sobre la calidad de la atención médica que recibirán, un 47% cree que seguirá más o menos igual, sólo 23% piensa que será mejor y otro 23% piensa que empeorará.

Algo similar ocurre en cuanto al costo de la salud, un 38% considera que permanecerá más o menos igual, un 24% considera que mejorará y un 31% que irá a peor.

Más preocupante políticamente para Washington es que estos votantes sienten que sus problemas no están siendo escuchados en el gobierno -- algo que no es único a ellos en este momento. Un 58% de votantes latinos piensa que sus necesidades no se toman en cuenta en la capital o que se toman en cuenta muy poco.

El sondeo revela que un 17% del votante latino no tiene cobertura médica -- una cantidad menor al de los latinos en general, que supera el 30%. Se considera que los votantes tienen mejor posición que los inmigrantes más recientes ya que no sólo están más integrados sino que tienen más acceso a empleos que incluyen cobertura de salud.

En este caso, un 44% afirma que tiene cobertura por su trabajo, 8% que la compra en privado y 21% que la recibe del gobierno. El nivel de cobertura de la población en general es similar al de los votantes latinos, que es el grupo latino más integrado en los Estados Unidos. Por ejemplo, según el sondeo Kaiser de septiembre, un 14% de la población en general no tiene seguro médico, un 46% está cubierto por el trabajo, 10% compra cobertura privada y un 23% está cubierto por el gobierno.

Entre los votantes latinos, un 25% declaró haber perdido su cobertura sanitaria en los últimos dos años y un 56% afirma que el costo de su cobertura ha aumentado, convirtiéndose en una pesada carga para su bolsillo familiar.



El presidente Barack Obama pidió ayer ayuda a la comunidad hispana para que comunique a sus representantes en el congreso cómo el proyecto de ley para la creación de empleo, rechazado la víspera en el Senado, beneficiaría a 25 millones de hispanos.

Durante un discurso pronunciado ante el Foro sobre la Herencia Latina en Estados Unidos, un evento organizado por la Casa Blanca y celebrado en la sede del Departamento del Interior para rendir homenaje a las contribuciones de la comunidad hispana a la sociedad estadounidense, Obama dijo al auditorio que "necesito su ayuda, que sus líderes de opinión envíen emails, tweets y cartas que recuerden al congreso para qué tan trabajo".

La Casa Blanca había presentado su proyecto de ley para la creación de empleos como una iniciativa que podía disminuir los impuestos de nómina a unos 25 millones de trabajadores hispanos y a unos 250,000 empleos pertenecientes a hispanos, y que podría aportar a 344,000 hispanos que ya no están trabajando como carpinteros o en el sector de la construcción debido a la recesión.

Pero la bancada republicana bloqueó la noche del martes el proyecto de ley, que Obama había pronunciado durante las últimas semanas en diferentes ciudades del país.

"Los medios de comunicación dicen que se acabó. Pasemos a otra cosa. Les tengo noticias, ¿no está vez? No con tanta gente desempleados. Seguiremos organizando

nos, presionando y votando hasta que este Congreso haga algo para poner a la gente a trabajar", dijo Obama en una intervención de 14 minutos que no incluyó menciones a la reforma migratoria integral o a la reciente ley aprobada en Alabama contra la inmigración.

El evento contó con la participación de los funcionarios hispanos más importantes en el gobierno, tal como los secretarios de Trabajo, Hilda Solís y el Interior, Ken Salazar, quien mencionó los esfuerzos de su despacho para declarar monumentos nacionales al menos siete lugares vinculados a la historia de los latinos en Estados Unidos.

En diferentes paneles que abordaron las contribuciones económicas, culturales y en las guerras en que ha participado Estados Unidos.

El mandatario ha realizado durante las últimas semanas varios eventos dirigidos específicamente a la comunidad hispana, que enfrenta un desempleo superior a la tasa de 9% de la población.

La inexistencia de una reforma que permita resolver la situación de 11 millones de inmigrantes que residen oficialmente en los Estados Unidos sin autorización y la deportación sin precedentes de 393,000 personas en el 2010 le ha generado críticas de la comunidad hispana a Obama, cuya eventual reelección en el 2012 reorienta el voto latino, del cual obtuvo 67% en 2008.

El gobierno federal anunció el mes pasado que buscará deportar únicamente a personas con antecedentes delictivos.

Comentarios - Opiniones

LA POLÍTICA FINGIDA

por Jose de la Isla - Hispanic Link News Service
Cuando el diario de Phoenix, Arizona Republic, le hiciera la pregunta por cuestionario al presidente del Senado estatal, Russell Pearce, por que por pensaba el que había una campaña por revocar el Corra, su respuesta fue inequívoca.

Explicó que "grupos liberales de intereses especiales" de más allá de su distrito estaban usando "am no reveladas fuentes" de fondos y que habían "organizado y comprado muchos mensajes" para que se hiciera un voto para su revocación el 8 de noviembre.

Pearce, secretario de la república de los SB1070 de Arizona en contra del inmigrante, podría haber estado hablando secretamente de sí mismo y la táctica que emplea, salvo, claro está, el uso de la palabra "liberal".

La SB1070, mínimamente aprobada por su nombre, se presentó después de que él fuera electo al senado estatal y la primera presidente del mismo en 2010. Estaba categorizado como una de las figuras políticas de mayor influencia en el estado.

En su embargo, el 8 de julio, el secretario de Estado, Ken Bennett, confirmó la petición por revocar a Pearce, y se le notificó a la petición a que programara la fecha para el voto para el distrito electoral legislativo de este de Phoenix. La campaña por revocar a Pearce la encabezó el grupo, Citizens for a Better Arizona, y la gobierno obligaba a Pearce a decidir entre el Corra o hacerse candidato en la elección de revocación. Pero sólo para ponerlo en el Corra.

En sus minutos, el grupo a favor de la revocación (www.citizensofphoenix.org) alegó que las propuestas en contra del inmigrante legal que profieren Pearce desde que los involucra con su defensa de las empresas privadas de cárceles. Arizona está especial "en la vida con miles de dólares en materia de contribuciones a su campaña" a cambio de millones de dólares en contratos para privatizar la encarceración.

Ciudadanos for a Better Arizona alega que Pearce, desde el 2002, ha presentado y ha facilitado la aprobación de 13 proyectos de ley a favor de la industria de las cárceles privadas. El grupo sólo quiere el obtener suficientes firmas en su petición por revocar a Pearce y para dar a entender que hay un sentimiento amplio y popular en contra de la representación de Pearce en el distrito. También alega que la SB1070 se redactó con la ayuda de la empresa Corrections Corp. of America. La denominada ley "en contra del inmigrante" podría haber sido, en realidad, una ley a favor de la encarceración.

Se dice que Pearce presentó, sin crédito, tres propuestas de ley que habrían privatizado por entero el sistema estatal de cárceles, y que "mucho" al estado a contratar 14,000 nuevos carceres de ciudad privada. Aunque el presupuesto del año fiscal 2011 era de \$10.5 millones para el sistema estatal de cárceles al recortar \$1,000 millones del presupuesto de la educación y la salud.

Como presidente del Comité de Asignaciones del Senado en el 2010 y como primer del Senado en el 2011, Pearce está dispuesto a dejar que Arizona se convierta en el primer estado que cerrara su programa de seguro médico para niños y permitir que 36,000 niños perdieran su seguro.

Ayudó a iniciar un esfuerzo por balancear el presupuesto estatal con la ponencia final al programa de Medicaid para 310,000 niños de bajos ingresos, y permitiendo que los estudiantes un monto de \$7.5 mil millones anuales en financiación familiar. La gubernadora y la legislatura rechazaron la mayor parte de los recortes que favorecía Pearce. No obstante, el corte de recortes de nuevos peticiones en Medicaid para el 2012 que auspiciara Pearce vedará la cobertura de seguro médico para cientos de miles de residentes pobres del estado de Arizona durante años a venir.

Con todo esto, fue natural que surgieran dos candidatos como los republicanos Jerry Lewis y Olivia Cortez para reemplazar a Pearce en el voto su revocación.

Por Cortez se retiró de la campaña el 7 de octubre y al día siguiente, el Tribunal Superior del Condado de Maricopa reveló que la firma "a favor de Pearce" habían recibido a Cortez para el día del voto de la oposición. Parientes de Pearce habían participado en la recolección de las firmas requeridas para que Cortez figurara en la elección, y cuando sin explicación causaron de financiación.

Greg Westera, presidente del Tea Party del East Valley, un aliado de Pearce, se hizo asesor de campaña de Cortez cuando decidiera ella montar el reto fingido, según el periódico, The New York Times.

A su vez, los aliados de Lewis le retaron a candidato a Cortez al llevar el asunto frente al Tribunal Superior del Condado de Maricopa.

En un artículo publicado en el sitio de noticias de Pearce, Pearce había incluido el Corra "para decirnos los votos hispanos que irán a Lewis con el fin de hacer avanzar la postulación de Pearce a la elección".

En otras palabras, fue una maniobra sucia. Fue un truco orquestado, pero el tribunal no lo halló ilegal.

Como las posturas del voto ya están en marcha, a las votantes se les dará un aviso de 8 de noviembre que Cortez se retiró de la campaña.

En un sentido vehemente, se puede usar financiación maniobra sucia. Con el consentimiento de Cortez, que sigue figurando en la petición aunque se hubiera retirado, el efecto neto podrá seguir siendo la desviación de los votos destinados a Lewis.

(Nota de la Isla, columnista de distribución nacional con los servicios de noticias Hispanic Link y Scripps Howard, ha sido reconocido por sus años consecutivos por New America Media. El título de su próximo libro publicarse es "Our Man on the Ground". Su libro previo publicado, "DUI NIGHT IN PHOENIX" (2009) y "The Dark Hispanic Political Power" (2005), disponibles en www.josede.la.com)
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UNA PROTESTA SIN SOLUCIONES

Por George Muñoz, Hispanic Link News Service
No sé qué más está frustrado, si lo que protestan por Wall Street o aquellos que los observan.

Es frustrante observar una protesta cuyo mensaje resulte nulo. No cuestiono su sinceridad -están molestos por la manera en que las cosas han resultado en conflicto. Sin embargo, las pancartas que llevan los manifestantes cubren el modo ambiguo, la matrícula universitaria, la guerra en Afganistán, el desempleo y la avaricia. "Aparentemente, quienes sumarse a los manifestantes con otra pregunta tiene la libertad de hacerlo."

Si el objetivo de la protesta de Wall Street es indicar que en el culpable de nuestros pesares, ya sea, y por varios años, es el sistema de "averiguación" X Wall Street, uno debe al menos decir que el mundo está cambiando.

Y hasta tanto, nuestro país se enfrenta con serios problemas que requieren soluciones. Si no resolvemos nuestra deficiencia en términos de energía, la salud, la inmigración, la educación, el gobierno y la guerra contra el terrorismo de manera adecuada, se convertirá en quimera del pasado el Sueño Americano. Esta amenaza es concreta.

Lo que protestan no va a lograr mucho si todo lo que hacen es marchar por Wall Street o la Avenida Peninsula. En realidad, si nos convertimos en un país que sólo protesta, comencemos el riesgo de terminar como Grecia (y otros países en los que los ciudadanos acuden al Gobierno Federal para pedir su bienestar. Lo que ha hecho de nuestro país un país de miles de organizaciones comunitarias, iglesias, grupos cívicos, asociaciones, grupos comunitarios y escuelas, que voluntariamente ofrecen de su tiempo y su dinero para mejorar nuestra vida. Andamos al Gobierno para pedirnos cosas, pero no todas. Cuando dejamos de participar en el ámbito cívico, se pierden oportunidades que otros toman. Las decisiones a favor de hacerlo nosotras mismas.

Si de haber un grupo que no convence, tendríamos que a lo que todos cumplamos con nuestro deber cívico y participamos activamente en el gobierno de nuestro país. En este sentido vamos como el fracaso. Es la única manera de explicar la falta de conexión entre las acciones que toma el Congreso y la manera en que nosotros, los votantes, queremos que actúe. Las encuestas indican que más del 80 por ciento de nosotros piensa que el Congreso no cumple con su cometido. No obstante, ni nos organizamos con nuestros representantes para dejarles saber lo que estamos pensando.

Según las encuestas Gallup, la mayor parte de residentes estadounidenses que le han hecho seguimiento a la propuesta de ley para empleos del presidente Obama, está a favor de la propuesta. No obstante, es probable que el Congreso no tome acción alguna al respecto. ¿Quién tiene la culpa de eso?

No se parece que las marchas por Wall Street vayan a cambiar ni un voto en el Congreso ni van a estar ni uno emplear para los desempleados. Lo que apuntamos que hacer los que protestan en presencia en las oficinas locales de sus representantes y establecer un diálogo.

En me es probable que no todos los que protestan saben qué es su representante. Según el proyecto del Centro Pew sobre el conocimiento, Pew Knowledge Project, más del 40 por ciento de los adultos estadounidenses desaprobaría un examen sobre asuntos políticos y económicos actuales. Además, la mayoría no saben ni el nombre de sus funcionarios electos locales. Si los votantes no se reúnen con sus representantes, ¿a qué tienen que recibir correo los representantes?

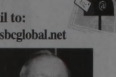
La libertad más importante con la que contamos es el poder de gobernarnos a nosotros mismos. Eso no podrá ocurrir más si no avanzamos la mano de los asuntos cívicos. Nuestra justicia electoral, iglesias, grupos comunitarios, clubes cívicos, organizaciones comunitarias no pueden existir con el mismo propósito, sin nuestra participación. Son estos los grupos que deberíamos asistir con la formación de decisiones informadas sobre temas de políticas públicas.

Yo diría que los que Occupy Wall Street están perdiendo sus energías empinando en un ejercicio equivocado de libertad liberal.

(George Muñoz es coautor del libro "Renewing the American Dream: A Citizen's Guide for Restoring Our Competitive Advantage," y fue presidente de la Junta Educativa de Chicago).
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Letters to the Editor

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John P. Cervantez
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Subject: Open Letter to the Lubbock Hispanic Media

On Oct 28, 2011 the Lubbock LULAC Council 263 will hold its annual "Bato Gacho Scholarship Fundraiser". However, unlike previous years, this year's fundraiser is being held over the objections of three of its members who dissented against the use of the name "Bato Gacho."

The word "Bato" is made up. There is no such word in any dictionary of the Spanish language. It is used colloquially in Texas. Like most words born in the streets it has strong negative connotations which elicit the worse of the machismo culture and is unworthy of use in a dignified gathering and especially in an event designed to benefit young college bound Hispanics.

The word "Gacho" is even worse. It is known to be vulgar in connotation. To put it simply, the name is not appropriate. The fundraiser name should fit the honorable nature of the occasion which is to raise scholarship money.

As a member of LULAC for over 50 years, I feel obliged to object to the use of the name. One of the goals of LULAC is to protect youth from uncultured influences. If I fail to speak out for our youth, who will do it? If I do not speak up now, when will it be done? I am concerned about the future of our youth. What will be our answer when our children ask, "What is a Bato Gacho?" It is an insult to the child and an embarrassment to LULAC to explain the true meaning of the term.

The question of whether to keep or change the name was put to vote at the Oct 6, 2011 meeting. I regret to report that the members voted overwhelmingly to keep the name. Only three dissenting votes were cast.

As a member of LULAC for over 50 years, I am deeply disappointed in the membership and sadder by their entrenched resistance to changing the name. I am saddened by a mentality that finds no fault in using self-denigrating language in an organization whose mission it is to protect the dignity of the common person.

Another objection to the name raised by the three dissenters was the "discriminating nature" of the term "Bato Gacho." This name is masculine and excludes women from participating in the fund raising work of the organization. The membership in acknowledgment of its exclusivity impact, approved the feminine "Bata Gacha." According to the three dissenters, this vote added insult to injury. The masculine is self-denigrating enough. The feminine is doubly insulting. It pains me to see them.

Sincerely,
John P. Cervantez
806-744-1654

IN TEXAS, THE MAKING OF HEROES AND ENEMIES

We made the long drive north to San Antonio in the spring, a caravan carrying a class of fourth-graders from small town South Texas. It was the 1980s and the nuns had excused us from wearing our plaid navy blue uniforms. I was a gangly thin, in my Lee jeans and ill-fitting blouse, all freckles and excitement.

The adults ushered us into the Alamo where I learned that a band of freedom fighters had rebelled against the ruthless Mexican dictator Santa Anna in the fight for liberty. "Those boys thought their Mexicans to give us the freedom we have today," I was told. Naturally, the story became tattooed onto my mind because on that day I learned that we, who called ourselves "Mexicans," descended from the "bad guys."

In many parts of Texas, then and now, anyone with a Spanish surname is a Mexican and whites are labeled Anglos. In my mind, the fight for freedom, for "America," was inherently tied to 'fighting' them Mexicans.

Over Easter weekend last year, usually every year, I witnessed much of Texas with a carpet of wildflowers in reds, lavenders and tiny delicate crowns of blue. The reenacted mass execution of Texian rebels by a Mexican soldier at Goliad, a site of the "Texas Revolution," had just wrapped up. A little boy, Boe, signed and said Mexicans had killed his ancestors during the 1836 battle. "The Texans were the good guys and the Mexicans were the bad guys," he said.

His friend, Jarrah Benavides, shyly smiled and said, "Because we're Mexicans they look at us like we're the bad guys."

I slipped off, slammed the door to my pick-up truck with tears streaming down my face. Little girls still gurgled up believing they are the bad guys. Three decades of "progress" and "freedom" because of that belief.

Earlier this year a jury in Arizona had convicted Shawna Ford and two accomplices in the 2009 shooting deaths of 9-year-old Brisneta Flores. Flores' father was shot and killed.

Ford, a member of the Minute-men, had set out to rob homes to fund a border vigilante group. She was convicted in the shooting deaths earlier this year. According to Brisneta's mother, the shooter, turned to Brisneta who begged, "Don't shoot me."

Brisneta's father died in the face at point-blank range. Lost in the circular arguments about border security and what-



part-of illegal-not-you-understand? Is the payoff for these self-appointed heroes?

Fighting Mexicans is part of our national history, and a national myth that created our image of heroes.

Fighting Mexicans is at work when political candidates with precious few original ideas propose sending troops to the border to resolve the complex tragedy unfolding there.

Fighting Mexicans is a wide thread embedded within our national fabric that allows some to write off hate as a natural byproduct of a frustrated society, the mythical and historical context that why killers/attackers are in times supported as heroes.

"Very typically these men see themselves as valiantly defending their community," Jack Levin, an expert on hate crimes, told me. "They believe they are carrying out the unspoken wishes of the community."

With the invaluable support of Latino Public Broadcast-

ing, I returned to the reenacted battle sites to explore the murky intersection of myth and history because myths simplify the complexities that riddle Texas history

and the stories we tell ourselves about who can claim the mantle of "American."

Through the thoughtful reflections of the men who recreate those historic battles as actors - white and Latino - we discover the enduring power of myth in creating the image we have of ourselves and of the other, scars carried by grown men for decades.

From them came "Against Mexico" - the making of heroes and enemies," a short documentary on PBS, where I promise you will not find bad guys or good guys, but an homage to the history of my home state, a story. I hope, helps to save the wounds from the myths that define and confine us.

"Against Mexico," honors the little girl I once was, the little girl I met on that pasture that spring day, and the one that begged for her life before she died. (Michelle Garcia is a journalist and film maker. Email her at mg@michellegarcia.com. For more information about "Against Mexico" visit www.pbs.org and www.michellegarcia.com.)

See this column and more onplexities that riddle Texas history www.HispanicLink.org ©2011

PROTEST WITH NO SOLUTIONS

By George Muñoz
I don't know who is don't know who is more frustrated. The protesters on Wall Street or those watching them.

A protest that has a confirmed message is frustrating to watch. I do not question their sincerity - they are upset with how things have turned out in our country. But the signs being carried by the protesters cover the country with a message of "progress" and "freedom" and "justice". Apparently, anyone who wants to join the marchers with another complaint is free to do so.

If the objective of the Wall Street protest is to point blame for our troubles, it's a few years too late. And if it's about "shaming" Wall Street, it's not clear what change is being demanded. Meanwhile, our country has serious problems that need solutions. If we do not solve our economic, education, health care, immigration, education, government deficits and war on terrorism the right way, the American Dream will become a thing of the past. That threat is real.

The protesters will not achieve much if all they do is march down Wall Street or Pennsylvania Avenue. In fact, if we become a country of protesters only, we run the risk of becoming like Greece and other countries where their citizens look to the Federal Government for their welfare. And what our country great as our millions of community organizations, churches, civic groups, associations, neighborhood groups and school groups that voluntarily give of their time and money to make our lives better. We look to Government for certain things, not all things.

When we stop our civic participation, we are letting others make decisions for us. If there is to be a protesting cry, it should be for all of us to do our own civic duty and participate actively in the governance of our country. In this we are failing. That is the only way to explain the disconnect between how Congress acts and how we as voters want them to act. Poll show that more than 80 percent of that Congress is doing a bad job. Yet, we do not contact our representatives to let them know of our views.

According to Gallup polls, most US residents who have followed the job bill proposed by President Obama favor it. Yet, Congress probably will not act on it. Whose fault is that? I do not think the marchers on Wall Street will change one vote in Congress or create a single job for the unemployed. Instead, those protesters should go to the local offices of their representatives and exchange views.

But the likelihood is that not all of the protesters know their representatives. According to the Pew Knowledge Project, over half of US adults would fail a test on current political and economic affairs. And most cannot name their local elected officials. If we do not meet with their representatives, how are the representatives to be held accountable?

The most important freedom we have is to be self-governed. That cannot happen if we give up our involvement with civic affairs. Our local school boards, churches, neighborhood groups, economic clubs, community organizations cannot exist, or succeed, without our participation. These groups are the ones that should help develop informed decisions on policy matters.

I say the Occupy Wall Street marchers are wasting their energy on the wrong exercise of our freedom.

(George Muñoz is co-author of the book "Renewing the American Dream: A Citizen's Guide for Restoring Our Competitive Advantage," and former President of the Chicago Board of Education.)
To see this column and more, visit www.HispanicLink.org ©2011

El Editor

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Obama Praises Hispanics, Jobs Act

President Obama on Wednesday praised the contributions of Hispanics to the United States and made another pitch for his stalled American Jobs Act.

Obama spoke to a crowd gathered at the U.S. Interior Department in Washington at an American Latino heritage forum organized by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, one of the top Hispanics in government.

"Diversity has always been America's strength," the president said. "We are richer because of the men and women and children who've come to our shores and joined our union ..."

"And nowhere is that more true than with the Latino community. Right now, there are 54 million Americans of Latino descent -- one-sixth of our population. Our neighbors, our co-workers, our family, our friends. You've helped us build our cities, grow our economy, defend our country. And today, for the first time in history, there is a Latina in my

Cabinet and a Latina (Justice Sonia Sotomayor) on the bench of the highest court in the land. (U.S. Labor Secretary) Hilda Solis is doing an outstanding job."

Acknowledging high Hispanic unemployment, Obama said: "That's why I put forward the American Jobs Act. That's why I sent Congress a jobs bill made up of the kinds of proposals that, traditionally, Democrats and Republicans have supported. Independent economists who do this for a living have said the American Jobs Act would lead to more growth and nearly 2 million jobs next year. No other jobs plan has that kind of support from actual economists -- no plan from Congress, no plan from anybody."

"But apparently, none of this matters to Republicans in the Senate. Because last night, even

though a majority of senators voted in favor of the American Jobs Act, a Republican minority got together as a group and blocked this jobs bill from passing the Senate," the president said. Obama was introduced at the



forum by Army Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Pety, a Medal of Honor winner.

"We are so proud of him," the president said. "He is an inspiration to all of us. And he is the latest in a long line of Latino heroes to wear America's uniform."

Harry Reid Toils To Secure Votes on Jobs Bill

Sen. Harry Reid plans to bring up President Obama's jobs bill this week, and he's going to do it his way. Reid has the difficult task of trying to strong-arm resistant Republicans while assisting a Democratic president who doesn't always consult him on the feasibility of his initiatives before they roll them out.

Enter the jobs bill. Obama unveiled during a speech to a joint session of Congress in early September his plan to inject \$450 billion into the economy by directing the funds toward infrastructure, which would create construction jobs.

Obama has since taken the refrain of that speech: "Pass this jobs bill!" on a campaign tour of the country.

But that's on the road. In the Senate, "pass this jobs bill" -- in the sense of go ahead, try to pass this jobs bill -- has also taken on the tone of a threat from Republicans, who believe they can vote it down.

For the past month, Reid has been ignoring both the as and Democratic leaders craft an

alternative.

Sometimes it's been subtle: Two weeks ago, Reid deflected questions about his plans for the jobs bill by talking about a jobs agenda headlined by a bill to censure China for unfair currency-manipulation practices.

Sometimes it's been explosive: Last week, Reid dropped a "nuclear option" procedural move to make it impossible to offer nonoptimal amendments to legislation after it has cleared setup votes. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, it just so happens, was trying to force a vote on Obama's jobs bill in its original form by offering it as an amendment to the Chinese currency measure.

The majority leader has been reminding the public on a nearly daily basis that McConnell has made defeating Obama next November his No. 1 priority. But McConnell isn't the only one putting Reid in a tight spot. It's not easy to sell a stimulus bill to Congress while it's also attempting to tame deficits. That task is even harder because the

president proposed paying for half of his bill with reductions in war spending due to the draw-down in military operations: a funding stream lawmakers ultimately eschewed for accounting purposes during the debt-ceiling debate.

The jobs bill the Senate expected to vote on this week substitutes Obama's plan with a new proposal to pay for it: a 5.6 percent surtax on millionaires -- the top 0.4 percent of wage earners in America -- which would start in 2013. It would almost cover the cost of the jobs bill, \$445 billion of the \$450 billion.

Republicans are expected to oppose the policy -- and as of last week, Reid didn't even expect every Democrat to sign on.

But in verifying the measure Reid has made arguing against it more uncomfortable: When Republicans say they voted against Obama's high-priced, so-called jobs bill, Democrats are sure to retort something like yes, you voted against American jobs that were paid for, to protect the profits of millionaires.

Desbaratan amenaza terrorista

El gobierno anunció ayer el desmantelamiento de un plan para asesinar al embajador de Arabia Saudita en Washington, Adel A. Al-Jubeir, que incluía la muerte de más de cien civiles estadounidenses.

Un informante mexicano, que pasó como miembro de un cartel, habría sido clave en el operativo.

El Departamento de Justicia, el Büro Federal de Investigaciones (FBI) y la Agencia Federal contra el Narcotráfico (DEA) demarcaron una demanda contra Mansour Arbabsiar y Ghulam Shukran, en la corte de distrito sur de Nueva York.

El primero de los acusados es estadounidense naturalizado de origen iraní, mientras el segundo sería un miembro de Irán Qods (IRGC), una

unidad especial de la guardia de ese país.

El operativo, denominado en clave como "Chevrolet", consistió -- de acuerdo con los documentos presentados en el tribunal -- en un plan fraguado desde mayo de 2011 que incluía una explosión en un concurrido restaurante, con un costo total de 1.5 millones de dólares.

Esta es una grave acusación para el gobierno de Irán, que ya ha salido a denunciar las declaraciones de oficiales estadounidenses.

Según la demanda, Arbabsiar se reunió en varias ocasiones con un informante de la DEA en México, que se hizo pasar como un miembro de carteles mexicanos.

Más aún, el documento especificó

que se realizó una transferencia de 100 mil dólares como pago adelantado para los supuestos miembros del cartel.

"Este caso demuestra que vivimos en un mundo donde las fronteras son cada vez más irrelevantes. En un mundo donde individuos de un país buscan conspirar con un cartel de la droga en otro país para asesinar a un embajador de Arabia Saudita en territorio estadounidense", aseguró el director del FBI, Robert Muller.

El procurador general, Eric Holder, aseguró que recibieron "cooperación significativa por parte del gobierno de México, sin la cual no podríamos estar haciendo el anuncio de hoy".

Los documentos de la corte detallan que el informante mexicano formó parte de un cartel y lo colaboró con

las autoridades de Estados Unidos en anteriores operativos a cambio de que los cargos en su contra fueran desestimados.

Consultados por La Opinión, fuentes del Departamento de Justicia declinaron comentar respecto al nombre del cartel al que habría pertenecido el informante.

La demanda detalló que Arbabsiar viajó a México el 28 de septiembre pasado, donde se le negó la entrada. Tras eso, fue enviado al aeropuerto JFK de Nueva York.

El gobierno del vecino país emitió una declaración ayer, donde especificó que México y Estados Unidos tienen establecidos de manera regular protocolos de intercambio de información por los conductos institucionales,

mediante los cuales se procura la cooperación internacional entre ambos países, particularmente en asuntos que tienen que ver con la Seguridad Regional y la Justicia.

El subsecretario para América del Norte, Julian Ventura, detalló que el Instituto Nacional de Migración (INM) emitió una alerta a EEUU sobre la presencia de Arbabsiar en el país.

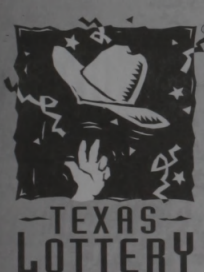
"Desde el primer momento, México y Estados Unidos intercambiamos información y actuamos de manera coordinada", dijo sobre "el nacional estadounidense" que contaba con una orden de arresto girada por una Corte de Estados Unidos.

El pasado 28 de septiembre, las autoridades migratorias mexicanas identificaron a Arbabsiar y le impidieron "su

ingreso" al país por no cumplir con los requisitos de información previstos en la Ley General de Migración vigente y su Reglamento, luego dieron aviso a las autoridades perseguidoras tal como lo marcan los protocolos de seguridad y justicia entre los dos países.

"El extranjero fue regresado al punto de inicio de su viaje", detalló Ventura.

"En estricto apego a la normatividad nacional e internacional, se logró neutralizar un riesgo relevante para la Seguridad Nacional de México, reforzar la cooperación recíproca bilateral con Estados Unidos y se confirmó que se cuenta con mecanismos y procedimientos adecuados para anticipar y prevenir la presencia en nuestro territorio de individuos lesivos para la seguridad e intereses nacionales", concluyeron.

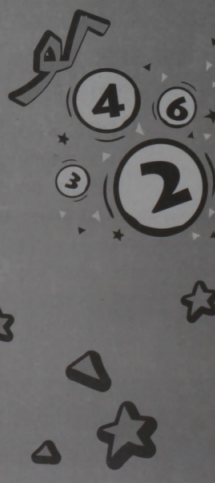


La certificación HUB es una idea ganadora.

La Comisión de la Lotería de Texas está comprometida a incluir a las Empresas Históricamente Subutilizadas (HUB) en las oportunidades de adquisición. Las compañías de dueños minoritarios o mujeres podrán calificar para ser certificadas como las Empresas Históricamente Subutilizadas (HUB) por el Estado de Texas.

Para más información acerca de la certificación del estado y las oportunidades de adquisición de la Lotería de Texas, contacte a Joyce Bertolacini, su coordinador HUB al (512) 344-5293 o a joyce.bertolacini@lottery.state.tx.us

Para saber más acerca del programa HUB del Estado de Texas, visite la página web de información y soporte de los servicios de adquisiciones: <http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/hub/>



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¿Que Pasa?

Lubbock County Garage Sale (Benefiting the United Way)

Lubbock County is holding its first ever County-Wide Garage Sale on Friday, October 14, 2011 beginning at 8:30 am until 7:00 pm. It will take place at 916 Main Street, 1st Floor (formally known as the Bank of America Building). All proceeds from the sale will go to benefit the United Way. For more info call 775-1595.

PUMPKIN TRAIL 2011 - EVENT INFORMATION

The 3rd Annual Pumpkin Trail will be on October 20-23, 2011, in the Lubbock Memorial Arboretum in Clapp Park. Pumpkin lighting begins at 5:30 p.m. and should be completed before dusk each night. Evening hours are 6:00-9:00 p.m. on Thursday and Sunday and 6:00-10:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Enjoy an autumn scene of pumpkins, fall foliage and blue sky during daylight hours from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Friday-Sunday, October 21-23.

In addition to the carved jack-o-lanterns along the trail, there will be 25-30 displays hosted by local businesses and civic groups that will lead participants around the trail. This is a free event and the Arboretum walking trail is both stroller and wheelchair friendly. Trail entrances are at the Lubbock Memorial Arboretum at 4111 University and the Lubbock Municipal Garden and Arts Center at 4215 University. Limited parking is available behind Hodges Community Center and at the Garden and Arts Center. Park and Ride will be available from Safety City located on the east side of Clapp Park at 46th Street and Avenue U.

FIRST KIDS FUN FEST EVENT TO KICK-OFF ON SUNDAY

Lubbock Children's Health Clinic, in partnership with Parks and Recreation, is hosting Kids Fun Fest on Sunday, October 16, 2011 from 12:00-5:00 p.m. in Mackenzie Park. This was rescheduled from October 9. Families will enjoy an afternoon of fun and entertainment and will be treated to carnival-type games and refreshments. Live entertainment, door prizes, and raffle drawings will also take place. Admission is free to the public! Over 45 local non-profits will be on hand with information on their programming, games and food will be available for purchase. Proceeds from the event will go to support the non-profit organizations' programming budgets.

Kids Fun Fest is being held in Mackenzie Park and can be accessed off of the East Broadway entrance into the park located east of South Plains Fair Grounds. Sponsors include American State Bank, Arctic Glacier Premium Ice, Dairy Queens, Dennis Brothers Printing, and the South Plains Lions Club. For more information about Kids Fun Fest, please visit www.kidsfunfest.weebly.com or contact Sue Hill or Olga Contreras with LCHC at (806) 749-3800.

CELEBRACION 2011 OPENS AT BUDDY HOLLY CENTER

The Buddy Holly Center is proud to announce the opening of Celebracion, an annual invitational exhibition of artwork that explores the history and meaning behind the Mexican holiday, Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. Day of the Dead blends the Catholic traditions of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day (November 1st & 2nd) with pre-Columbian concepts of death that have been a part of Mexican society since Aztec times. The celebration can be traced to the Aztecs who celebrated a ritual day dedicated to children and the dead. The ritual was presided over by the goddess Mictecacihuatl ("Lady of the Dead"). Modern traditional Día de los Muertos festivities take place on November 1st and 2nd, and are a time of remembrance, reunion, and feasting.

The exhibit includes artwork from local, national, and international artists. Artists were asked to interpret Día de los Muertos by creating works honoring departed ancestors, friends, and family. Celebracion will feature an installation by Lubbock High School Spanish students taught by Mr. Victor Munoz. Celebracion will be on display September 30 - November 6, 2011 to be enjoyed throughout the ancient Mexican holiday.

TEXAS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Texas Catholic Conference reports on legislation and other items of interest to Catholics in Texas. To sign up for weekly updates, please go to: www.txatholic.org

QUINCEANERA RETREAT

Quinceanera Retreat: Saturday, October 15, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. A day of spiritual preparation for the quinceañera. Each girl must be accompanied by at least one parent, \$15/person. If two parents attend, the fee is \$10/each. Scholarships available. To register or for more information, call 806-863-4904, or visit <http://www.stfrancismissionisters.com>

HOMELESS AWARENESS

Homeless Awareness 5K: Psalm 27 Shelter Me - October 15, 7:30am-Noon, McKenzie Park. No fee to participate! Only material donations of the following items accepted: shoes, coats, hats, under-garments, sleeping bags, back-packs, blankets, toiletries, toothbrushes, feminine products & 0-degree tents. Volunteers needed to man water stations. Contact: Our Lady of Grace parish office @ 806-763-4156. To have items picked up, email: jimenezrosalindar@gmail.com

Antonio Banderas, Pedro Almodovar on friendship and film

In the 25 years since he started making movies with Pedro Almodóvar, Antonio Banderas says one thing hasn't changed: The iconic director is still leading Banderas toward the edge of the creative abyss. And he is still diving in.

"Basically what you have to do with Pedro Almodóvar is take a leap of faith as an actor," Banderas said recently, settling into a sofa after a cigarette break in a Beverly Hills hotel suite. "Sometimes you're working with him and you feel like he's pushing you to a cliff. And he says, 'Jump!' And you say, 'But Pedro, I'm going to kill myself.' 'Jump! You have to trust me!'"

Banderas' blind-faith meter must have been soaring when he and Almodóvar reunited to make "The Skin I Live In," a Hitchcockian hybrid of thriller, melodrama and horror film that opens Friday. It's the two Spaniards' first collaboration since Banderas co-starred with Victoria Abril in "Te Me Up! Te Me Down!" (1990), playing an escaped psychiatric patient who kidnaps an actress in hopes of making her fall in love with him.

In "The Skin I Live In," Banderas portrays an even more complex and diabolical control freak, a plastic surgeon named Robert Ledgard who is haunted by a tragic past. For reasons that become clear only later, the rich, handsome doctor is keeping a beautiful young woman, Vera (Elena Anaya), captive in the fortress-like home he shares with his sinister housekeeper, Marilia (Marisa Paredes, another of Almodóvar's longtime accomplices).

Clad in a flesh-colored body stocking and kept under constant camera surveillance while she sleeps, eats and practices yoga, Vera harbors a secret that can't be breached by the doctor's gleaming knives. Slicing and splicing multiple scenes and emotions, "The Skin I Live In" is an Almodóvarian blend of kink, exuberance, sly

sexual allusions and questions about human identity.

Although Banderas, 51, now lives in the United States, while Almodóvar, 62, resides in Madrid, the two have kept in close contact and see each other intermittently. Banderas said the director first approached him about making the film a decade ago, at Cannes, after Almodóvar had bought the rights to the novel, which is based on a story, "Tarantula," by the French crime writer Thierry Jonquet.

Both men got sidetracked on other projects. Then a couple of years ago, Almodóvar called Banderas, told him, "It's time!" and sent him the script.

"I read it," Banderas recalled, "and I said, Oh... I'm in trouble! Sacred trouble!" For Banderas, working with Almodóvar again after years playing camp crusaders ("The Mask of Zorro") and cartoon cats ("Puss in Boots") in Hollywood was like re-confronting himself as performer, flayed by his essence. "It was an amazing re-encounter on many different levels, the personal level of course and the professional level too," he said.

"When you go to Almodóvar, if the bag is filled with accumulated experiences with other directors and other movies and other stuff — tricks — he doesn't like that. He opens the bag, looks at it, closes it again and throws it out, and says, 'No, we're going to start as we used to work, Antonio, in the '80s, from zero. And zero is a very uncomfortable place. I know, because you're going to have fears.'"

The director concurred that his reunion with Banderas, who first attracted Hollywood's attention after starring in Almodóvar's films such as "Matador" (1986), "Law of Desire" (1987) and "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" (1988) was long overdue. "It was a very satisfying experience," he said by phone, "because we recuperated each other as friends, and as director and actor."

"The Skin I Live In" was shot in Spain and was the first Spanish-language lead role for the Málaga-born actor in many years. "So it was a very powerful re-encounter with his own culture," Almodóvar said. "And it was very emotional for me to see what Antonio felt for this re-encounter, this return to his roots."

When the two men last worked together two decades ago, Spain still was reveling in the all-night party atmosphere that followed the collapse of the Franco dictatorship.

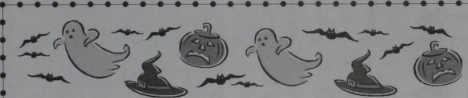
Banderas, already a star in Europe, was on the verge of a nervy breakout role in Hollywood, playing the lover of Tom Hanks' AIDS-stricken character in "Philadelphia."

Almodóvar was pushing Spanish cinema in directors unfamiliar with the heyday of Luis Buñuel, disrupting the status quo with frank depictions of same-sex love, twisted family relationships, bizarre obsessions and sudden outbursts of shocking violence.

But not everyone was enamored of the brash young auteur. "It was enormously difficult to obtain money for a film with these characteristics, with this theme," the director recalled. "We say that we lived during an incredible explosion of liberty, enjoying the new democracy. But nonetheless it was very hard to find money to produce my movies. Nowadays I don't have this difficulty."

Banderas said that working on movies like "Law of Desire" and dealing with the subsequent outrage voiced by critics and clerics over its moral values helped "liberate" him personally from guilt instilled by his Roman Catholic upbringing.

"I owe Pedro more than professional issues. I owe Pedro a way of thinking, a way of understanding life, looking at a life without fear," he said. "He's not only a movie director for me. He's a real friend, almost like a brother and a person that I respect, admire and that profoundly, deeply, I love."



Annual Halloween Carnival

Where: Maggie Trejo Supercenter

When: Friday Oct. 14th, 6-8pm

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Face painting, tattoos, arts & crafts, door prizes, games, trick-or-treating, & much more!



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Saturday, October 22, 2011

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Location: 3604 N FM 400

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Cost of Admission: 3 cans of food or dry goods per person

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EL EDITOR NEWSPAPER

Your weekly Hispanic News & Information Publication!



Cruz uses arm, bat to help Rangers win in 11 innings Dadas vs. New England

It took the Texas Rangers 50 seasons to win their first American League pennant last October. Now they are on the brink of a second consecutive trip to the World Series after beating the Detroit Tigers 7-3 in 11 innings on Wednesday night in Game 4 of the American League Championship Series.

Mike Napoli singled in the go-ahead run in the 11th immediately after Tigers manager Jim Leyland decided to intentionally walk Adrian Belte, who was 0-for-4, to put runners on first and second with one out. Josh Hamilton, who had doubled to lead off the inning, sprinted home from second base on the hit to shallow center field.

Nelson Cruz then assured that the Rangers would take a commanding three games-to-one lead in the series by belting the next pitch over the fence in left-center field for a three-run homer.

The Rangers will go for the clincher Thursday, when they are scheduled to send left-hander C.J. Wilson to the mound against Justin Verlander in a matchup of

aces. Cruz has driven in nine runs in the series. He won Game 2 at Arlington on Monday with the first walk-off grand slam in postseason history.

Brandon Inge, whose career seemed all but over when he was designated for assignment by the Tigers in July, tied the game at 3-3 by hitting a two-out solo home run off previously unhit reliever Alexi Ogando in the seventh.

Ogando had not allowed a run in five postseason appearances, covering 6 1/3 innings. Detroit missed a big opportunity in the eighth thanks to a big throw by Cruz.

Texas manager Ron Washington took the unconventional route and intentionally walked Miguel Cabrera with one out and no on base. Victor Martinez then

bounded a single into right to put runners on the corners, but Cabrera was thrown out at home by Cruz when he tagged and tried to score the go-ahead run on Delmon Young's flyball to medium right field.

Neither starter figured in the decision. Detroit's Rick Porcello gave up three runs, two earned and eight hits in 6 2/3 innings with six strikeouts and no walks. Texas' Josh Harrison lasted just five innings and allowed two runs

on three hits while walking three and striking out three.

Scott Feldman got the win with one scoreless inning. Valverde took the loss.

Porcello shut out the Rangers on two hits over five innings. Texas then had four hits in a three-run sixth inning to take a 3-2 lead.

David Murphy, who had three hits, led off with a bloop single to left, then scored on Ian Kinsler's line double into the left-field corner that bounced past Young. Kinsler stole third and scored on Elvis Andrus' line-drive single to center to tie the game at 2-2.

Michael Young followed with another liner, a drought-breaking single into center field, and the speedy Andrus beat Austin Jackson's throw to the plate to put the Rangers ahead. Young, the Rangers' cleanup hitter, had not driven in a run in his first 29 at-bats of this postseason.

Cabrera had given Detroit a 2-0 lead in the third when he drove a double off the fence in left-center to score two runs after Inge and Ryan Raburn had singled.



Dos semanas sin basquet

La NBA cancelo ayer las dos primeras semanas de la temporada, anunció el comisionado David Stern, luego que dueños y jugadores no logran alcanzar un nuevo contrato laboral y terminar con el cierre patronal.

"La brecha es tan significativa que simplemente no podemos tender un puente en este momento", dijo Stern.

"Claramente esperamos nunca haber llegado a esto", señaló el vicepresidente Maurice Evans, de los Wizards, y los abogados Jeffrey Kessler y Ron Klemperer.

Los propietarios de los equipos de la NBA impusieron un cierre patronal el 1 de julio cuando un acuerdo antes de la expiración del antiguo contrato colectivo de trabajo.

La apertura de la temporada regular estaba agendada para el 1 de noviembre. La cancelación incluye todos los juegos programados hasta el 14 de noviembre.

"A pesar de extensos esfuerzos, no hemos sido capaces de alcanzar un acuerdo nuevo con el sindicato de jugadores que permita que todos los 30 equipos puedan competir por un campeonato compensando al mismo tiempo de manera justa a nuestros jugadores", dijo Silver en un comunicado.

Ante otra paralización laboral, la NBA corre el riesgo de distanciarse de una base de aficionados que hizo que repuntaran los

ejecutivo del sindicato Billy Hunter, el presidente del gremio Fisher,

ingreso de la Liga y las tasas de audiencia por televisión durante la temporada 2010-2011.

Y la pérdida de las dos primeras semanas de juegos dañará los empleos que dependen de la campaña de poco más de seis meses de basquetbol.

Unos cuantos equipos ya han recortado personal y podría haber más despidos.



Además están quienes no trabajan directamente para los equipos de la NBA, pero que sin embargo dependen de la efervescencia que lleva la liga a sus ciudades.

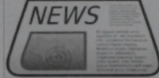
Acomodadores, personal de seguridad, trabajadores de estacionamientos, concesionarios, empleados de restaurantes y otros, todos ellos serán recortados sus horas de trabajo o se unirán a los 14 millones de desempleados en Estados Unidos.

El éxito de la temporada anterior, en la cancha, en la taquilla y en los titulares de prensa, convenció a muchos de que las partes no llegarán a este punto.

Pero los propietarios de mercados pequeños se endurecieron después de mirar a LeBron James salir de Cleveland para jugar en Miami, a Amare Stoudemire cambiar a Phoenix por Nueva York, y a Carmelo Anthony utilizar más tarde su imminente situación de agente libre como efecto de palanca para asegurar un cambio de Denver a los Knicks.

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