Casualties of War in Iraq 3,132 as of Feb 15, 2007

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.

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Lubbock, Texas 79401

New Hispanic Pulse

New Mercado, Downtown Could Mean Boom for Lubbock

any years have gone by since Downtown Lubbock experienced the bustling streets, busy shoppers and cars parked side by side but City fathers recently have undertaken the latest in a project that might bring back life to the old dilapidated buildings and pedestrians back to the empty streets.

Charlie Dunn. a Lubbock attorney and frequent writer in El Editor described the new effort as an opportunity for Lubbock to either "enter into the brink of greatness and and become a vibrant medium sized city similar to Santa Fe or Austin in the next decade, or it can continue to compare itself to Amarillo, Midland and Abilene. ..." see http://www.eleditor.com/news.php?nid=631&pag=2

Almost simultaneously, approximately 2 miles away another project is also being planned to renovate a busy area next to the Arnett Barrio that

could also bring new business and progress to the area.

The Mercado project proposed by County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez in 2003 when serving on the City's citizen's Advisory Committee and during his election campaign recently received new life through the its adoption by the American Institute of Architects who has taken up the project as one of its blueprint initiatives celebrating its 150th anniversary.

In an effort to get input to the City efforts from the Hispanic community, our new Hispanic Pulse question asked our readers to comment on the two issues. We asked our readers to "discuss the future of downtown Lubbock and a new exciting Mercado project to be built somewhere around North University. And if they felt that these two projects should or could be combined or closely

Muchos niños necesitan ser elevados para viajar seguros La campaña de Tx-DOT promueve los asientos elevadores para más protección

AUSTIN, TX — Los oficiales de Texas tienen un mensaje sobre los niños que usan asientos de seguridad convencionales inapropiados para su edad: muchos niños necesitan asientos elevadores para garantizar que estarán seguros al viajar en un automóvil, van, SUV o camioneta.

En coordinación con la Semana Nacional de Seguridad para Niños Pasajeros, que empieza hoy, el Departamento de Transporte del Estado de Texas (TxDOT) y el Departamento de Servicios de Salud de Texas inician su campaña anual "Abroche a sus Niños". La iniciativa de este año hace un énfasis especial en mantener a los niños de hasta 8 años de edad usando sus asientos elevadores y en que los niños sigan usando los asientos de seguridad y los asientos elevadores hasta la edad indicada. "Sin asientos elevadores, a menudo los niños corren peligro de sufrir lesiones graves a causa de los cinturones de seguridad: precisamente lo que los padres piensan que los protegerán", dijo Carol Rawson, Directora Adjunta de Operaciones Viales de TxDOT. "Los cinturones de seguridad están diseñados para los adultos y también pueden ser apropiados para niños grandes. Sin embargo, algunos niños más grandecitos necesitan usar un

asiento elevador para que el cinturón de seguridad les quede debidamente. Y esto ayuda a evitar que los niños sufran lesiones en el cuello o internas que el cinturón de seguridad podría provocarles durante un choque".

Según la Administración Nacional de Seguridad Vial en Carreteras (NHTSA), en los últimos 20 años se han salvado aproximadamente 7,500 vidas a causa de usar el asiento de seguridad para niños apropiado. Sin embargo, en Estados Unidos, los choques automovolísticos continúan siendo el factor número uno de muertes de niños entre 4 y 15 años de edad. Con mucha frecuencia, estas muertes se deben al uso indebido de asientos de seguridad o asientos elevadores para niños.

Se recomienda que niños de 4 a 8 años de edad, de menos de cuatro pies nueve pulgadas de estatura y menos de 80 a 100 libras usen asientos elevadores. Los niños pueden usar sólo el cinturón de seguridad cuando puedan sentarse hasta atrás en el asiento de manera que toda la espalda esté contra el respaldo con las rodillas cómodamente dobladas más allá del borde frontal del asiento y los pies tocando el piso del vehículo, cuando el cinturón del hombro les quede ceñido al pecho y el cinturón de regazo les quede lo más abajo posible, ceñido contra la cadera y la parte superior de los muslos.

interrelated?"

On this Texas Tech professor Jerry
Perez wrote, "First of all, we must be
careful not to compare apples to oranges.
Downtown does need reinvigoration;
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the savings and have an open-air walking mall enjoyed by people who live in bigger cities. Businesses would be scrambling over each other just to reside in a building downtown."

To be sure, that idea had been thoroughly discussed in the first town hall meeting held this past November. In a power point presentation available at

Redevelopment Commission website encourages the possibilities to Co-locate City and County offices to anchor downtown, civic architecture, public plazas and parks. And in the area of Entertainment that there be a Cultural District Connection that would Enhance cross-over

the Downtown

between patron base and Make it easier to "make a night of it"

With this in mind, many of our readers could see a strong connection between the Mercado and Downtown.

Advertising executive Phil Price writes

"I'm not Hispanic but strongly support a first-class Mercado on North University. I believe near the Hispanic Cultural Center would be a good location.

We should all give our input for downtown and should celebrate, not separate, our diversity.

Todd Klein wrote that "in general, I think any improvements to the downtown will have linkages to North Lubbock and vice-verse-geographically the two areas are simply so close that added attractions and increased quality of opportunity and life issues will naturally feed off one another."

"It seems to me that combining these efforts would be a great strategy in getting non-Hispanics involved in a Hispanic project. So I say the Mercado should be part of how the downtown is developed," Dr. Yvonne Caldera wrote.

Frank Silva contributed to the discussion saying that he thought, "Both projects should be combined or considered together. I think that Lubbock needs to start thinking big and create a River walk, like San Antonio, that would lead to N. University and end at the prospective Mercado. Private businesses and hotels could be built along the walk; also expanding the Civic Center to accommodate large numbers of people, so that it can be used

for conferences, sports events, concerts, etc. I think if we start thinking big the people in the community, state, nation and even International will recognize that and bring their business to Lubbock. We could be known as the city with the greatest and longest River Walk in the State."

Susan Barrick a recent candidate for County Judge stressed the possibilities of neither happening in the near future. "Both projects would benefit the city, but in such different ways and at such

different scales of cost that to link them financially in a bond issue, for instance, would probably mean that neither would come to pass, and in the case of the Mercado, especially, that would be a real shame. To renew downtown Lubbock will require tremendous commitment and investment dollars on the part of private real estate owners to bring buildings designed for horse and buggy days up to modern standards. It will require a huge public investment of tax dollars to replace outdated water and sewer mains. It has been tried and never fully realized in the past, because it is such a huge and complex undertaking, and it is a never-ending task.

Moreover, unlike the North Overton neighborhood, it is not likely to be leveled any time soon to create a blank slate."

However Ms. Barrick gave more hope to the Mercado project "The Mercado, on the other hand, is a fresh, new idea for Lubbock. I believe it should be given precedence over a re-run of trying to fix the downtown area. The Mercado project will give expression to the cosmopolitan spirit that has been growing underground for years, and rightfully accompanies an institution of higher learning like Texas Tech University. It will provide something that the city lacks - a vibrant public space where people of all walks of life can come together to in-



teract and enjoy a diversity of goods and entertainment. The Mercado, although a significant public investment, can be expected to reap rewards for the city and the region into the future, and at much less expense than it will take to modernize the downtown area."

The second public hearing on the Downtown redevelopment was held on February 12. A report is available at their web site. The first hearing on the Mercado project is scheduled for February 19th at Cavazos Jr. High at 7 pm.

Quotes uused in this article are excerpts

Quotes uused in this article are excerpts from letters sent to Community Voices. The full text of each letter is availaable on page 2/

The Real Story About Guest Workers

By José de la Isla
HOUSTON- It's stunning how little
we learn from the events closest to us.
Take for instance how we got into this
situation about guest workers and how
leadership avoids the obvious.

This time a century ago, Mexican workers came across the virtually unknown border to work in this country's agriculture and railroads. Then as now we had labor shortages. Then as now some U.S. companies were doing land office business south of the border.

The Immigration and Naturalization
Service was created in 1924 - to halt Chinese entry, I might add. The history and tradition of a U.S.-Mexico trans-border movement was already well established.
The fluid goings and comings were influenced by market forces.

At the time of the Great Depression and the 1930s, unknown tens, maybe hundreds, of thousands of Mexicans with and without documentation were "repatriated." Then as now, many families were broken up.

The rationalization for such inhumane actions was similar to today. Those people were said to take jobs away and they were a drain on the amount of relief available to the unemployed. The policy imposed by local authorities was to simply throw them out.

Niceties back then weren't observed.

All people of Mexican descent, including those with papers, were painted the same way. This further marginalized them, leading to a public presumption all were less than full citizens. That was exploited politically through civil and voting rights denials. Hence, another chapter of this infamous history.

Then came World War II. Mexico declared war against the Axis powers. Some of its own ships were sunk in the Gulf by Germany. Mexican citizens were encouraged to volunteer for U.S. military service. Our friendly neighbor sent the 201st Expeditionary Air Squadron to fight with General Douglas MacArthur, Mexico helped guard the Pacific coast and sent labor to U.S. farms.

The Bracero farm worker program of 1942 provided Mexican labor to farms and railroads during the war years. Finally, it was discontinued in the 1960s. No longer could market forces regulate how much Mexican labor could come in because the borders had to be secured and people protected from potential troublemakers and Fifth Columnists in the labor movement.

Does this sound familiar?.

Yet more important was the fact that the Mexican government had to accept that so many of their laborers were available because its economic development policies had failed. "Yet, the nation needed dollars to balance its population pressures, and to create new jobs," wrote Leon C. Metz in his authoritative book "Border: The U.S.-Mexico Line."

Well, it's now 43 years since the last "guest" worker program ended in 1964.

The issue today should be why wasn't the surplus labor problem solved long ago?

In the intervening years, Europe and Japan were destroyed and rebuilt with our foresight and dollars. They became model democracies. The European Union found a way to form a common market. By "harmonizing," no member nation was allowed to remain underdeveloped. Today, Ireland and the Mediterranean countries (slackers before) are economic powerhouses.

Meanwhile, the last time the U.S. had an opportunity to help Mexico correct its surplus labor problem was through the North American Free Trade Agreement. However, labor issues were specifically taken off the negotiating table in 1993.

Embarrassingly, the leaders involved in creating NAFTA took pains to tell the public the treaty would solve the immigration issue between Mexico and the United States.

On Feb. 11, Janet Murguía, president of the National Council of La Raza, wrote in the Washington Post the guest worker problem, as part of immigration reform, is not fixed "unless we do what previous reforms did not." But she chose to ignore the past.

George Santayana famously warned, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." The issue is not one for the political class to ignore. And it's not enough for Hispanic leaders just to cheer for the previously-passed Senate bill as a "strong start."

In fact, isn't it time to start looking at the end game, such as a new round of talks and agreements on North American rights of transborder movement, goals for reaching a new standard of living through North American wage equity, education, investment and technology transfer.

Unless it's looked at this way, the guest worker program is just another Washington shell game.

[José de la Isla, author of "The Rise of Hispanic Political Power" (Archer Books, 2003) writes a weekly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service. E-mail joseisla3@yahoo.com]. (c) 2007

La Verdadera Historia Sobre Los Trabajadores Invitados

José de la Isla

HOUSTON - Es asombroso lo poco que aprendemos de los eventos más cercanos a nosotros. Veamos, por ejemplo, cómo entramos en esta situación sobre los trabajadores invitados y cómo el liderazgo hace caso omiso de lo obvio.

Hace un siglo, trabajadores mexicanos cruzaron la prácticamente desconocida frontera para trabajar en la agricultura y las ferroviarias de este país. En aquel entonces, como hoy, teníamos escasez de mano de obra. En aquel entonces, como hoy, algunas empresas estadounidenses realizaban comercio por tierra al sur de la frontera.

Se creó el Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización en 1924 - para detener la entrada de chinos - añadiría yo. La historia y la tradición del movimiento transfronterizo estadounidense-mexicano ya estaban bien establecidas. El ir y venir fluía merced de las fuerzas del mercado.

En el momento de la Gran Depresión y la década de los treinta, se "repatrió" a no se sabe cuántos — decenas, hasta cientos de miles de mexicanos con y sin documentación. Entonces, como ahora, muchas familias quedaron divididas.

La racionalización de tales acciones inhumanas era similar a la de hoy. Aquellas

personas, se decía, quitaban empleo y constituían una carga sobre la cantidad de asistencia disponible para los desempleados. La política impuesta por las autoridades era simplemente botarlos.

No se observaba cortesías en ese tiempo. Todas las personas de ascendencia mexicana, incluyendo a los que tenían documentos, se pintaban con la misma brocha, dejándolos más marginalizados, con lo cual el público suponía que todos eran menos que enteramente ciudadanos. Esta imagen se explotó políticamente al denegarles los derechos civiles y del voto. He ahí, otro capítulo de esta infame historia.

Entonces llegó la segunda guerra mundial. México les declaró la guerra a las fuerzas del Eje. Algunas de sus propias naves las hundió Alemania en el Golfo. Se animó a los ciudadanos mexicanos a alistarse en las fuerzas militares de los Estados Unidos. Nuestro amistoso vecino mandó el escuadrón aéreo de expedición 201 a pelear con el general Douglas MacArthur. México ayudó a vigilar la costa del Pacífico y mandó mano de obra a los cultivos estadounidenses.

El programa campesino llamado Bracero, de 1942, suministró mano de obra mexicana a cultivos y ferroviarias durante los años de guerra. Se descontinuó finalmente, en los 1960. Ya las fuerzas del mercado no podían

regular cuántos trabajadores mexicanos podían entrar en los Estados Unidos, porque había que asegurar las fronteras y proteger a la gente de potenciales perturbadores y quinta columnistas del movimiento laboral.

¿Suena conocido? Hasta más importa

Hasta más importante fue el hecho que el gobierno mexicano tuviera que aceptar que tenía tantos trabajadores dispuestos a salir del país porque sus políticas de desarrollo económico habían fracasado. "Sin embargo, la nación requería dólares para equilibrar sus presiones de población y crear nuevos empleos", escribió Leon C. Metz en su libro, "Border: The U.S.-Mexico Line".

Bueno, pues ahora han pasado 43 años desde que terminó el último programa de "trabajadores invitados" en 1964. El tema de hoy tendría que ser, ¿por qué no se resolvió hace ya mucho tiempo el problema de exceso de mano de obra?

A través de los años, se destruyó y se reconstruyó a Europa y al Japón con nuestra visión y nuestros dólares. Se convirtieron en democracias modelo. La Unión Europea halló cómo formar un mercado común. Al "armonizar", no se permitía que ninguna nación miembro se quede en el subdesarrollo. Hoy, Irlanda y los países del Mediterráneo (atrasados antes)

son potencias económicas. (Sigue a la pagina 5)

COMMUNITY VOICES

Supporting Investment of inner city Lubbock

I have long supported the idea of investment and re-development of the inner-city of Lubbock, and with the recent past developments only going farther and farther out into the cotton fields it is only a matter of time before we see the sort of private sector investment and re-development many have long sought.

It is unfortunate that there has not been this sort of investment from the city (or county for that matter) in terms of vision and strategic partnership previously.

In general, I think any improvements to the downtown will have linkages to North Lubbock and vice-verse-geographically the two areas are simply so close that added attractions and increased quality of opportunity and life issues will naturally feed off one another.

If I were asked, my suggestion would be to look at greater population density issues and how to make these areas attractive for decades to come, and how to best assist those residents that might be adversely affected by such developments.

Todd Klein

Both Project Could Be Combined

I think both projects should be combined or considered together. I think that Lubbock needs to start thinking big and create a River walk, like San Antonio, that would lead to N. University and end at the prospective Mercado. Private businesses and hotels could be built along the walk; also expanding the Civic Center to accommodate large numbers of people, so that it can be used for conferences, sports events, concerts, etc. I think if we start thinking big the people in the community, state, nation and even International will recognize that and bring their business to Lubbock. We could be known as the city with the greatest and longest River Walk in the State.

Frank Silvas

Diversity Bidal, I hope you're doing well after your transplant.

I'm not Hispanic but strongly support a first-class Mercado on North University. I believe near the Hispanic Cultural Center would be a good location.

We should all give our input for downtown and should celebrate, not separate, our diversity. Enjoy life,

Phil Price, President - The Price Group

Combined Sounds Good

It seems to me that combining these efforts would be a great strategy in getting non-Hispanics involved in a Hispanic project. So I say the Mercado should be part of how the downtown is developed.

Yvonne M. Caldera, Ph.D. - Associate Professor **Both would benefit City**

Both projects would benefit the city, but in such different ways and at such different scales of cost that to link them financially in a bond issue, for instance, would probably mean that neither would come to pass, and in the case of the Mercado, especially, that would be a real shame. To renew downtown Lubbock will require tremendous commitment and investment dollars on the part of private real estate owners to bring buildings designed for horse and buggy days up to modern standards. It will require a huge public investment of tax dollars to replace outdated water and sewer mains. It has been tried and never fully realized in the past, because it is such a huge and complex undertaking, and it is a never-ending task. Moreover, unlike the North Overton neighborhood, it is not likely to be leveled any time soon to create a blank slate.

The Mercado, on the other hand, is a fresh, new idea for Lubbock. I believe it should be given precedence over a re-run of trying to fix the downtown area. The Mercado project will give expression to the cosmopolitan spirit that has been growing underground for years, and rightfully accompanies an institution of higher learning like Texas Tech University. It will provide something that the city lacks - a vibrant public space where people of all walks of life can come together to interact and enjoy a diversity of goods and entertainment. The Mercado, although a significant public investment, can be expected to reap rewards for the city and the region into the future, and at much less expense than it will take to modernize the downtown area.

Susan Barrick First of all, we must be careful not to compare apples to oranges.

Downtown does need reinvigoration; however the Mercado project, an original concept developed by Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez, is riding on the momentum of other projects supported by the voters: Gateway Project - \$750K, Façade Project - \$50K, Fiesta Plaza - \$1 Million and Vaquero Lakes; to restore and build up north University Avenue. The Mercado would reside from 4th St to the Clovis Highway along University Avenue. The Mercado would complement the new shopping center and strip mall that serves the Texas Tech community that resides between Broadway and 4th St along University. The Mercado would be modeled after the Mercado in San Antonio and would be the center of Shopping, Tourism, Hotels, Restaurants, Theater and Culture, Paseos, Entertainment, Open-Air Plaza, Holiday Happenings, and a Parade Route. The benefits of the Mercado would be 1. Increase property value, 2. End exodus of people in north Lubbock, 3. End urban decay, 4. End vacant lot problem, 5. Create new jobs, 6. Attract new business, 7. Retain current jobs 8. Expansion of existing jobs, 9. Develop north Lubbock with a Sabor Hispano atmosphere that it currently lacks.

The Mercado project supports north Lubbock by giving it the help it needs to develop into a financially independent district because of the close proximity of businesses, people, shopping centers, and Texas Tech. Downtown Lubbock on the other hand is an empty shell with little to do with the people Lubbock and more to do with the wealthy business owners and city government that reside in its buildings. There are notable Hispanic businesses in the downtown district like Jimenez bakery and La Famosa; however these businesses do not contribute to the economic well being of Lubbock on the scale the Mercado would provide for north Lubbock Hispanics. But let me emphasize that Jimenez empanadas are the best in the world! Muy delicioso!

Please don't think I am putting downtown Lubbock down, on the contrary I would like to see it transformed just like the Mercado will do for north Lubbock. If downtown Lubbock were revitalized, then a whole new set of problems would arise such as parking, more law enforcement, and bigger city government. That's what we all need...bigger government. Yeah, right. The city of Lubbock could have revitalized downtown years ago if they were enforcing codes on downtown buildings instead of private residences in the Arnett Benson neighborhood. The city of Lubbock should enact tax forgiveness to owners of derelict buildings so that these buildings can get back to work. Also, a tax free and car free zone should be created in downtown Lubbock so that people can benefit from the savings and have an open-air walking mall enjoyed by people who live in bigger cities. Businesses would be scrambling over each other just to reside in a building downtown. Of course, if you wish to enjoy a world class open-air mall in Lubbock, the first one will be the Mercado. After the Mercado is created, we should concentrate on downtown Lubbock only if it helps all of the people of Lubbock, not only the wealthy business owners.

Jerry Perez, M.B.A.

LETTERS TO THE

Send your letter to eleditoreditorial@ sbcglobal.net



Dear Bidal,

Welcome home from the hospital!!

Así son las cosas. There are people in this community that work and work and work and receive little recognition.

These people work hard and accomplish great things, and they really do not need or want recognition but strive for progress for our "PUEBLO". Our Commissioner YSIDRO GUTIERREZ is one of those persons.

Recently, Commissioner Gutierrez came to the immediate aid of a disabled, elderly couple living close to Idalou, Texas. They had no heat in the home during the last hard cold. They might have died had Commissioner Gutierrez not intervened.

He did it without fanfare and with a helping heart. Helping those ancianitos was his only motive.

Commissioner Gutierrez is that kind of person. And, just a few weeks ago there was a ground breaking ceremony for a brand new Dairy Company close to Idalou, Texas, that will go into operation with an EIGHT MILLION dollar impact on this community. Ysidro Gutierrez is the ONE person that researched, solicited, and brokered the Dairy Company project into reality.

WHAT I am really looking forward to is the FIRST PUBLIC HEARING about the NORTH UNIVERSITY MERCADO PROJECT on North University that will be held on February 19, 2007,7pm at Cavazos JHS. Ysidros Gutierrez was the FIRST to introduce THE NORTH UNIVERSITY MERCADO PROJ-ECT when he was a member of the City of Lubbock, Citizens Advisory Committee in 2003. The Committee approved his idea and allocated \$780,000.00

for the project. The City of LUbbock City Council placed this idea on the City Bond Package which was approved by the voters in February 2004. Plus, during his cam-

paign he took time to nourish and further cultivate his idea. Commissioner Gutierrez also made a video of the MERCADO PROJECT and presented it to the City Manager and his staff. It has been one year since Mayor David Miller has seen this power point presentation. Now, finally, there is a Public Hearing about this great idea that will benefit NUESTRO PUEB-LO-GENTE!!

I will certainly be at the hearing and urge everyone that wants the North

Side to progress to be there. ADELANTE YSIDRO GUTIERREZ!!!!

All the best, Armando Gonzales M.Ed./TTU On the Internet -www. eleditor.com

Free Speech: "Isn't Decided by Opinion

"As Americans we are taught from childhood that being American means

having the right to say what you want to say. Freedom of speech isn't decided by opinion or debate. I don't imagine that there are too many Americans who would disagree with the

above quote. From the time we are old enough to learn about American history we find out that freedom of speech is a right that is protected by the Constitution of the United States. In fact the first amendment to the constitution reads:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances".

That we all have a right to say what we please, with a few exceptions; like yelling fire in a crowded theater when there is none, is an idea that most Americans embrace. Until that is, someone says something that we don't agree with.

Then it's "Katy bar the door, hide the women and children, cause all hell is about to break loose".

I suppose it's just human nature to feel that way; someone says something we don't like; someone says something that hits close to home and all of a sudden their freedom of speech doesn't seem so automatic; so American anymore: rather it seems un-American.

This is especially true in politics and religion.

In certain situations, we tend to lash out at the person contradicting our stance and in our eagerness to make our case we end up not giving a damn about freedom of speech. And by the time we're through, we are demanding that the other person apologize for having exercised their most important and fundamental freedom.

After we exact our revenge, we then go about our daily lives; celebrating the fact that we are Americans and as such we enjoy more freedoms than the rest of the entire world.

And therein lies the true contradiction. How can we profess to whole heartedly believe in freedom of speech, yet condemn those who exercise their right to express their opinion?

Is it because it's our way or the highway? Is it because we place a greater priority on being right than defending a person's rights? Or is it that we only believe in freedom of speech when it doesn't contradict with our own beliefs?

Whatever the reason, we should not forget that one of the reasons we enjoy the freedoms that we do today is because at different times in our American history, someone had the courage to stand up and express their opposing views. In fact, most of the progress we have made as a country has come as a result of a debate or difference of opinion which ultimately has led to compromises.

That's one of the greatest characteristics we as Americans posses. It has been said that "you can only protect your liberties in this world by protecting the other man's freedom". I couldn't agree more.

Because until we place as much importance on another person's right to express his or her views as we do on our own beliefs, we cannot with a clear conscience say that we truly value the most basic right of our American way of life.

If we insist on exacting revenge until we get it; the results just may leave a bitter taste in our mouths.

But, if we can embrace and live by those 30 simple but true words cited at the beginning of this column; even when we disagree with what's being said, then we will be making sure that our own freedom of speech is protected.

Because until we do, the words "with liberty and justice for all" will just be words on a piece of paper and they will ring as hollow as our belief in freedom of speech.

Until we see the day when we defend the rights of others to freely express their opinions instead of seeking retribution or vengeance, we cannot continue to say that freedom of speech is one of the cornerstones of our constitution.

Because until we do, we should expect that one day, sooner or later, the chicks will come home to roost.

By the way; the above quote about freedom of speech not being decided by debate or opinion: Natalie Maines; lead singer for the Dixie Chicks, December 2006.

"If all mankind minus one were of one opinion, and only one person (was) of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person than he, if he had the power, would be justified in silencing mankind." - Author Unknown

Latinos Look for Changes in Bush Budget

By Alex Meneses Miyashita While Hispanics active in Washington claim that President Bush's proposed \$2.9 trillion FY 2008 budget largely neglects the needs of their community, they hold out hope for some critical changes.

Unveiled Feb. 6, the Bush proposal reduces funding or eliminates programs in areas such as education, health and labor which Hispanic advocates claim are essential in addressing community needs.

Among the quickest to react was Sen. Robert Menéndez (D-N.J.). "Fortunately, we're not stuck with President Bush's horrible first draft," he

Raúl González, legislative director for the National Council of La Raza, told Hispanic Link News Service that because the President's priorities are not shared by the new Congress, he anticipates some major revisions.

NCLR had sent a letter to Bush in December outlining areas where it considered social funding to be a priority. It called for better access to education, health care and homeownership, plus programs to improve job skills, help immigrants integrate, and to enhance the Latino community's financial knowledge. It also suggested a few tax policy changes.

Gabriela Lemus, director of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, added to Hispanic Link the caution that the new Democratic majority is not that big "so they really need to come to some sort of bipartisan agreement." Menéndez listed programs vital to his state's low-income residents, including educational

access, health coverage, heating assistance and

housing revitalization. The budget includes only small increases in funding for housing counseling and community health centers, but nothing beyond that, according to NCLR's González.

"There were lots of ways that the President could

have used the budget to invest in the Latino community," González said. "The President is really doing nothing to create a Latino middle class."

Objections raised by NCLR and other groups include the elimination of educational programs involving parents and no additional funding to address the growing number of limited-Englishproficient students.

The LCLAA emphasized its concern over a \$695 million trim from job training programs, including cuts to the Workforce Investment Act, which it says would impact some 1.2 million Hispanics searching for jobs.

The organization also expressed dismay with proposed cuts of \$2.1 billion in education and the elimination of as many as 42 programs that largely benefit Latinos.

by \$105 billion over 10 years and Medicaid by \$17 billion. Some 13.7 million Latinos lack health insurance, according to the LCLAA.

The Senate's lone Latino Republican, Mel Martínez (Fla.), praised the budget, claiming among its virtues that it "calls for funds to address the lack of health insurance among our poorest and most vulnerable populations."

However, he added, "I will work to modify the President's request so that we can target a tax credit to those who wish to obtain, but cannot afford health insurance."

The budget would add \$5 billion over five years to the State Children's Health Insurance Program, but analysts maintain it's not nearly enough to cover families who need it.

In the area of health, Medicare would be slashed HOW BUSH'S PROPOSED BUDGET IMPACTS HISPANICS

Following is the National Council of La Raza's preliminary analysis of the Bush budget's impact on Hispanics:

EDUCATION: It offers no increase in funding for the growing population of English language learners, nearly 80% of whom are Hispanic. It eliminates \$39 million a year in parental assistance and family information centers. The Even Start family literacy program, currently serving nearly 25,000 Latino families, would be eliminated. Head Start, which has seen a 10% decline in funding since 2005, remains at its current \$6.7 million.

HEALTH CARE: Medicaid funding is trimmed by \$11 billion over five years. It excludes families with incomes above 200% of poverty from the State Children's Health Insurance Program. These cuts worsen the health insurance crisis among Hispanics, which currently affects nearly a third of the community. NCLR calls for all legal immigrants to be included in Medicaid and SCHIP programs. FOOD STAMPS: Benefit cuts by \$611 million over five years affect some 300,000 families.

NCLR calls for all legal immigrants to be included in the food stamp program. LABOR: The budget eliminates funding for the National Farmworker Jobs Program, and of-

fers no funding to help limited-English-proficient workers in areas such as skills training. HOUSING: The Community Development Block Grant program is cut by more than \$1 billion from FY 2006, and there is no funding increase for the Fair Housing Assistance or Fair Housing Initiatives programs. Although the budget increases housing counseling programs funding, NCLR concludes that overall the budget will not help increase Latino homeownership

IMMIGRATION: Funding for English language acquisition and civics education remains at \$68 million, which NCLR claims is not enough to attain immigrant integration into society.

Latinos Buscan Cambios con el Presupuesto de Bush

Alex Meneses Miyashita

Hispanic Link News Service

Mientras que los hispanos activos en Washington declaran que el presupuesto para el año fiscal 2008 que propone el presidente Bush, de \$2,9 trillones, en gran parte hace caso omiso de las necesidades de su comunidad, siguen esperanzados que haya cambios críticos.

Revelado el 6 de febrero, la propuesta de Bush recorta fondos o elimina programas en los ámbitos de la educación, salud y trabajo, los que los defensores hispanos afirman son esenciales para resolver las necesidades comunitarias.

Entre los más prontos en responder fue el senador demócrata por Nueva Jersey, Robert Menéndez. "Por fortuna, no estamos atados al horrible primer borrador del presidente Bush", dijo.

Raúl González, director legislativo del Consejo Nacional de la Raza (NCLR), le dijo a Hispanic Link News Service que como el nuevo Congreso no comparte las prioridades del presidente, él anticipa que habrá grandes revisiones.

NCLR le había enviado una carta en diciembre a Bush, esbozando las áreas en las que consideraba ser una prioridad la financiación social. Invocó mayor acceso a la educación, servicios médicos, y propiedad, más programas de capacitación laboral, de integración de inmigrantes, y de enseñanza en temas de conocimiento financiero para la comunidad latina. También recomendó unos cuantos cambios en la política impositiva.

Gabriela Lemus, directora del Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), agregó a Hispanic Link la necesidad de tener cautela, ya que la nueva mayoría demócrata no es tan grande, "por lo que de verdad deben llegar a algún tipo de acuerdo bipartito".

Menéndez enumeró los programas vitales a los residentes de bajos ingresos de su estado, incluyendo el acceso a la educación, cobertura médica, ayuda con la calefacción y revitalización de viviendas. El presupuesto incluye sólo pequeños

comunitarios, pero aparte no hay más, de acuerdo con González, de NCLR. "Había muchas formas en que el presidente hubiera podido usar el presupuesto para

invertir en la comunidad latina", comentó

aumentos en la financiación de programas

de consejería de vivienda y centros de salud

González. "El presidente, en realidad, no hace nada por crear una clase media latina".

Objeciones de NCLR y de otros grupos incluyen la eliminación de programas educativos de participación de los padres, y la eliminación de fondos para responder al número creciente de estudiantes que no dominan el inglés.

El LCLAA enfatizó su preocupación por un recorte de \$695 millones para programas de capacitación laboral, incluyendo los recortes al Workforce Development Act (ley de desarrollo de la fuerza laboral), que reporta que tendrá un impacto sobre unos 1,2 millones de hispanos en busca de empleo.

La organización también expresó consternación con los propuestos recortes de \$2,1 mil millones en la educación, y la eliminación de hasta 42 programas de beneficio mayormente a los latinos.

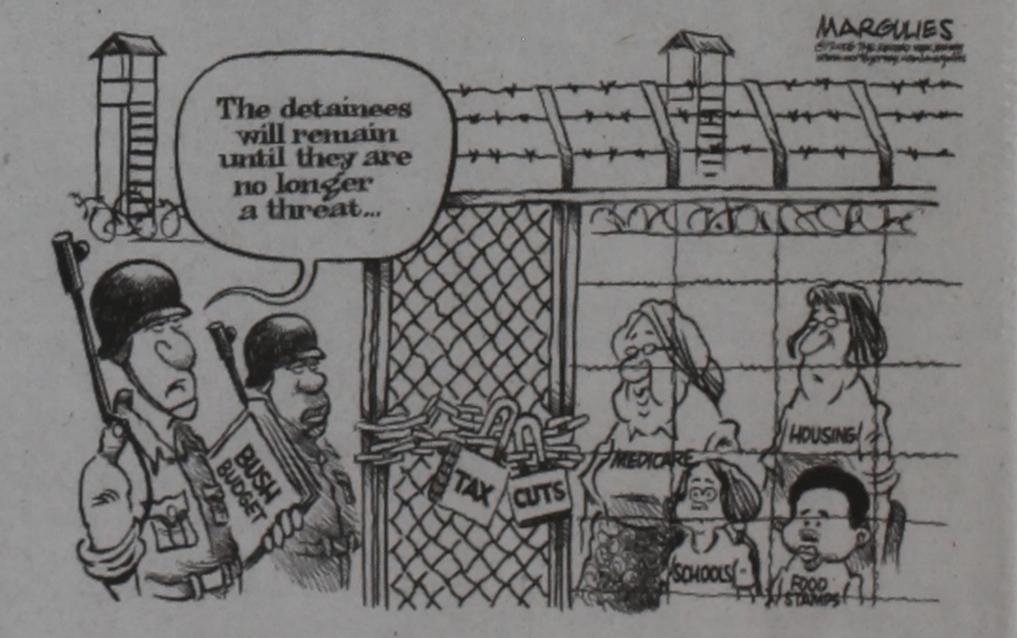
En el área de la salud, se recortaría a Medicare en \$105 mil millones en un plazo de 10 años, y a Medicaid en \$17 mil millones. Unos 13,7 millones de latinos no tienen seguro médico, según LCLAA.

El solo latino republicano del Senado, Mel Martínez (Florida), elogió el presupuesto, enfatizando entre sus virtudes el que "invoque financiación para responder a la carencia de seguro médico entre nuestras poblaciones más pobres y vulnerables".

No obstante, añadió, "Me empeñaré en modificar la petición del presidente para poder dar enfoque en un crédito impositivo para los que quisieran obtener, pero que no alcanzan pagar, seguro médico".

El presupuesto agregaría \$5 mil millones en un plazo de 5 años al State Children's Insurance Program (programa estatal de seguro para los niños), pero mantienen los analistas que no llega a cubrir a las familias que lo necesitan.

(Alex Meneses Miyashita es editor de Hispanic Link Weekly Report en Washington, D.C. Comuníquese con él a: Alex@HispanicLink.org). (c) 2007



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Publisher Bidal Aguero

Sugar Shane takes decision vs. Collazo

LAS VEGAS -- Shane Mosley didn't just take off a few pounds to fight Luis Collazo. It seemed as if he took a few years off the clock, too.

Looking a lot like the fighter he was when he ruled the lightweight division a decade ago, the 35-year-old Mosley dominated against a tough southpaw Saturday night on his way to a lopsided decision win.

Mosley knocked Collazo down in the 11th round of the welterweight title

eliminator, but it was his quickness that won the fight much the way he won most of his fights before moving up in weight

The NBA is taking its All-Star

game to Las Vegas this week. I'd

put \$10,000 on the league surviv-

What? Nobody will take that

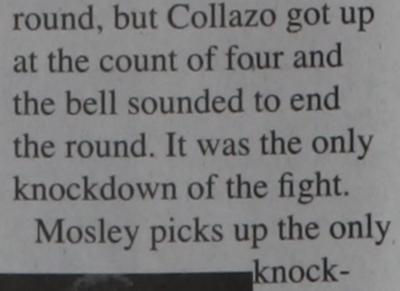
like to place the first wager. I'll

ing until next week.

to 154 pounds.

"I knew I was faster than him and could hit him with the quick jabs,"

Mosley said. "By the third round I knew I



down in the fight vs. Collazo. Collazo fought gamely, but Mosley's superior speed and experience proved too much in a fight

> ing from the opening bell despite being relatively one-sided. Collazo was still fighting hard when the fight ended, as Mosley pursued him,

trying for a final round knockout.

Two judges had Mosley winning 118-109, while the third had it 119-108.

The Associated Press had Mosley winning 117-110.

Collazo said he hurt his left hand in training and again in the third round, and wasn't able to use it effectively.

"I wish I could have been more effective," he said. "But that was the best I could do."

Mosley, coming off of two wins over Fernando Vargas that seemed to re-energize his career, was a 3-1 favorite against the heavily tattooed

Collazo, who held a piece of the welterweight title before losing it last May to Ricky Hatton.

Mosley moved down in weight to 147 pounds after spending much of the last five years fighting at

bling websites and incredible

money at stake for bookies, it is

quite likely that games have been

fixed in recent years and we just

don't know about it.If anything,

leagues need to take a more ag-

gressive stance toward gambling.

They can start by show-

has changed. It is easy to paint

Vegas as the big, bad threat to

Casinos are usually owned by

sports. But this is 2007, not 1977.

major corporations, not mobsters.

Las Vegas is not an outlaw desert

town - it is a thriving metropoli-

tan area with a thriving entertain-

ment industry.

ing that they know the world

154 pounds. He predicted he would be quicker and he was, jumping inside Collazo's long reach to beat him to the punch with regularity.

"It feels good to be a welterweight again," Mosley said.

The win could make Mosley a welterweight champion once again because the WBC billed it as an eliminator to the title held by Floyd Mayweather Jr. When Mayweather vacates the title to fight Oscar De La Hoya on May 5, it will revert to Mosley.

Mayweather was at ringside, and grudgingly gave Mosley some praise.

"He's pretty good at what he does," Mayweather said. "I respect what he does."

Collazo's strategy was to fight from the outside and use his right jab to keep Mosley away and pile up points. But Mosley was able to use feints to get his way inside early and often, and by the second round was smiling during exchanges with his far less experienced opponent.

Mosley raised his right hand in triumph as the second round ended, confident the fight was already his. The confidence was shared in the corner by Jack Mosley, his father and trainer.

"He's got nothing more than the guys you spared

with, in fact he's got less," Jack Mosley told his son after the second round.

Collazo did have more, coming back to win a few rounds in the middle of the fight and landing a couple of big left hands to Mosley's head. But

Mosley was simply too fast, too strong and too experienced for the Brooklyn fighter.

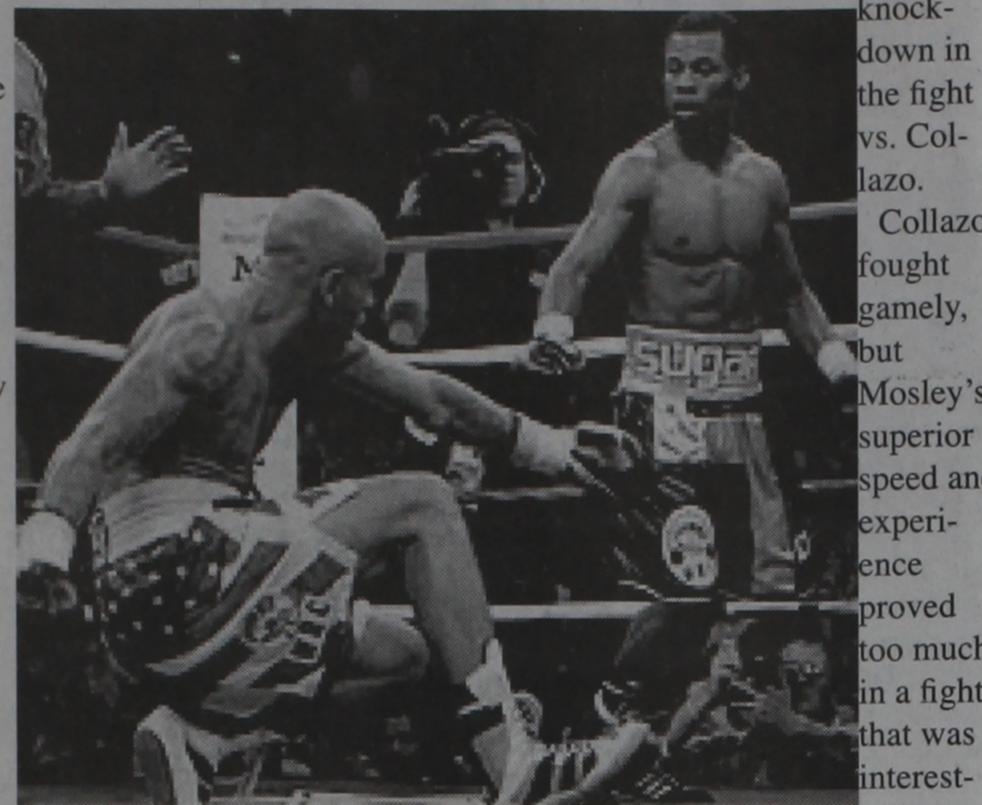
Ringside punch statistics showed Mosley landing 200 of 601 punches to 87 of 639 for Collazo.

In another fight, Vivian Harris closed fast to win a narrow but unanimous 12round decision over Juan Lazcano in a 140-pound bout.

Harris was even on two scorecards and behind on a third entering the final round of the fight, but won the round on all three judges' scorecards while Lazcano also had a point taken from him for low blows.

After a slow first round, both fighters were active the rest of the fight, which was billed as an eliminator with the winner getting a shot at the WBC title. But there were no knockdowns and neither fighter ever appeared in any danger of going down.

Harris, also from Brooklyn, was credited with landing 214 of 750 punches, while Lazcano, of Sacramento, landed 141 of 670.



would be able to hit him with different shots."

Mosley knocked Collazo down with a short right hand late in the 11th

Modern Vegas no threat to pro sports not fixed. If games are fixed, why

> watch? I get all that. What I do not understand is why, in 2007, people think a pro team in Vegas is more susceptible to a gambling scandal

over after this weekend, but the NBA may be back in Las Vegas with a permanent franchise. (Steve Spatafore/NBAE / Getty Images)

Think about that for a second.



action? BlogJam ...

The NBA All-Star game could be just the beginning for Sin City. It seems as if resistance to the idea of putting a pro franchise in Las Vegas is all but gone. But is putting a team in the gambling capital of the country a good idea? Here's your chance to voice

your opinion. Also...Rosenberg: It's not a gamble Kahn: Don't bet against

Vegas Just 15 years ago, the idea of a major sport taking its All-Star game to Sin City would have been absurd. Vegas meant sports gambling, and sports gambling meant Pete Rose, the Chicago Black Sox and CCNY. Well, it is time to change the thinking. Las Vegas deserves a pro sports team. Is there a risk? No more than putting a hockey team in Phoenix. I understand the concerns about a point-shaving scandal. That has always been every league's worst nightmare, and for good reason: it undermines the whole point of the enterprise. We watch the games under the assumption that the games are

than a pro team anywhere else.

If an NBA star wants to gamble, all he needs is an Internet connection.

Gambling websites are easily found - they are conveniently located in places like Costa Rica, away from U.S. authorities, but they are clearly aimed at Americans.

If that NBA star wants a little danger mixed in, he can go to the local mob.

But only a total idiot NBA star would walk into the sports book at the Mirage and wager on NBA games, let alone his own games. Yeah, I know, he can send his buddy to do that for him (if only the NBA star can somehow find a hanger-on to run his chores for him). But at least gambling in Vegas is regulated. That is more than you can say for most of the millions of dollars wagered on sports in America every year. When Arizona State players fixed four games in the 1993-94 season, they were eventually caught partly because Vegas casinos noticed a suspicious gambling

The All-Star festivities will be

This means that if a player tries to fix a game in Las Vegas, he is more likely to get caught there than anywhere else in the

country. Gambling on sports is a com-

plicated issue.

The libertarian in me thinks gambling should be legal everywhere, in principle. Is it really more harmful to society than drinking? I mean, when was the last time you saw somebody killed by a gambling driver?

The pragmatist in me thinks that if you can't gamble everywhere,it might as well be illegal.

The sports fan in me likes to monitor point spreads, but worries about a scandal affecting his games.

The claustrophobe in me thinks there are way too many people in me.

Like I said; it's a complicated issue.

But the old thinking of "Vegas = gambling = avoid at all costs" is way, way too simple.

Look, point-shaving and game-fixing are major threats to professional and college sports. With the proliferation of gam-

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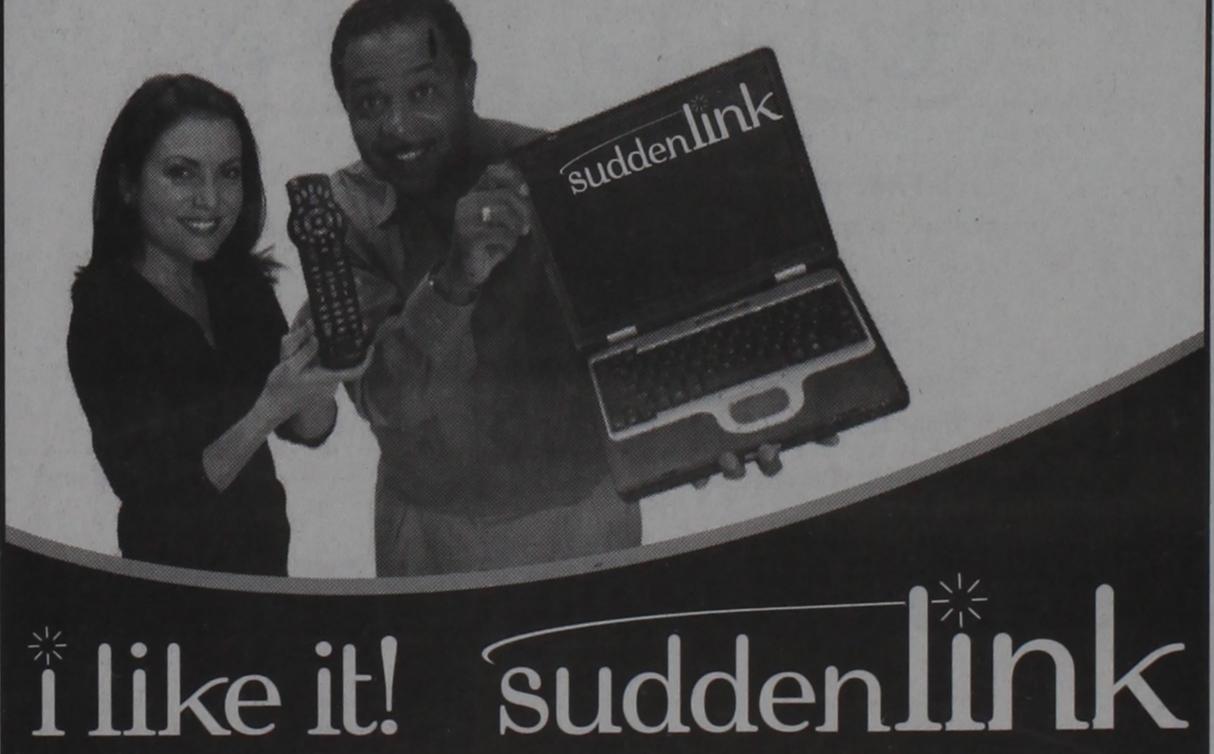
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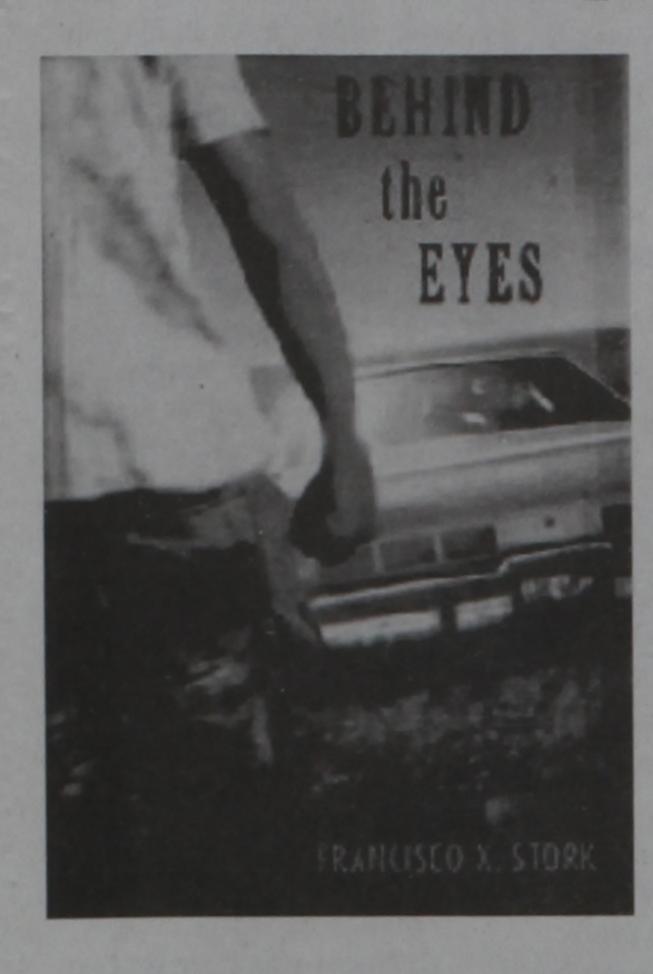


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Former El Pasoan's novel explores the trap of gangs



"Behind the Eyes" by Francisco X. Stork (Dutton, \$16.99 hardcover).

"Behind the Eyes" by Francisco X. Stork (Dutton, \$16.99 hardcover) is a young adult novel that explores how an unhealthy environment can lead even a promising youth astray. The story is inspired by the Boston author's upbringing in the projects of El Paso.

Despite the presence of neighborhood gangs, 16-year-old Hector Robles is able to thrive in his studies. That's largely thanks to his protective father and older brother Filiberto, who recognize Hector's potential from an early age. But after their father dies, Filiberto's self-destructive behavior places the entire Robles family in danger.

An attempt to fix the situation by confronting the leader of Los Discípulos gets Filiberto killed, which in turn awakens a latent thirst for violence in Hector. who sets out to avenge his brother's death. "How ironic it seemed," Hector later reflects, "for the same person to be an altar boy and a would-be killer."

Yet it's Hector's clean record that spares him the fate of a juvenile correction facility. Instead, he's sent to Furman in San Antonio,

a rehabilitation program for wayward youths. At Furman, he tries to survive by keeping himself closed off, because "hatred provided courage and strength and, like love, a kind of solace." But he soon

begins to open up to other possibilities, like "mind training with dumbbells."

Feeling superior to the other youths because of his intellect, Hector eventually surrenders to the life lessons offered him by those who made bigger mistakes, like Díaz, a former death-row inmate who teaches weight training at Furman. Even the group knucklehead, Sansón, and Ex-Lax, the resident motor mouth, have a nug-

get of wisdom worth taking. Because Hector comes across like Clint Eastwood, "a man of few words, but burning inside," the center expects the worst when El Topo, a new charge from El Paso, comes to Furman with an apparent axe to grind against Hector. But by now Hector has learned that he's not like his brother, who "never had a purpose in life," and that there's no purpose in death, either. He resolves to use his brain and not his rage to solve his

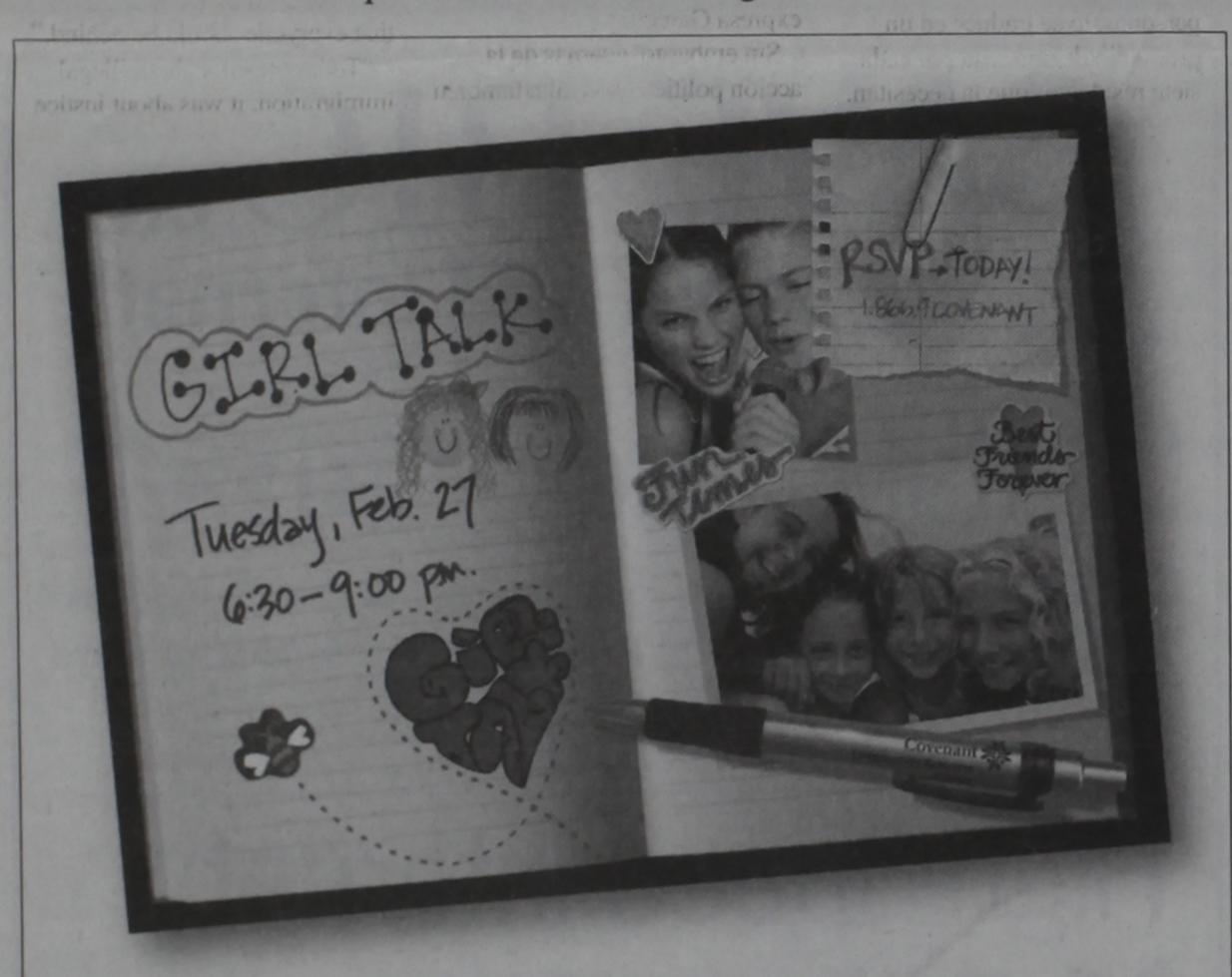
conflict this time around. It's never clear whether El Topo is a minion of Los Discípulos or whether he is simply the newest thug out to prove his power, but El Topo is certainly the challenge Hector needs to test the knowledge he has been learning from his community of unconventional counselors.

"Behind the Eyes" is a fascinating glimpse into the psychology of adolescence. It is forthcoming about the fact that not every youth can be saved by an arrival at consciousness or by a facility like Furman. And though Hector is undoubtedly the hero, readers will also be cheering for the likes of Ex-Lax, whose own sacrifice saves the day.

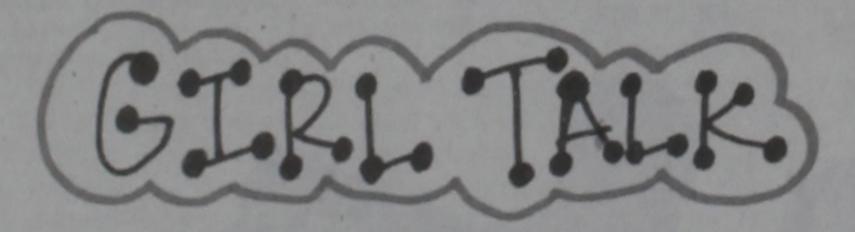
Stork's novel is definitely intended for young men; young women might be disappointed by the incidental roles females have in the book. Nonetheless, this is a solid follow-up to Stork's award-winning debut, "The Way of the Jaguar," and is in good company with Lorraine López's recent novel about youth gangs, "Call Me Henri."

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"My Body's Changing!" - Presented by Ronnelle Burley, M.D.

"Queen Bees and Wanna Bees" - Presented by Kristen Lewis, LISD counselor

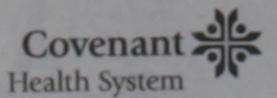
"Being the Best YOU Can Be" - Presented by Crystal Boles, LISD Principal

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GIRL TALK is a free service of Covenant Health System and Lubbock ISD, and a community health education offering of Covenant Women's Hospital and Community Resource Center.

5 Grammys Mark Dixie Chicks' Comeback

The Dixie Chicks defiant comeback five capturing after being shunned establishmusic group's anti-Bush ing up to the Iraq The Texas trio categobiggest record and song of no-regrets anthem Make Nice." They album, country especially ironic consider don't artists country "I'm ready to



completed a on Sunday night, Grammy awards by the country ment over the comments leadinvasion. won all the ries, including the year for the "Not Ready to also won best which was considering they themselves anymore.

make nice!" lead singer Natalie Maines exclaimed as the group accepted the album of the year award. "I think people are using their freedom of speech with all these awards. We get the message."

Mary J. Blige's comeback also was richly rewarded: She received three trophies for her double-platinum album "The Breakthrough." The Red Hot Chili Peppers won four for their double-disc "Stadium Arcadium."

The Dixie Chicks won all five awards they were nominated for, sweet vindication after the superstars' lives were threatened and sales plummeted when Maines criticized President Bush on the eve of the Iraq war in 2003. Almost overnight, one of the most successful groups of any genre was boycotted by Nashville and disappeared from country radio.

With "Taking the Long Way," the women relied on producer Rick Rubin's guidance for an album that was more rock and less country. (Rubin, who also produced "Stadium Arcadium," was honored as producer of the year.)

The standing ovations the Chicks received Sunday illustrated how much the political climate has changed regarding the Iraq war, and even Bush.

"That's interesting," Maines crowed from the podium after the country award was handed out earlier in the night. "Well, to quote the great 'Simpsons' - 'Heh-Heh.'

"Just kidding," added Maines. "A lot of people just turned their TVs off right now. I'm very sorry for that."

Bandmate Emily Robison noted, "We wouldn't have done this album without everything we went through, so we have no regrets."

All the trophies collected by the Dixie Chicks (who shared song of the year honors with songwriter Dan Wilson), Blige and the Chili Peppers contributed to the evening's old-school feel.

The show often derided as The Grannys embraced its baby boomer status as in its 49th year. Maybe the Recording Academy was trying to relieve the industry's glory years - 2006 saw a sharp downturn in record sales, a decline

that seems to grow each year as fans flock to the Internet and even ringtones to experience their tunes. The Grammys tried to tap that new technology with its "My Grammy Moment" contest, in which three unknown singers vied for the chance to perform on stage with Justin Timberlake. Viewers determined the winner by voting on the Internet and text messaging, but the winner's performance was forgettable.

The "Moment" also incorporated a bit of "American Idol" into the telecast. Last year the Fox talent contest crushed the Grammys on a head-to-head Wednesday night. So it was no surprise when the Grammys returned to Sunday this year.

Though the show featured a medley with bright new stars such as John Mayer, John Legend and Corinne Bailey Rae, it relied heavily on the classics: Nominee Lionel Richie sang his '80s hit "Hello" and Smokey Robinson sang the Motown classic "The Tracks of My Tears" in a tribute to R&B. Rock and Roll Hall of Famers The Police, who split in 1984, reunited to kick off the show with their rendition of "Roxanne" - even though they were not nominated for anything.

Soon afterward, Tony Bennett and Stevie Wonder's dueted on a remake of Wonder's "For Once In My Life" beat out two of the year's biggest songs - Nelly Furtado and Timbaland's "Promiscuous" and Shakira and Wyclef Jean's "Hips Don't Lie" - for best pop vocal collaboration.

Even some of the more contemporary artists were relegated to singing songs that weren't their own. Christina Aguilera sang the late James Brown's "It's A Man's Man's World" instead of her own nominated songs, while Carrie Underwood, the newcomer with one of last year's most successful albums, crooned "Desperado" and "San Antonio Rose" instead of her signature tune "Jesus, Take the Wheel," which was nominated for song of the year.

For a while, it seemed as if VH1 Classics had taken over the show's production.

But new artists were celebrated, a bit. Chris Brown injected some hot-footed funk with his "Run It," while Underwood was celebrated as the best new artist. And double winners included youngsters John Mayer, T.I. and Ludacris.

Blige was the overall nominations leader with eight. She won best R&B album for "The Breakthrough," her double-platinum triumph, plus best female R&B performance and R&B song for "Be Without You." A tearful Blige said her album "has not only shown that I am a musician and an artist and a writer, it also shows I am growing into a better human being."

"Tonight we celebrate the better human being because for so many years, I've been talked about negatively," said Blige, who during her 15-year career has often discussed her past substance and self-esteem problems. "But this time I've been talked about positively by so many people."

Julieta Venegas vende más de 730.000 copias de "Limón y sal"

La cantautora mexicana Julieta Venegas no sólo logró esta semana un premio Grammy anglosajón por su más reciente disco "Limón y sal", sino que también ha obtenido ventas de más de 730.000 copias en América y Europa, informó el martes el sello discográfico Sony-BMG.

La empresa dijo que el álbum alcanzó rango de disco de platino en México, España y Argentina y de oro en Estados Unidos, Chile y Colombia, que combinados le han dado la distinción.

No se descarta que las ventas se disparen también en Italia donde la compositora estuvo de gira recientemente. El pasado domingo, Venegas ganó la categoría de mejor álbum pop latino en un raro empate con el guatemalteco Ricardo Arjona, sobre el puertorriqueño Obie Bermúdez ("Lo que el barco nos dejó"), el cubano Fulano ("Individual") y mexicano Marco Antonio Solís ("Trozos de mi alma 2").

"Limón y sal" también le ha valido a Venegas un Latin Grammy y un MTV Latino, entre otras condecoraciones.

Además, competirá por dos premios Lo Nuestro en Miami: artista femenina del año, contra Shakira, Anaís y Laura Pausini; y video del año por el clip de "Me voy", contra el puertorriqueño Don Omar ("Angelito"), Arjona con Intocable ("Mojado"), y los mexicanos Maná ("Labios compartidos"), Belinda ("Ni Freud, ni tu mamá") y Gloria Trevi ("Todos me miran").

"Fue un año muy bonito... Desde que salió 'Limón y sal' en mayo ha sido muy agitado, y bueno, la gira sin parar", dijo en una entrevista reciente con la AP. La semana pasada, Julieta realizó cinco conciertos con boletos agotados en las

ciudades estadounidenses de San Diego, Las Vegas, Palm Springs y Anaheim, se



Siesta en el trabajo reduce problemas cardíacos

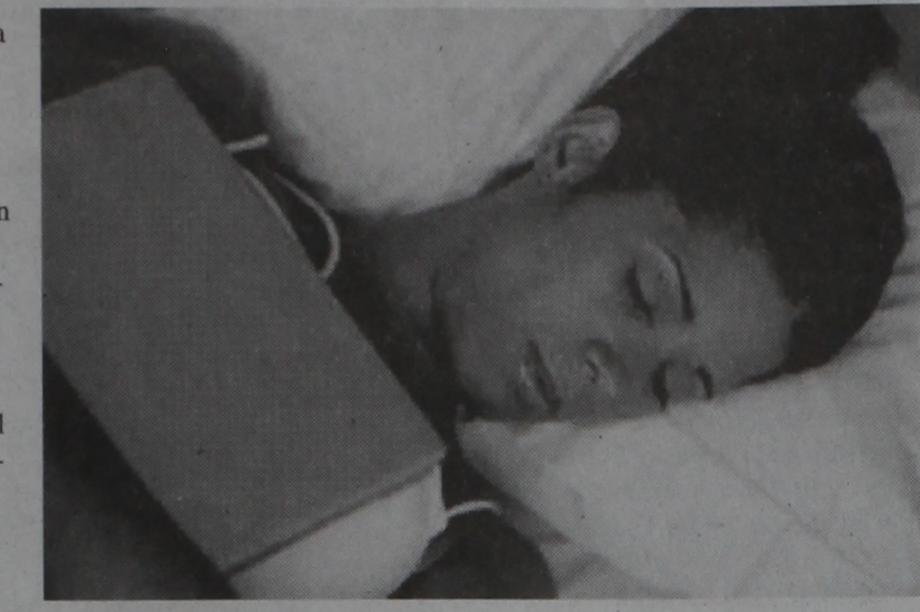
Una nueva investigación señala que una pequeña siesta en el trabajo reduce los riesgos de problemas cardíacos graves, especialmente entre los hombres.

En lo que se considera el estudio más grande sobre los efectos saludables de la siesta, investigadores le siguieron la pista a adultos griegos que se hallaban en buen estado de salud, durante unos seis años como promedio. Aquellos que dormían la siesta por lo menos tres veces a la semana durante alrededor de media hora tenían un 37% menos de posibilidades de morir de ataques al corazón o de otros problemas cardíacos, que quienes no se echaban un sueñito.

La mayoría de los participantes estaban en la cincuentena, y la evidencia más fuerte fue en hombres que trabajaban, de acuerdo al estudio publicado el lunes en la revista especializada Archives of Internal Medicine.

Los investigadores dijeron que la siesta podría beneficiar el corazón al reducir el estrés, puesto que el trabajo es una fuente común de estrés.

Es posible que también las mujeres logran beneficios similares de la siesta, pero no muchas de ellas fallecieron durante el estudio como para estar seguros, informó el doctor Dimitrios Trichopoulos, quien encabezó la investigación y es un experto de la universidad de Harvard y de la Facultad de Medicina de Atenas, en Grecia.



Problemas cardíacos causaron la muerte de 48 mujeres que fueron estudiadas. De ellas, seis estaban empleadas. En el caso de los hombres, 85 murieron de afecciones cardíacas, incluidos 28 que trabajaban.

La siesta forma parte de muchas culturas, aunque no precisamente de la anglosajona. Se la asocia más con países latinos o de la zona del Mediterráneo. También esas regiones parecen tener mejores hábitos alimenticios, incluidos el consumo de frutas, vegetales, granos, aceite de oliva y vino. Los investigadores indicaron que eso contribuiría a tasas más bajas de afecciones coronarias en países de cultura latina, pero querían también saber si la siesta desempeñaba un papel.

"Mi consejo es, si usted puede (dormir la siesta), hágalo. Si usted tiene un sofá en su oficina, y puede descansar, hágalo", señaló Trichopoulos.

Aún así, es posible que los participantes en el estudio, personas sanas de entre 20 y 86 años de edad, al dormir la siesta demostraban "que tomaban un mejor cuidado de sí mismos", y eso también beneficiaría el corazón, dijo el doctor Marvin Wooten, especialista en problemas de sueño, en el hospital Columbia St. Mary's, en Milwaukee.

La persona "que no tiene tiempo para dormir la siesta" es probablemente alguien "que está bajo fuerte presión", y eso podría aumentar el peligro de un ataque al corazón, añadió.

Study: napping might help heart

New research on napping pro-

vides the perfect excuse for office slackers, finding that a little

midday snooze seems to reduce risks for fatal heart problems, especially

among men. In the largest study to date on the health effects of napping, researchers tracked 23,681 healthy Greek adults for an average of about six years. Those who napped at least three times weekly for about half an hour had a 37 percent lower risk of dying from heart attacks or other heart problems than those who did not nap.

Most participants were in their 50s, and the strongest evidence was in working men, according to the study, which appears in Monday's issue of Archives of Internal Medicine.

The researchers said naps might benefit the heart by reducing stress, and jobs are a common source of stress.

It's likely that women reap similar benefits from napping, but not enough of them died during the study to be sure, said Dr. Dimitrios Trichopoulos, the study's senior author and a researcher at Harvard University and the University of Athens Medical School.

Heart problems killed 48 women who were studied, six of them working women, compared with 85 men, including 28 working men.

A daytime siesta has long been part of many cultures, especially those in warmer climates. Mediterranean-style eating habits featuring fruits, vegetables,

beans and olive oil have been credited with contributing to relatively low rates of heart disease in those countries, but the researchers wanted to see if napping also plays

a role.

"My advice is if you can (nap), do it. If you have a sofa in your office, if you can relax, do it," Trichopoulos said.

Exactly how stress is related to heart disease is uncertain. Some researchers think it might be directly involved, through

unhealthy effects of stress hormones, or indirectly by causing people to exercise less, overeat or smoke.

study factored in diet, exercise, smoking and other habits that affect the heart but still found napping seemed to help.

conflicting results. Some suggested napping might increase risk of death, but those mostly involved elderly people whose daytime sleepiness reflected

His research team studied a broader range of people, ages 20 to 86, who were generally

Still, it's possible that study participants who napped "are just people who take better

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care of themselves," which could also benefit the heart, said Dr. Marvin Wooten, a sleep specialist at Columbia St. Mary's Hospital in Milwaukee.

"The guy ... who doesn't take time out for a siesta in their culture is probably the guy who is extremely driven and under a lot of pressure," which could increase heart risks, he said.

Siestas aren't ingrained in U.S. culture, and napping usually is equated with laziness in the highcharging corporate world, said Bill

Anthony, a Boston University psychologist and co-author of "The Art of Napping at

Work." Still, some offices allow on-the-job naps, and many

workers say it makes them more, not less, productive.

Yarde Metals, a metals distributing firm, built a nap room at its Southington,

El mercado cae, pero crisis de la vivienda continúa

Esa es la pregunta que muchos aspirantes a propietarios se hacen en estos días.

"Es erróneo pensar que el problema de la vivienda se está solucionando por el bajón en el mercado", señala Holly Schroeder, directora general de la Asociación de la Industria de la Edificación/Los Ángeles, Ventura.

Esta organización, junto con la Corporación para el Desarrollo Económico del Condado de Los Angeles (LAEDC), hizo público a fina-

les de enero un estudio según el cual sólo en los condados de Los Ángeles y Ventura hay unas 300 mil viviendas menos de las que se necesitan de acuerdo con su población.

Schroeder subraya que se trata de un problema mucho más serio que el de los vaivenes del mercado.

"Es el resultado de ignorar el problema de la vivienda al menos por los últimos 10 años", afirma el experto, que señala que esta política "de avestruz" se ha reforzado con la idea de que la falta de vivienda afecta sólo a los que van llegando a California y no a los demás.

"Sin embargo, el factor de más peso es el aumento interno y natural de la población y no sólo los nuevos inmigrantes, sino los hijos de los que residimos en el estado, los que no tendrán posibilidades de comprar casa si no se hace algo inmediatamente", asegura Schroeder.

El estudio estima que el crecimiento de población en California será de seis millones de personas en las dos décadas comprendidas entre 2000 y 2020.

En los últimos seis años en el condado de Los Ángeles se han construido 201,440 viviendas nuevas, frente a un incremento de población de 1.38 millones personas, lo se traduce en un promedio de una casa por cada siete residentes que la necesitan.

"Tal como vamos la situación sólo va a empeorar", vaticina Jack Kyser, economista en jefe de la LAEDC, quien destaca que este desequilibrio no sólo perjudica a la población, sino también a la economía de la región.

Sin embargo la esperanza no está del todo perdida, siempre y cuando se actúe rápido.

"Yo creo que Villaraigosa

está poniendo mucha energía e resolver o minimizar este problema", opina David Lizárraga, presidente de la Unión Comunitaria del Este de Los Angeles (TELACU).

Lizárraga razona que mientras algunos de los elementos de la "ecuación" del precio de la vivienda —tales como los

costos de materiales de construcción y mano de obra- no son fáciles de reducir, en el valor de la tierra puede encontrarse cierta flexibilidad si existe apoyo político.

"Ahí es crucial que los responsables de los

gobiernos locales y regionales faciliten la disponibilidad de terrenos no utilizados y su conversión en espacios para edificar, cuando de entrada no lo sean", dice Lizárraga.

Eric Garcetti, concejal del distrito 13 de Los Ángeles, señala que en este sentido la proposición H no ganó, pero tampoco perdió.

Garcetti se refiere a la proposición que establecía la emisión de 1,000 millones de dólares en bonos para invertir en vivienda y que, aunque consiguió casi un 63% de votos en las pasadas elecciones, no alcanzó el 66.6% necesario.

"Pero quedó claro que una gran mayoría de nuestros ciudadanos quiere que se dediquen más recursos a la vivienda, y espero que eso tenga efecto en el presupuesto de este año", dice el concejal.

Garcetti explica que el pasado fue un año récord en Los Angeles en cuanto a construcción, con 15 mil viviendas nuevas, y señala que por lo que se está iniciando hasta ahora, este año podría continuar ese ritmo.

"Por ejemplo, el corredor Figueroa, próximo a la Universidad del Sur de California (USC), es una zona en la que hace dos años nadie quería construir y en la que se están haciendo ahora apartamentos y condominios", expresa Garcetti. Sin embargo, además de la

acción política hace falta también cierta concientización ciudadana. "La gente tiene que aceptar una mayor densidad", comenta Schroeder.

Según la Asociación de Gobiernos del Sur de California, gran parte del problema de LA falta de vivienda podría resolverse aumentando la densidad en torno a un 2%, lo que según muchos expertos no se traduciría en un panorama de rascacielos sino en más condominios, viviendas adosa-

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Anti-immigration **Activists Clash With Pro-immigration** Ralliers

Pro- and anti-immigration activists clashed in a rally in downtown Los Angeles on Saturday and no injuries were reported.

The clash occurred as hundreds of anti-immigration activists rallied to seek a presidential pardon for two U.S. Border Patrol agents convicted of shooting an alleged drug smuggler near the Texican border in Texas.

Police arrested two people. The ralliers marched along Hollywood Boulevard to demand that President George W. Bush pardon the two border agents who happen to be Hispanic. Jose Alonso Compean, 30, and Ignacio Ramos, 35, both of El Paso, Texas.

The pair were convicted of assault with a deadly weapon and other counts in the shooting of Osbaldo Aldrete-Davila, who was allegedly trying to smuggle 750 pounds of marijuana across the border in a van on Feb. 17, 2005, when he was spotted by the agents. As he ran back across the border, he was shot in the buttocks.

No weapon was found at the scene and Aldrete-Davila was not caught at the time. The government granted the suspected drug smuggler immunity to testify against the two agents.

Ramos is serving an 11-year sentence, while Compean was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

As the pro-pardon ralliers attempted to get out their message, pro-immigration activists tried to drown them out with drums and chants, calling the ralliers racists and pigs.

Police tried to keep the two groups apart, but couldn't stop some pushing and shoving.

It was not immediately known who was arrested and which side of the issue they were on, said Hollywood Police Officer James Jensen.

Organizers of the march said they took to the streets to raise "awareness that this is an issue that everyone should be behind."

"Today was not about illegal immigration, it was about justice for not only the officers but the families who came here to participate," said organizer David Hernandez.

"Because illegal immigration is such a volatile issue here in Los Angeles, this has become a real rallying point," he said, adding that "These are people that are really out there marching for fairness, justice and the rule of law."



Mavericks Win 8th Straight; Heat Rolling

The Dallas Mavericks used a strong fourth quarter to rally for their eighth straight win. The Miami Heat are rolling, too, and when they return to the court after the All-Star game, coach Pat Riley will be back on the sideline for the first time since Jan. 3.

Dirk Nowitzki had 38 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists, and the Mavs overcame a 16point second-half deficit to pull out a 99-93 victory at Milwaukee on Tuesday night. The Mavericks, with the NBA's best record of 43-9, outscored the Bucks 28-11 in the fourth quarter. Milwaukee self-destructed with six turnovers and failed to hit a field goal in the final 7:05.

"We really scrambled trying to contest shots," Nowitzki said. "We feel like we're a good defensive team, but we have to step it up earlier.

Especially on the road, you don't want a team to get up 16." Dallas took its first lead of the game, 93-92, with 1:04 to play on

Nowitzki's layup after the Mavericks got a third chance with a pair of offensive rebounds.

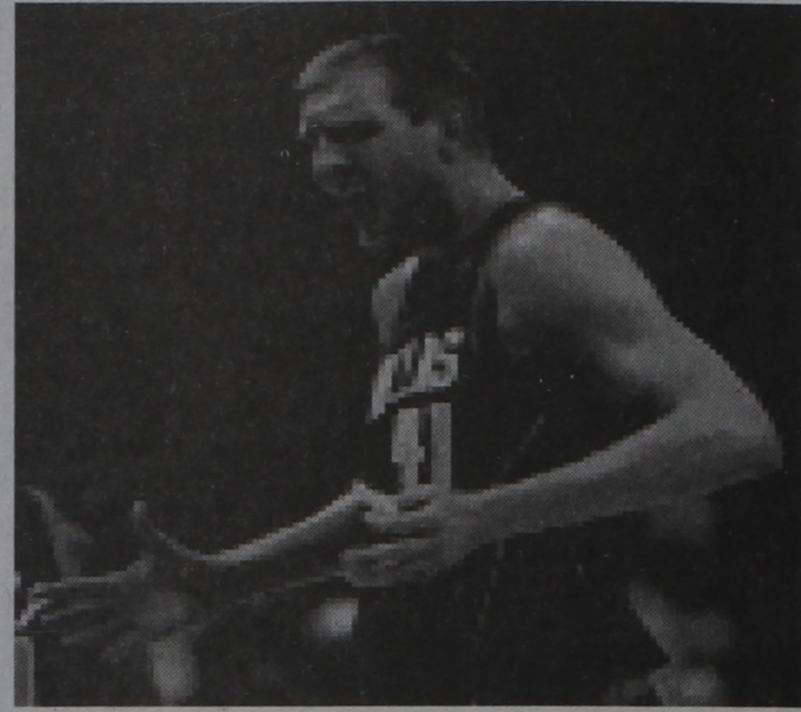
Dwyane Wade shook off a bruised left shoulder to score 16 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter, and Miami beat Portland 104-85 to get back to the .500 mark for the first time in three months.

The NBA champion Heat have won seven of eight to even their record at 26-26 going into the All-Star break. Riley will be back next week after recovering from surgeries on his hip and

knee.

"I'm just glad we won. We've gotten to the point we kept

"Dirk Nowitzki is incredible." Mavericks coach Avery Johnson said.



talking about," said interim coach Ron Rothstein, who went 13-9 as Riley's replacement and helped the team recover from being six games under .500 on Jan. 27. "Now this is our launching pad for after the break."

In other games Tuesday night, it was: San Antonio 107, New Jersey 82; Memphis 108, New Orleans 104; Toronto 112, Chicago 111; Houston 109, Sacramento 104 in overtime; and New York 107, the Los Angeles Lakers 106.

Milwaukee's Ruben Patterson, who finished with 20 points, tied the score 93 by hitting the second of two free throws. But Nowitzki drove and found Jason Terry for a 16-foot jumper that put Dallas ahead 95-93 with 34.9 seconds left.

"Man, sometimes, I get caught watching him, he's so good."

With a chance to tie, the Bucks missed yet another shot when Charlie

Bell, who finished with 11 points, misfired on an 18-footer. The Mavericks got the rebound, and Jerry Stackhouse hit two free throws. Nowitzki added two free throws of his own for the final margin.

Dallas, which has now won

Spurs 107, Nets 82

- Tim Duncan scored seven of his 21 points in a 20-0 San Antonio spurt to start the second quarter and the visiting Spurs took advantage of the absence of Nets All-Star guard Jason Kidd.

Tony Parker added 19 points and Manu Ginobili had 14 as the Spurs avoided tying their season-high three-game losing streak with their third win in eight games.

Vince Carter had 18 points, six rebounds and five assists for the Nets.

29 of its last 31 games, also got 15 points from Josh Howard and 13 points from Stackhouse. Terry also had 10 assists.

Andrew Bogut had 16 points and 17 rebounds for Milwaukee, which has lost seven of its last eight and is 3-18 since Jan. 1.

At Miami, Wade almost

single-handedly decided things with three straight baskets in an 88-second span early in the fourth quarter. The Heat led 73-70 entering the period, and the game was still up for grabs when Juan Dixon hit a 3-pointer with 9:14 left.

However, Wade's three baskets pushed the lead to 85-75 - - the Heat's biggest to that point -- with 7:46 remaining. Miami would lead by as many as 21 in the final minutes.

"He showed why he is one of the best players in the league," Portland's Joel Przybilla said. "He just took over. They showed why they are the world champs."

LULAC Week highlights include membership mixer, awards event

LULAC Week activities this year will began with a Council 263 Membership Mass and Breakfast at Sunday at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

The week's events are all open to the public, according to Alice Lozada, who provides information about the League of United Latin American Citizens meetings. An annual Membership and Professional Night, along with a mixer for those interested in joining LULAC, is scheduled at 7 p.m. Thursday at LULAC Hall, 1304 Ave. O. Staff members, directors and Talent Search counselors also will be honored during the program.

The Bring Out Your Best Awards and Scholarship Banquet is scheduled to begin with cocktails at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Towers, 801 Ave. Q.

Juan Muñoz, education professor and associate vice provost for academic development at Texas Tech, will speak at the banquet.

LULAC plans to present the Community Leader of the Year Award at the banquet, along

with the Member of the Year award, the President's award, the Entrepreneur of the Year award, and the organization also will recognize a 20-year member as the Honor Roll inductee.



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Trabajadores Invitados

Viene de la primera Mientras tanto, la última vez que los EE.UU. tuvo la oportunidad de ayudar a México a corregir su problema de exceso de mano de obra fue mediante el Tratado de Libre Comercio Norteamericano (NAFTA). No obstante, en 1993 se retiró de la mesa de negociaciones específicamente los problemas de mano de obra.

Vergonzosamente, los líderes participantes de la creación de NAFTA se empeñaron en decirle al público que el tratado resolvería el problema de inmigración entre México y los Estados Unidos.

El 11 de febrero, Janet Murguía, presidenta del Consejo Nacional de La Raza, escribió en el Washington Post que el problema de los trabajadores invitados, como parte de la reforma migratoria, no se resolverá "a menos que hagamos lo que anteriores reformas no hicieron". Pero optó por no remontarse al pasado.

George Santayana famosamente advirtió, "Aquellos quienes no pueden recordar el pasado están condenados a repetirlo". El problema no es uno del que puede hacer caso omiso la clase política. Y no es suficiente que los dirigentes hispanos vitoreen simplemente al anteriormente promulgado proyecto de ley del Senado como "un comienzo fuerte".

En realidad, ¿no es hora ya que empecemos a ver el desenlace, como por ejemplo, una nueva ronda de conversaciones y acuerdos sobre los derechos norteamericanos del

movimiento transfronterizo, metas para alcanzar un nuevo nivel de vida mediante igualdad salarial, educación, inversión y transferencia de tecnología norteamericanos?

A menos que así se perciba, el programa de trabajadores invitados es tan solo otro juego vacuo.

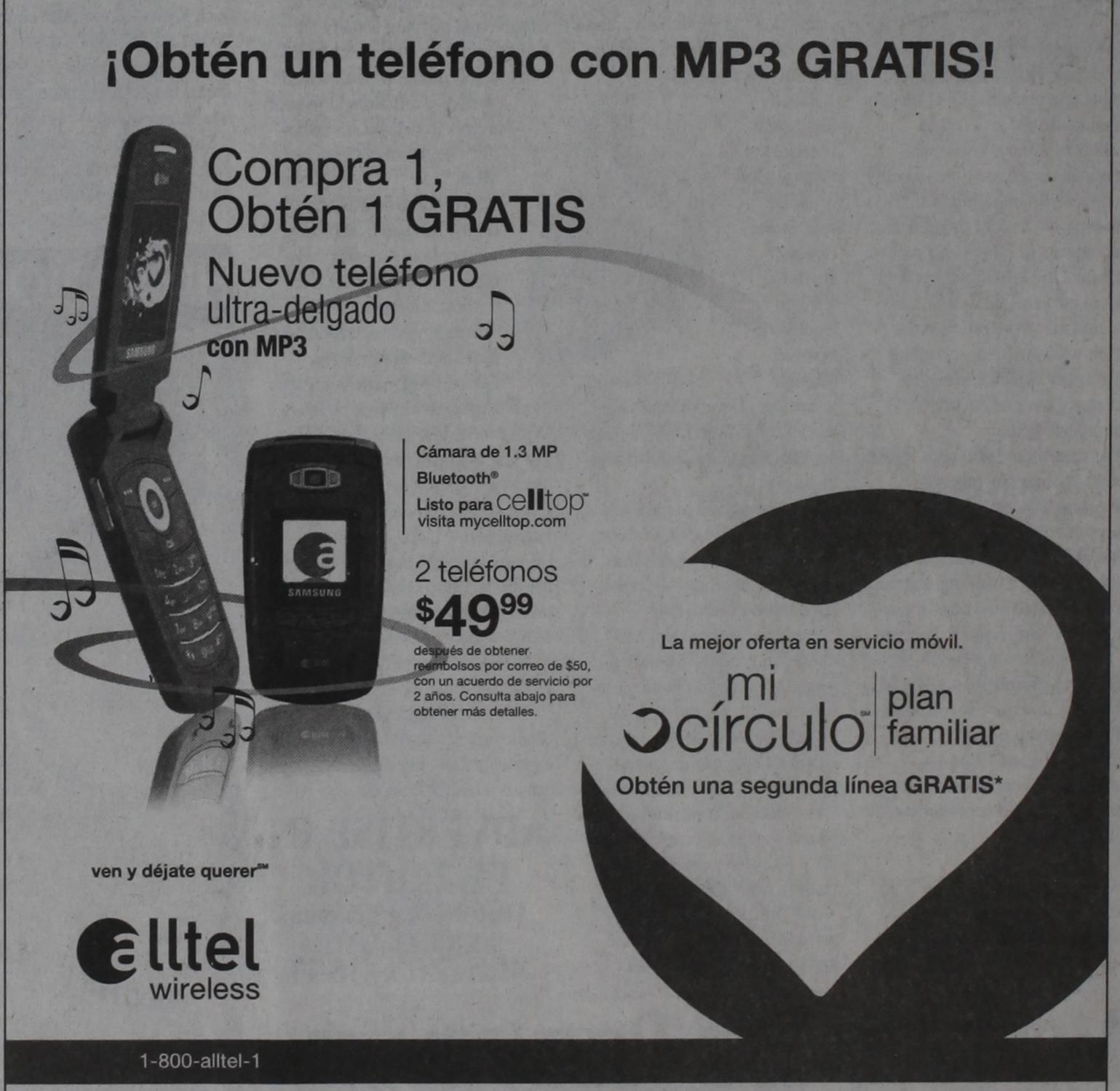
[José de la Isla, autor de "The Rise of Hispanic Political Power" (Archer Books, 2003) redacta un comentario semanal para Hispanic Link News Service. Comuníquese con él a: joseisla3@yahoo.com]. (c) 2007

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