Latino-owned Businesses Holding Their Own by Elbert Garcia

Hispanic-owned businesses in the United

States totaled 1.2 million firms, employed over 1.3 million people and generated \$186.3 billion in revenues in 1997, according to a report released Thursday by the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

According to agency's 1997 Survey of Minority-Owned Business Enterprises: Hispanic, Latino-owned firms made up 6 percent of the 20.8 million non-farm businesses in the nation and 1 percent of the \$18.6 trillion in receipts for all businesses.

However, the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, having just completed their annual Legislative Forums and Banquet in Washington, D.C, believes that those numbers reflect a substantial undercount.

"In 1997, the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) and the U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of the Advocacy reported that there were 1.4 million Hispanic-owned businesses generating nearly \$200 billion in revenues," the organization said in a statement released Thursday.

Although he disagreed with the numbers, Herrera appeared to find no fault with the survey's statistical conclusions about the growing numbers of Latinos who seem to be taking risks and making their dreams of entrepreneurship come true.

"More Hispanics are creating businesses in non-traditional industries such as finance, insurance, real estate, wholesale trade and manufacturing. In addition, Hispanic women who in the last 10 years have created almost 400,000 new businesses drive the surge of Hispanic-owned businesses," he said.

Economic Breakdown

El Respeto al

Respect for

Lic. Benito

Juarez

Vol. XXIIII No. 26

Derecho Ajeno

Others Is Peace

es La Paz.

the Rights of

The data in the report, which presents data for Hispanic-owned businesses by size, type of business, geographic areas (states,

counties, metropolitan areas and places) and specific ethnic groups, was taken from a large sample of non-farm businesses filing tax forms as sole proprietorships, partnerships or any type of corporation, which had receipts of \$1,000 or more in 1997.

According to the data collected, the largest number of Hispanic-owned firms (1 million) were sole proprietorships, which are unincorporated businesses owned by individuals. C corporations, all legally incorporated businesses except for Subchapter S corporations (whose shareholders elect to be taxed as individuals rather than as corporations), numbered 78,500.

However, C corporations, included in the Hispanic portion of the survey for the first time, ranked first in receipts (\$71.8 billion) among all Hispanic-owned firms, the report showed. C corporations were, source of the data, for the first time in 1997.

Four in 10 Hispanic-owned firms were in the service industry and accounted for 21 percent of gross receipts, while wholesale firms accounted for 3 percent of total Hispanicowned firms, but 22 percent of gross receipts.

Four in 10, or 475,300 Hispanic businesses, had receipts of \$10,000 or less; slightly more than 2 in 10, or 273,300 had receipts between \$10,000 and \$25,000; while 26,700, or about 2 percent, had sales of \$1 million or more: Receipts per firm averaged \$155,200 for Hispanic-owned firms compared with \$410,600 for all U.S. firms, excluding publicly held corporations and firms whose owners' race or ethnicity were indeterminate (e.g., mutual companies whose ownership is shared by its members)

The survey data also show that 18 percent, or 211,900, of Hispanic-owned firms had paid employees. These firms accounted for 85 percent of the gross receipts of Hispanic busi-

Geographic and nationality breakdown Four states, California (336,400), Texas (240,400), Florida (193,900) and New York (104,200), accounted for 73 percent of the firms owned by Hispanics. Seven out of 10 Hispanics reside in these four states.

New Mexico had the highest percentage of firms owned by Hispanics (22 percent), with 5 percent of that state's business receipts coming from these businesses. Texas ranked second with 16 percent of the state's firms owned by Hispanics, with Florida a close third 15 percent. In the northeast, New York and New Jersey were sixth and seventh respectively with percentages of 6.5 and 5.9 percent.

Among different nationalities within the Latino Diaspora, Mexicans owned 472,000, or 39 percent of Latino owned businesses, "Hispanic Latin Americans," a write-in category, was second, with 287,300 businesses or 24 percent of Hispanic firms. The "other Hispanic" category ranked third, followed by Cubans and Puerto Ricans.

Support still needed

Although encouraged to see that Hispanic businesses are continuing to enter the global economic mainstream, USHCC stresses that more help is needed to help businesses grow and expand.

"Hispanic entrepreneurs and business owners need access to capital, strategic alliances and partnerships with corporate America, and resources to enhance our efficiency in E-Commerce to help us remain competitive and have more profitable businesses," said Herrera.

The U.S Department of Commerce conducts the Survey of Minority-Owned Business Enterprises as part of the Economic Census, which takes place every five every years in years ending in 2 and 7.

Es Preocupante El Nuevo Calculo De 11 Millones De Indocumentados

Por Cynthia L. Orosco Nuevos cálculos publicados del número de inmigrantes indocumentados -- llegando hasta los 11 millones -- que viven en los Estados Unidos traen a colación nuevas dudas sobre la capacidad de las agencias gubernamentales de constatar la cifra.

Además surgen preguntas sobre la veracidad del cálculo de 11 millones -- o si sirve más bien para asustar, siendo el cálculo el más alto ofrecido en años por los medios nacionales de comunicación -- y sobre las repercusiones para la reforma de la política inmigratoria que pueden resultar.

A la cabeza de la información noticiosa nacional estaban los periódicos The Washington Post y The Los Angeles Times. En informes del 18 de marzo, dieron prominencia a los 11 millones calculados, y apoyaron la veracidad de los números atribuyéndolos a investigadores de la Northeastern University en Boston. Según informaron los dos periódicos, los investigadores hicieron sus cálculos en base a números emitidos por el censo y recopilaciones de datos de empleo y salario federales y de empresas.

En seguida reportaron los diarios que la Oficina del Censo de los Estados Unidos admite que las proyecciones actuales de los números de la población inmigrante indocumentada -- 6 millones -- pueden ser bajas. La Oficina añade que este hecho podría explicar los números iniciales bajos de la población en total. Los oficiales del censo esperaban tener un cuento de 275 millones de habitantes en los Estados Unidos. Este número resultó ser 6.7 millión menos de lo que encontró, y 10 millones menos de lo que proyecta cuando agrega a los que no contó al admitido cálculo bajo.

"Pueden haber de 2.5 a 3 millones de inmigrantes más de los que calculamos, pero no estamos diciendo que éste es el número total de indocumentados. El censo no documenta el estado legal inmigratorio de la persona," aclara John Long, jefe de la división de población del

Estas cifras, sumadas a cálculos corrientes que indican que el número total de inmigrantes que entraron a los Estados Unidos entre los años 1980 y 1990 es de 9.3 a 9.5 millones, podría ser en total de 11.8 a 12 millones,

añade. Según Long, el aumento podría ser resultado de mejoras en la metodología del censo, o de transformaciones en los flujos de inmigración, y el aumento en

otorgaciones de visas tipo H-1B. Informa a Hispanic Link News Service Robert Warren, coordinador para investigaciones de la Oficina de Políticas y Planificaciones del Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización de los Estados Unidos, que las proyecciones de 1996 del Servicio mostraron que la población de indocumentados subiría en 275,000 por año. Si se suma este número a los 3.5 millones reportados ese año, el resultado es de 6 millones. "El número a partir de la fecha del censo 2000 puede ser hasta medio millón más alto,"

añade. Presidente del Consejo Nacional de La Raza, Raúl Yzaguirre dice que la cifra de 11 millones de inmigrantes indocumentados es "una exageración grotesca." Para Izaguirre, el tema más importante en referencia al crecimiento de la comunidad inmigrante -- que él atribuye a mejor metodología por parte del censo y menos migración circulatoria -- debería ser el reestablecimiento del proceso

16. It also would allow undocumented immigrants who have lived and worked in the United States since 1986 to apply to remain here permanently.

Key among advocates for immigration law reform is the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. And U.S. Rep. Luis Gutiérrez (D-Ill.), who chairs its immigration task force. He was a lead LIFA proponent. Gutiérrez's press secretary, Billy Weinberg, also quespor el que personas particulares pueden ajustar su estado como residentes.

"Si nos cegamos con los temas de la supuesta escasez de empleos para nacionales por culpa de inmigrantes y problemas con la economía, podríamos volver al clima de la Gran Depresión en el que los inmigrantes terminan siendo el chivo expiatorio y culpables del desempleo," dice.

También ponen cuidado algunos expertos en la política inmigratoria, la que indican si bien el número verídico de inmigrantes indocumentados podría ser más alto que las proyecciones calcularon, los números nuevos son preliminares y probablemente incluyen a personas que han vivido en los Estados Unidos varios años.

"Los números indican que es necesario reformar las leyes de inmigración para que los trabajadores gocen de los derechos del empleado y no sean explotables," sugiere Angela Kelley, directora asistente del National Immigration Forum, ubicado en Washington, D.C.

Los esfuerzos del Congreso estadounidense en el año 2000 para aprobar el Acta de Justicia para los Latinos e Inmigrantes (LIFA, por sus siglas en inglés) -que habría puesto al día la fecha del registro para determinar eligibilidad de 1972 a 1986 y habría concedido paridad para los que fueron excluidos del Acta de Ajuste Nicaraguense y Alivio Centroamericano -- no logró su propósito cuando el Acta de Inmigración Legal y Equidad para Familias que apoyan los republicanos fue aprobado el 15 de diciembre.

El senador Harry Reid (demócrata de Nevada), quien auspició a LIFA, espera poder incluir algunos de los temas del acta no logrado en su Acta de Registro de Familias que Trabajan, que presentó el 16 de marzo. El acta también permitiría que los inmigrantes indocumentados que hayan vivido desde 1986 en los Estados Unidos soliciten la residencia permanente.

Clave entre los que apoyan la reforma de las leyes de inmigración es el representante Luis Gutiérrez (demócrata de Illinois) del Grupo Congresional Hispano, y jefe del taller de trabajo sobre la inmigración del Grupo. Fue uno de los que más promovió el Acta de Inmigración Legal y Equidad para Familias. El secretario de prensa de Gutiérrez, Billy Weinberg, también cuestiona la base propuesta para la cifra de 11 millones.

"La encuesta la hicieron economistas que estudiaron lo que hacen (los inmigrantes indocumentados) y encontraron que son una fuerza motora para la economía, agrega Weinberg. Es éste aspecto el que se pierde cuando los que están en contra de los inmigrantes circulan tales números para fortalecer el miedo a un crecimiento incontrolable de la población de inmigrantes.

La manera en que el Congreso y la administración Bush decidan tratar el tema de la inmigración durante esta sesión dependerá de lo inestable que se muestre la economía de los Estados Unidos y la percepción pública de cómo nuestra población inmigrante -- en particular el componente indocumentado que por años hemos alentado a venir y hacer los peores trabajos " afecta su comodidad personal.

(Cynthia L. Orosco es corresponsal con Hispanic Link News Service en Washington D.C. Comuniquese con ella por correo electrónico a: cynthia(AT SIGN)hispaniclink.org)(c) 2001, Hispanic Link News Service. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times Syndicate International, de Tribune Media Services

tions the basis for the 11 million

How Congress and the administration handle the issue of immigration this session depends on the shaky state of the U.S. economy and public perceptions about how our immigrant population -- particularly the undocumented component that we have been encouraging for years to come and do our nasty jobs -affects their personal comfort.



Edward Lee Olmos visited Lubbock this past week to speak to the Nationional Association of Hispanic Law Students. Olmos is shown visiting with Tech Students upon his arrival at the Photo by John P. Cervantez-744-1654 Lubbock Airport.

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High Court Tackles Key Affirmative Action Case

Established 1977 - Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspapers

Week of March 29 thru April 4, 2001

By David G. Savage WASHINGTON -- The Supreme Court cast new doubt Monday on the future of affirmative action as it agreed to

hear a white contractor's challenge to federal programs that give an edge to minority-owned businesses.

The case, to be heard in the fall, tests whether race can ever be used as a plus factor for awarding government contracts to such companies.

It also puts the Bush administration on the spot. While conservatives have opposed minority-preference programs, the government's lawyers are generally obliged to defend federal programs.

Federal transportation law says that "not less than 10 percent" of the highway and transit funds should go to "disadvantaged business enter-

prises. The law presumes businesses headed by "black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian Pacific Americans and other minorities" are socially and economically disadvantaged. The 10 percent setaside would amount to about \$17 billion a year.

But this minority-preference program, and others like it, has a powerful foe in the Supreme

Court.

Six years ago, the court's conservative majority said the Constitution forbids racial discrimination against whites as well as blacks. "We hold today that all racial classifications, imposed by whatever federal, state or local government actor" are constitutionally suspect, the 5-4 majority wrote.

At that time, the court did not strike down the federal setaside programs in the case of Adarand Constructors vs. Pena. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's opinion suggested their days were numbered, however.

These "affirmative" preferences for racial minorities are unconstitutional, she said, except when they are directed narrowly to make up actual instances of discrimination against

minorities. The ruling was met with a mixed reaction. Conservatives said the Adarand decision meant the end for these "set-aside" programs. The Clinton administration's liberal lawyers instead adopted the Rev. Jesse Jackson's plea: "Mend it. Don't end

The administration moved to eliminate the wealthy from the "disadvantaged business" program, dropping minority business owners with a net worth of more than \$750,000. And whites were told they could qualify as "disadvantaged" if they could show they had suffered various hardships.

The minority-preference program was needed still to counter continuing racial bias in the construction industry, the Clinton administration's lawyers said. The "old-boy network" effectively excludes minorities and women, they said.

In 1998, when the highway funding law came before the Senate, the conservatives, including Sen. John Ashcroft, R-Mo., moved to kill the set-aside.

program. Beyond that, the "Adarand decision makes plain the unconstitutionality of (these) setasides," Ashcroft said.

The amendment he co-sponsored was defeated on a 58-37 vote. In September, President Clinton celebrated when the U.S. Court of Appeals in Denver ruled the government "may use race-conscious means" to make up for past discrimination.

But the white contractors in the original Colorado case appealed to the Supreme Court. Monday, the high court announced it will hear a second challenge to the same program.

This time, the defense of the program will be led by the Bush administration's Justice Department, headed by Attorney General Ashcroft.

Lubbock, Tx

In his confirmation hearing, Ashcroft was asked about the new Adarand case. "It would be inappropriate for me to comment on pending litigation," he said, but added "it is long-standing policy of the Justice Department to defend any federal law for which a reasonable and conscientious defense can be made."

The court will hear arguments in the fall. The outcome probably depends on O'Connor.

The four most conservative members of the court oppose any use of race-based affirmative action. They are Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy and Clarence Thomas. O'Connor has voted regularly with them, but she also has left the door open to a limited use of affirmative action to deal with continuing discrimination.

In the next few years, the court is also likely to take up a new challenge to affirmative action in college admissions. Several cases are pending in the lower courts.

New 11 Million Estimate On Undocumented Is A Scary One low. This, the bureau added,

By Cynthia L. Orosco New published estimates on the number of undocumented immigrants -- as high as 11 million -- living in the United States raise fresh questions about how well government agencies are able to pin down the figure.

They also raise concerns as to whether the 11 million estimate -- the highest floated by mainstream media in years -- is more scare than reality, and what repercussions on immigration reform this may stir.

Leading the coverage were The Washington Post and The Los Angeles Times. In March 18 stories, both papers gave the number great prominence and credence, attributing it to researchers at Northeastern University in Boston. The researchers, the newspapers explained, used census figures, and federal and business employment and wage information, in their cal-

culations. The papers followed with a U.S. Census Bureau admission that its current projections of the undocumented immigrant population -- 6 million -- may be could help explain its initial low overall population estimate. Census officials had expected to count 275 million people living in the United States. That turned out to be 6.7 million less than it found, and 10 million less than it projects when adding those missed in its conceded undercount. "There may be 2.5 to 3 mil-

lion more immigrants that were not in our estimate, but we are not saying that this is the number of the undocumented. The census does not ask legal status," says John Long, chief of the bureau's population division. These numbers, added to current estimates that peg the overall number of immigrants who entered the United States between 1980 and 1990 at 9.3 to 9.5 million, could total 11.8 to 12 million, he adds.

Long says the increase could be a product of better outreach and response, change in immigration flows and an increase in the number of H-1B visas issued.

Robert Warren, research coordinator for the U.S. Immigra-

tion and Naturalization Service's Office of Policy and Planning, tells Hispanic Link that 1996 INS projections showed the undocumented population would grow by 275,000 a year. Add this to the 3.5 million it recorded that year and you get 6 million. "The number as of the 2000 census date may be a halfmillion higher," he adds.

The National Council of La Raza President Raúl Yzaguirre calls the 11-million figure for undocumented immigrants a "gross exaggeration." He says the most important issue surrounding the growth of the immigrant community -- which he attributes to a better census head count and less circular migration -- should focus on reestablishing a process whereby individuals can adjust their residency status.

"If we get wrapped up in people taking away jobs and the economy going south, we could go back to a Great Depressionclimate, where we scapegoat immigrants as the reason for unemployment," he says.

Some immigration policy experts are also wary, stating that

while the actual number of undocumented immigrants could be higher than previously projected, the new figures are preliminary and likely include people who have lived in the United States for several years.

"These figures point to the need to revamp immigration laws so workers can be fully franchised members of the work force and not be exploitable," suggests Angela Kelley, deputy director of the Washington, D.C.based National Immigration For-

Efforts in the U.S. Congress in 2000 to pass the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act (LIFA) -which would have updated the registry date for eligibility from 1972 to 1986 and provided parity for those excluded from the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act -- fell short when the Republicanbacked Legal Immigration and Family Equity Act was approved Dec. 15.

Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.), a LIFA sponsor, is hoping to address some of these issues with his Working Families Registry Act, which he introduced March

Ex-Presidente De Venezuela Emite Aviso Severo Sobre Chavez

Por Miguel Pérez

Lo corrieron de su puesto y lo acusaron de manejar un gobierno corrupto, pero el ex-presidente de Venezuela habla con un encanto clintoniano y con una confianza que espanta escándalos. No se le pega nada a Carlos Andrés Pérez. Al menos así cree él.

"Me enjuiciaron, pero no me encontraron culpable del delito de malversación de fondos del que me acusaron," dice Pérez. "Sólo lograron culparme de desviar fondos para salvar la democracia en Centroamérica -- y de eso estoy orgulloso."

Sin embargo, al igual que con Bill Clinton, el caparazón del ex-presidente venezolano se ha ido rajando. Ya no goza de la credibilidad de antes -- lo cual es una verdadera pena -- porque ahora, más que nunca, el mundo entero debería prestarle atención.

"Cuando un individuo se adjudica todos los poderes del estado, lo llamamos dictador," dijo Pérez. "Ahora (el actual presidente de Venezuela Hugo) Chávez tiene control de los sectores ejecutivo, judicial y legislativo del gobierno. Puede hacer con Venezuela lo que él quiera."

Pérez, que fue presidente de Venezuela de 1974 a 1979 y de nuevo de 1989 a 1994, está en los Estados Unidos para denunciar lo que él percibe como la implementación paulatina de una dictadura en su patria.

Hace unas pocas semanas Pérez se presentó ante la Organización de Estados Americanos en Washington, D.C., para declarar que Chávez ya se ha tomado el control de los tres sectores de gobierno y falta poco para que Venezuela se convierta en otra dictadura.

"Existe una constitución, emitida por una comisión que Chávez convocó, dijo Pérez. "Pero hoy los que le piden que se acate a la constitución son los de la oposición, porque ni siquiera cumple con su propia consitución."

Cuando me reuní con él en Manhattan, Pérez decía cosas que sabe le pueden perjudicar cuando regrese a Venezuela.

"Pero no me importa," dijo. "Estoy dispuesto a arriesgarme. Se lo debo a mi pueblo. Fui presidente dos veces y cuando surgen dificultades, no puedo correr a esconderme."

Cuando viene a los Estados

Unidos estos días, siempre se sorprende con el número creciente de venezolanos que viven en el área metropolitana de Nueva York y Nuevo Jersey, me contó.

"En el pasado los venezolanos nunca salían de su país -- no había necesidad," continuó. "Hoy cientos de miles de venezolanos viven ilegalmente aquí en los Estados Unidos porque no quieren vivir en su propio país."

Dijo que la calidad de vida en Venezuela ha disminuido tanto desde que Chávez asumió el poder que los venezolanos están saliendo del país en números nunca vistos, huyendo del alto índice de crimen y el desempleo.

Según Pérez, "Chávez es un problema no sólo para Venezuela sino para toda Latinoamérica, porque está interviniendo en otros países. Ha prestado su apoyo a las guerrillas de Colombia, Bolivia y Ecuador, y representa una de las fuentes de inestabilidad para Latinoamérica."

Citando una resolución de la OEA de 1991 que insta que la organización condene a cualquier estado miembro que deje de ser democrático, Pérez pidió que los miembros de la OEA

"declaren que este hombre ha violado la democracia en Venezuela y que ha disuelto las instituciones venezolanas." Alentó a todos los países latinoamericanos a que rompieran relaciones diplomáticas con Venezuela, y dijo que la OEA debe cortar con Venezuela de la misma manera en que ha aislado a Cuba.

Aunque Chávez fue elegido democráticamente, Pérez espera que con la denuncia colectiva y presión del resto de América Latina, las fuerzas armadas venezolanas destituyan a Chávez.

Es irónico que 1992 la situación fue la contraria. En ese momento, Chávez, entonces oficial del ejército, intentó efectuar. sin éxito, dos golpes militares contra el gobierno de Pérez. Claramente, esta batalla no-tandemocrática, con ambos lados invitando la intervención armada, tiene años de existencia.

Sin embargo Pérez dice que ahora las cosas son diferentes, porque hoy en día la dictadura es de otro tipo. "No nos engañemos," dijo. "No estamos hablando del viejo estilo de dictadura, donde un hombre esgrime la espada y maltrata a la gente. No estamos hablando de la dictadura de (el chileno Augusto) Pinochet, ni (el venezolano Marcos) Pérez Jiménez ni (el dominicano Rafael) Trujillo. Estas dictaduras son modernas, disfrazadas de gobiernos democráticos y por ende muy difíciles de identificar. Dijo que los dictadores latinoamericanos modernos como Chávez y el ex-presidente del Perú, Alberto Fujimori, están 'cobijados' por el voto popular.

"A Fujimori lo eligió el pueblo y a Chávez lo eligió el pueblo y los dos resultaron dictadores," dijo. "Antes, para definir a un gobierno democrático, decíamos que era un gobierno elegido por voto popular. Hoy no es suficiente esa definición. Hoy hay que decir que es un gobierno elegido por voto popular y que sigue los principios democráti-

Pérez me contó que cree que Chávez se está convirtiendo en el Fujimori de Venezuela. Le respondí que me parece que Chávez se está convirtiendo en el Fidel Castro de Venezuela. Depués de todo, los dos dic-

"El es peor que todos ellos, es más peligroso," dijo Pérez,

amigos.

tadores de izquierda son buenos

'porque Venezuela tiene algo más poderoso. Es el mayor productor de petróleo en la región."

Dijo que esto agudiza el problema no sólo para Venezuela, sino también para los estadounidenses.

Según opina el ex-presidente, el presidente actual, en poder de todo ese petróleo, quiere ser el nuevo Simón Bolívar, libertador de Latinoamérica -- que sería fantástico si Chávez fuera una persona normal, estable.

"Pero el problema con Chávez es que no tiene equilibrio emocional," dijo Pérez. "Sus discursos duran tres o cuatro horas y si le escuchas, no puedes sino llegar a la conclusión que no le funciona bien la cabeza. Hay un problema mental con Chávez, que hace que todo sea mucho peor, mucho más peligroso." "¿Quiere decir que está loco?"

le pregunté. "Así creo, desafortunadamente," Pérez respondió.

(Miguel Pérez es columnista con The Record, en el norte de Nuevo Jersey. Contáctese con él por correo electrónico a Perez(AT SIGN)NorthJersey.com)

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Former President Sounds Harsh Warning About Venezuela's Chavez

By Miguel Pérez

He has been driven from office in disgrace, accused of running a corrupt government, but the former president of Venezuela speaks with a Clintonian kind of charm and confidence that makes scandals slide off him. Nothing sticks to Carlos Andrés Pérez. At least, that's what he thinks.

"I was tried, and they couldn't find me guilty of any of the malfeasance-of-funds charges they pressed against me," Pérez says. "All they could pin on me was diverting funds to save democracy in Central America -- and I'm proud of that."

Nevertheless, just as with Bill Clinton, the former Venezuelan president's Teflon has been wearing thin. His credibility is not what it used to be -which is a real shame because now, more than ever, is when the world should be listening to him.

"When one single man assumes all the powers of the state, we call that a dictator" Pérez said. "And now (current Venezuelan President Hugo) Chávez has control of the executive, judicial and legislative branches. He can do with Venezuela whatever he pleases."

Pérez, who served as president of Venezuela from 1974-79 and again from 1989-1994, came to the United States to denounce what he sees as the gradual implementation of a dictatorship in his homeland.

A few weeks ago, he went before the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C., and charged that Chávez has already taken control of the three branches of government and is well on his way to turning Venezuela into another dictatorship.

There is a constitution. which was drawn up by a commission Chávez convened," Pérez said. "But nowadays those who are asking him to follow the constitution are those in the opposition, because he doesn't even comply with his own constitution.

When I met him in Manhattan recently, Pérez was saying things he knows could get him in trouble once he returns to Venezuela. "But I don't care," he said. "I'm willing to take the risks. I owe it to my people. I was president twice, and when there are difficulties, I can't run and hide."

When he comes to the United States nowadays, Perez said, he is always surprised by the rapidly growing number of Venezuelans living in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area. "In

the past, Venezuelans never left their country -- there was no need," he said. "Today there are hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans living here in the United States illegally because they don't want to live in their own country."

He said the quality of life in Venezuela has diminished so much since Chávez has been in power that Venezuelans are leaving their country in record numbers, fleeing from high crime and unemployment. "Chávez is not only a problem for Venezuela, but for all of Latin America, because he is intervening in other countries. He has supported guerrillas in Colombia, Bolivia, and Ecuador, and he is a source of instability for Latin America.'

Citing a 1991 OAS resolution that calls on the organization to condemn any member state that ceases to be democratic, Pérez asked OAS members to "declare that this man has violated democracy in Venezuela and has dissolved Venezuelan institutions." He encouraged all Latin American countries to break diplomatic relations with Venezuela and said the OAS should cut off Venezuela in the same way that it has isolated Cuba.

Although Chávez was elected democratically, Pérez is hoping

that with the collective denunciation and pressure exerted from the rest of Latin America, the Venezuelan armed forces will depose Chávez. Ironically, in 1992, it was the other way around. It was Chávez, then an army officer, who tried unsuccessfully to stage two military coups against the Pérez government

This not-so-democratic battle, with both sides inviting armed intervention, has been going on for years. But Pérez says things are different now -- in this day and age, we are dealing with a new kind of dictatorship.

"Let's not lie to ourselves," he said. "We're not talking about the old-style dictatorships, the kind where a man holds up a sword and mistreats people. We're not talking about the (Chilean Augusto) Pinochet nor (Venezuelan Marcos) Pérez Jiménez, nor the (Dominican Republic's Rafael) Trujillo dictatorships. These are modern dictatorships, disguised as democratic, and thus very difficult to identify.

He said the modern Latin American dictators such as Chávez and Peru's former president, Alberto Fujimori, are "sheltered" by the popular vote. "Fujimori was elected by the people and Chávez was elected

by the people, and they turned out to be dictators," he said. "In the past, to define a democratic government, we would say that it was one elected by the popular vote. Today that definition is not enough. Today you have to say it is one elected by popular vote and following democratic principles."

Pérez said he thinks Chávez is becoming Venezuela's Fujimorn.

I told him I think Chavez is becoming Venezuela's Fidel Castro. After all, the two leftist dictators are good friends.

"He is worse than all of them, more dangerous," Pérez said, "because Venezuela has something more powerful. It is the biggest oil producer in the region. This makes the stakes very high, not just for Venezuelans, but for the people of the United States, he said. Sitting on all that oil,

Chávez wants to be the new Simón Bolívar of Latin America -which would be great if Chavez were a normal, stable person.

"But the problem with Chávez is he has no emotional equilibrium," Pérez said. "His speeches are three and four hours long, and if you listen to him, you can come to no other conclusion. His head is not functioning well. There is a mental problem with Chávez, which makes things a lot worse, a lot more dangerous."

"You mean, he is crazy?" I asked

"I believe so, unfortunately," Pérez said

Miguel Pérez is a columnist with The Record in northern New Jersey. He may be reached by e-mail at: Perez(AT SIGN)NorthJersey.com)(c) 2001, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate International, a division of Tribune Media Services.

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Bush Leaves Too Many Hispanics Behind

By James E. Garcia

A coalition of Hispanic and Black Congressional Democrats say President Bush's budget and tax cut proposals "leave too many behind."

"There is a deep sense of concern which translates to a deep sense of frustration" with Bush's budget plan, said Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas, the chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. "The numbers don't add up."

Hispanic and Black caucus leaders were joined at a Thursday news conference by Rep. Dick Gephardt, the House Democratic leader from Missouri. Gephardt said Bush pledged to "unite our country and leave no child behind," but the budget does not do that.

But Bush's plans also have Hispanic support, including the backing of the increasingly influential U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

As the Republican-led Congress ponders its next move on the Bush proposals, Hispanic and Black Democrats in Congress held a joint press conference Thursday to declare that the Bush's "Blueprint for New Beginnings" shortchanges most Hispanics and African-Americans.

In a lengthy report titled "The Impact of the Bush Budget on Black and Hispanic Families: Leaving Too Many Behind," the multiracial coalition asserts that Bush's budget "does not invest enough in education, health care, law enforcement" and programs that bridge the "digital divide"- the growing disparity between minorities and whites with respect to computer and Internet

President Bush has proposed \$1.6 trillion in tax cuts over the next 10 years, including reductions for people in all income brackets. Most Democrats and some Republicans have criticized the Bush plan as too much too fast, and tilted in favor of the rich.

Economists estimate that more than \$5 trillion in surplus tax revenue will be collected over the next decade, though most add that an economic downturn or other unforeseen events could reduce that figure dramatically.

Bush says Americans are simply overtaxed and deserve a break. He also insists that tax reductions will spur economic growth. Gephardt recently told PoliticoMagazine.com that he prefers a \$900 billion tax cut over the next decade because that would provide taxpayer relief and still leave enough money to protect and expand important government programs.

While most Hispanic leaders agree with Gephardt's assessment, George Herrera, president of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, thinks Bush's plan is good for small businesses and therefore good for Hispanics in general. "President Bush is providing the impetus to develop and expand Hispanic

small business. His plan is sensible, fair and greatly reduces the inequities that

currently exist within the current tax code," Herrera said. The USHCC is the largest and most powerful Hispanic business association in the nation. Herrera's views were seconded by the head of the Hispanic Business Roundtable, a smaller and pointedly more conservative pro-business group. "The President's tax relief plan will inject the much needed capital we need to turn around our slowing economy and help Hispanic families everywhere," said

HBR President Mario Rodriguez, who agrees with Bush's claim that a tax cut will stimulate the sluggish economy. Remedios Diaz-Oliver, a member of the HBR board of directors, added that many Hispanic families would benefit from proposals to double the "child tax

credit" to \$1,000 and eliminate the "marriage penalty tax." But in their report, Congressional Democrats assert that "most black and Hispanic Americans with children would get no tax cut at all," under the Bush plan, "while much needed improvements in better education, health care, Social Security and Medicare important to minorities are sacrificed" to help Bush meet his tax cut goals. The report further claims that Bush's tax cuts will actually end up costing

everyone will get relief under his proposal, "The reality is that the tax cut will benefit the wealthy while leaving a majority of black and Hispanic families with children behind," the Democrat's report found. Specifically, 45 percent of the Bush tax cuts will go to wealthy families in the top 1 percent of income. Defenders of the Bush plan say the rich get the biggest benefit because they

more than \$2 trillion over the next 10 years. And even though Bush insists

pay more in taxes. They also say that wealthy investors will use that money to spur additional economic investment and grow the economy. The Democrats' report, meanwhile, points to research by Washington-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities that shows that 53 percent of African American and Latino families with children would receive "no tax reduction if the Bush plan were enacted, even though 75 percent of these families include someone who is working." The report prepared by Hispanic Congressional Democrats found that about 6 million Black and Hispanic families, including 12 million children, would receive no benefit from the Bush proposal.

Many Black and Hispanic families will receive no tax gain under the Bush plan because they do not earn enough to owe federal income tax - although they do pay substantial amounts of payroll and other taxes. "Millions of black and Hispanic families fall into this category," the Democratic report states.

While that's true, HBR Executive Director Robert Deposada said in a press statement that critics of the Bush plan "ignore the fact that a vast majority of [Hispanic] small business owners pay personal income taxes on the money they earn in their businesses. And by reducing the personal income tax rates, Bush's plan will be a great boost for these small business owners." Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore, chairman of the Republican National Committee,

adds, "The President's budget proposal helps Americans from all walks of life. Education

President Bush has said education is a top priority for his administration. In his budget, he proposes \$44.5 billion in spending for the federal education programs, a 6 percent increase over this year's budget, though it's the smallest percentage increase in five years. The Democratic report says that of the \$2.4 billion increase Bush has proposed

in education, about \$2 billion will be spent on literacy programs and college Pell grants. The other \$400 million will go to increase funding for all other federal school programs. That increase, the report claims, will not cover the costs of inflation -- meaning funding for many programs may have to be cut.

Hispanic Congressional Democrats add that bilingual education programs alone need a \$509 million increase to meet the needs of so called limited English proficient students. Migrant education programs, they say, need a \$480 million increase. A national movement to end bilingual education in public schools has gained ground in recent years, but Bush has said he generally supports such programs and opposes "English Only" efforts.

Experts estimate that the number of Hispanic children in public schools nationwide will grow by 60 percent to nearly 13 million students by 2020. In states like California, Texas and Florida, school district officials say Hispanic student population is exploding.

As for higher education, the Bush budget proposal does not provide enough funding for colleges and universities with large minority populations. Bush provides 6.5 percent more for Hispanic Serving Institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities combined, compared to 24.5 percent average annual increase over the last three years under President Clinton.

"The Bush budget, when it comes to education for minority students," the report concludes, "seems to leave many behind."

Representative Illeana Ros-Lehtinen, one of only three Hispanic Republicans in Congress, staunchly defends Bush and his education plan. "I applaud the President's commitment to education and his program's emphasis on reading and math skills," she said. "Nothing is more important to parents who work two and three jobs to provide for their children's future than

the quality of education their kids receive." Social Security The report released by Hispanic and Black Congressional Democrats repeats another criticism of the Bush plan: In order to pay for tax cut, Bush may have to dip into the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

During his presidential campaign, Bush said, "we need to take a trillion dollars out of that \$2.4 trillion [Social Security] surplus [to set up individual accounts]." The President has proposed encouraging younger workers to invest some of the money they pay into Social Security elsewhere to pay for retirement. Democrats, however, say this could endanger Social Security and imperil Hispanic seniors, who tend to have less private pension money to depend on in retirement. Social Security is the only source of retirement income for 39

percent of elderly Hispanics and 40 percent of Blacks. And about 80 percent Hispanics retirees receive a majority of their income from Social Security. Medicare The federal government's primary health care program for the elderly, Medicare, is also threatened by the Bush tax cut proposal, say Democrats. Although Bush's Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson,

said Bush will not use revenue dedicated to Medicare for any other purpose. But the report by Hispanic Democrats says Bush tentatively designates about \$526 billion of the Medicare surplus to a "\$1 trillion contingency" fund -

meaning it could be used for tax cuts and programs other than Medicare. And the money Bush has pledged to help pay for prescription drug benefits for the

elderly, \$153 billion, is not nearly enough, they say. "Medicare and prescription drug coverage is important to Black and Hispanic seniors," the Democrats' report stated. "More than 4.5 million Black and Hispanic seniors get their health care through the Medicare program, and that

number will balloon over the next 25 years. Today, 1 of 4 Hispanics elderly Hispanic seniors depend on Medicare as their only source of health insurance, as compared to 1 of 10 non-Hispanic whites. And experts predict the percentage of elderly minorities, as compared to the overall

population, will more than double in the next 25 years. Indigent Health Care Bush has pledged to increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health

and to expand the number of community health centers -- which serve a

predominantly minority clientele. But Hispanic Democrats say the Bush budget plan does little to expand Medicaid, the government's medical coverage for the poor. And they say other programs aimed at minorities will suffer, including programs for low-income children and AIDS prevention and treatment grants. The rate of AIDS infection

is higher among Blacks and Hispanics than whites. Nearly 35 percent of Hispanics nationwide do not have health insurance. Justice and Civil Rights

The Bush plan will freeze the Justice Department budget, which liberal advocacy groups say could curb civil rights enforcement, legal aide services for minorities and even law enforcement in Black and Hispanic communities. "While Bush has said he stands for providing equal opportunity to all, his budget does not put money into enforcing the civil rights laws of our land," the Congressional Hispanic report claims.

Critics contend that Bush will roll back federal efforts to promote and protect civil rights. Bush recently ordered Attorney General John Aschroft, the nation's chief law enforcement official, to develop a plan to address "racial profiling" nationwide. While most Black and Hispanic leaders forcefully opposed his nomination, Ashcroft, a former U.S. senator, has pledged to vigorously enforce civil rights legislation.

Hispanic Democrats and Latino civil rights groups also worry that the Legal Services Corporation, which provides legal assistance to low-income Blacks and Hispanics will suffer major budget cuts under Bush. They say the program helps millions of low-income Americans, especially minorities, in need of legal assistance. About two-thirds of those eligible for legal aide are Hispanic and Black. The proposed cuts come even as the agency claims to have enough funding today to serve about 20 percent of eligible clients.

Digital Divide Bush also has proposed to cut federal funding used to deliver Internet access and computers to poor and rural communities. Research shows the "digital divide" between Hispanic households and the overall population grew 4.3 percent last year. About 46 percent of white households are connected to the Internet as compared to 23 percent of Hispanic households.

Small Business To meet his tax cut goals, Bush also will reduce funding to the Small Business Administration. To cover the cuts, fees would be increased for some programs.

Nonetheless, Rodriguez of the Hispanic Business Roundtable, said, "Critics of (Bush's) plan ignore the fact that a vast majority of small business owners pay personal income taxes on the money they earn in their businesses. And by reducing the personal income tax rates, Bush's plan will be a great boost for these small business owners.

Public Housing Bush's Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Mel Martinez, has said he will work hard to increase home ownership. But the Bush Administration cuts \$859 million from the federal public housing programs.

Most of the housing cuts will come from money targeted for the repair and maintenance of public housing units. Additionally, Bush wants to cut money for programs designed to rid public housing of illegal drugs by promoting drug treatment and security efforts to reduce drug related crime. In the end, according to Marisa Demeo of the Mexican American Legal Defense

and Educational Fund, "If Bush's current tax plan is implemented, Latinos will

Rep. Henry Bonilla, a key Republican advisor to Bush on Hispanic affairs. said, "The President's plan will directly help the millions of Hispanic Americans who are working for their family's future.... I really wish Democrats would put aside politics and help us make this tax cut a reality."

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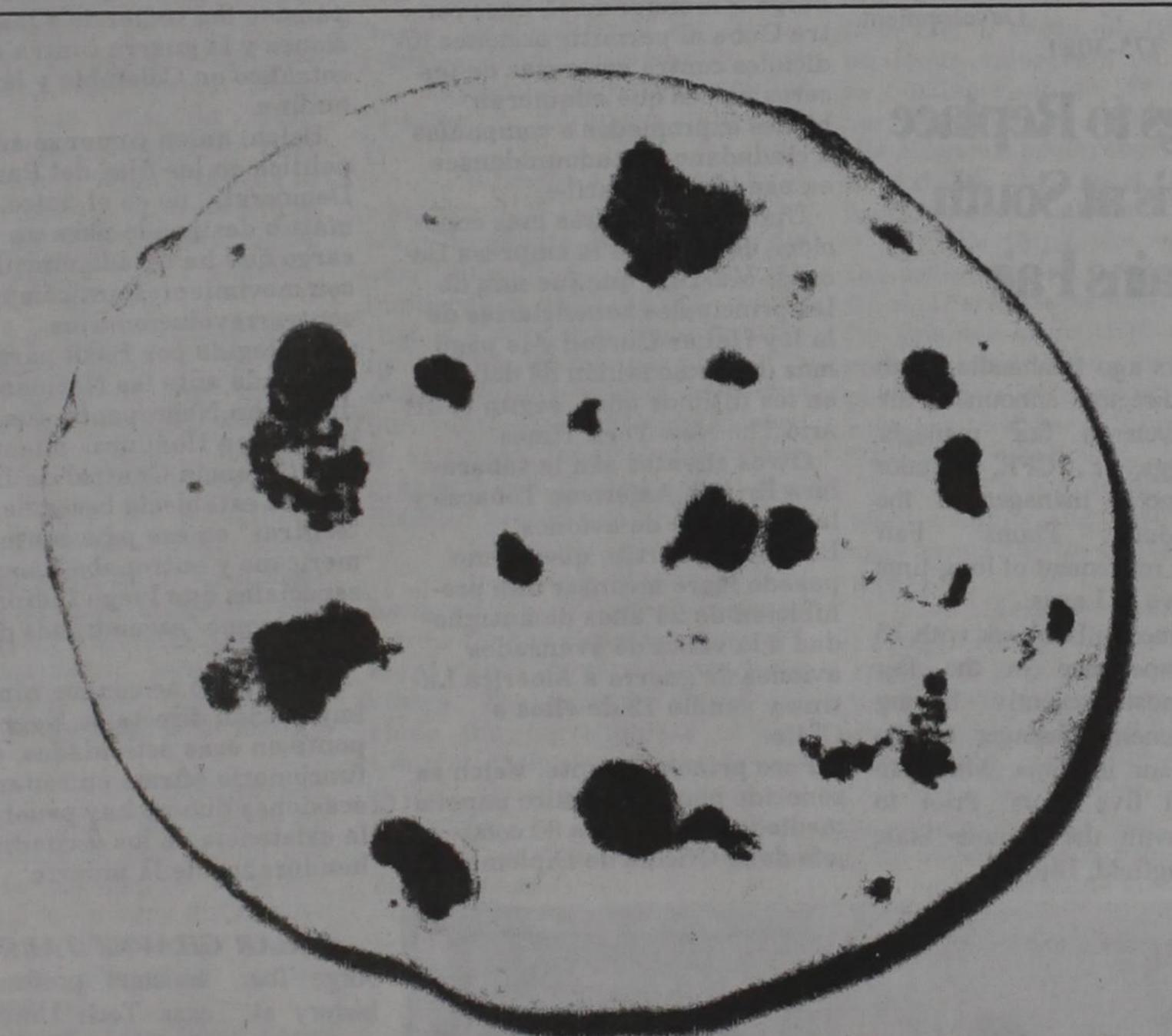


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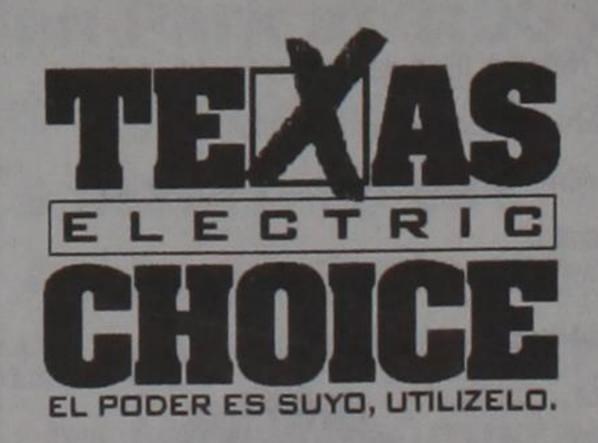
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ECLAC Warns of Impacts From Potential US Recession

By Gustavo González

I The economic slowdown in the United States has been greater than expected and paints a "very worrisome" picture for Latin America, said José Antonio Ocampo, executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Thursday, calculating that the region's growth for this year will be "3.5 percent or less."

The virtual US recession, within an already complicated global economic context, prompted ECLAC to revise down its original 3.8- percent projection for the region's combined gross domestic product (GDP) for this year, a rate formulated in December 2000.

Alan Greenspan, president of the Federal Reserve, the US central bank, indicated that economic growth in his country is null, while some analysts are already talking about negative growth there, pointed out Ocampo as he presented ECLAC's annual report on the international economic insertion of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The coincidence of the US slowdown with new economic debilitation in Japan is reflected "in a very strong deceleration of the Asian economies," said the chief of the regional economic agency of the United Nations.

In confronting this complex international economic situation, Latin America possesses some mitigating factors, including "the vigor the Brazilian economy continues to demonstrate," Ocampo said.

The Colombian-born economist added that in the immediate future the determining factors will be the quickness of US decisionmaking in combating the threat of recession, as well as the measures European authorities adopt to maintain their countries' economic growth.

Ocampo said Latin America's central banks should follow the trend set by the United States in reducing interest rates, with greater cuts in those countries whose economies are showing signs of waning.

ECLAC's latest prediction for the Latin American economy this year - "3.5 percent or less" is slightly more pessimistic than that of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which

concluded its annual meeting in Santiago on Wednesday with a provisional estimate of "at least"

a 3.5-percent expansion. Ocampo pointed out that the potential increases daily for a sharper deceleration of the Latin American economies, especially those that are most dependent on the United States.

The greatest threat hangs over Mexico and Central America, which in the last two years escaped the impact of the Asian financial crises, thanks largely to close ties with the United States, both geographically and commercially.

The ECLAC report presented Thursday underscores the fact that Latin American and Caribbean exports grew 20 percent in value and 11 percent in volume in 2000, compared to 1999, representing the highest export expansion rates of the decade.

The greatest portion of export growth was provided by the leading fossil fuel producers, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela, and by Chile.

The regional economy saw a 4.0-percent expansion last year, in a context of a world economy that grew 4.7 percent.

The only regions that registered lower growth than Latin America were Africa and Europe, with 3.4 percent each. The United States, meanwhile, saw a GDP rise of 5.0 percent.

ECLAC states that truly global markets are still a long way off, and that only the financial markets can currently be described as such.

Meanwhile, the migration of the workforce faces all sorts of obstacles, and international trade, especially in areas of interest to Latin America, continues to be subject to protectionist measures.

Financial globalization had a positive impact on domestic economies by permitting access to the means of international financing and to direct foreign investment, says the UN regional agency's report.

But the text then immediately warns about the impact of the most recent international financial crises on the developing countries that are furthest integrated into the global econo-

This impact has been so intense that "financial instability could become one of the least auspicious characteristics of the world economy."

mon Market) recorded a 20-per-

ECLAC reported that the re-

gion has maintained its commit-

ment to trade opening, a process

begun in the 1980s, despite the

unfavorable external climate.

Latin America and the Carib-

bean have the lowest tariffs

among developing countries.

persist in multilateral trade

power to industrialized coun-

Nevertheless, asymmetries

that grant "greater negotiating

tries, (which has) allowed them

to defend their national inter-

ests with greater effectiveness

Renovated

Family Center

Hosts Ribbon

Cutting

the newly renovated Family Center

LIHN was able to acquire and

Development

nenovate the facility with assistance

from the City of Lubbock's

Community Development Block

Grant (CDBG) allocation. In turn,

the renovations were funded through

the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG).

benefit from the services provided

by LIHN. The nenovated Family

Center provides a daytime home for

parents and their children who need

a hand up on their way to full

independence. Through the use of

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congregations of faith, LIHN keeps

children off the streets and families

together until they can get a place of

Ione Hartsill, Executive Director,

Interfaith

Jr.,

City

Lewis at South

Plains Fair

Plains Fair directors announced the

hiring of veteran fair manager

Herbert Higgs, Jr., CFE, to take

over as general manager of the

folliwing the retirement of long-time

Higgs comes to Lubbock with 25

years of experience in the fair

industry, most recently having

served as general manager of the

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for the past five years. Prior to

experience with the Illinois State

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Homeless families with children

Lubbock Interfaith Hospitality

than other countries," states

the ECLAC annual report.

cent rise.

Transnational corporations have shown a marked increase in their participation in the region's exports, growing from 18 percent in 1995 to more than 31 percent in 1999, surpassing 30 percent in Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Peru.

The report also highlights the expansion of intra-regional trade, which in 2000 recovered the dynamic it had lost in the two previous years. The Community of Andean Nations enjoyed a 35- percent upsurge in trade among the bloc's members, while Mercosur (Southern Com-

HISPANIC AGENDA Meets

organization Agenda will be meeting on Monday, April 2 at the Mahon Library at 5:30 Network for Homeless Families, pm. The library is located at 1306 Inc. (LIHN) hosted a ribbon cutting 9th Street and event will take place ceremony on Tuesday. The ribbonat the Community Room which is cutting commemorated the opeing of on the first floor.

Items on the agenda will consist located at the corner of Avenue M Redistricting: How it's likely to and 15th Street. City Council affect you! The presenter for this member T.J. Patterson was the Lubbock City keynote speaker for the ribbon Councilman Victor Hernandez.

Members of the organization are urging the public to the Cesar Chavez Commemoration Saturday, March 31. The march is to Community start at 1 pm at Aztlan park (1st & Department. The acquisition was Buddy Holly Ave) with a march to funded through the department's St. Joseph's Church Activity building 1st & Ave P.

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La designación del anticastrista Otto Reich para el máximo cargo de política exterior de Estados Unidos relacionado con América Latina marcó una victoria para los opositores al presidente cubano Fidel Castro y otras fuerzas derechistas del nuevo gobierno de George W. Bush.

Reich es un exiliado cubano que respaldó el movimiento contrarrevolucionario de Nicaragua en la década de 1980.

Las fuerzas de derecha realizaron una fuerte campaña para su nombramiento como subsecretario de Estado para Asuntos del Hemisferio Occidental, como forma de retribución a los exiliados cubanos por el papel que desempeñaron en la victoria de Bush en el estado de Florida, definitoria de la elección presidencial.

En realidad, la designación partió directamente de la Casa Blanca, y la única crítica procedió del secretario de Estado (canciller), Colin Powell.

Powell prefería para el cargo a una funcionaria de carrera del servicio exterior, Donna Hrinak, actual embajadora ante Venezuela, según fuentes confiables.

Aunque todo parece indicar que Reich será confirmado por el Senado, algunos legisladores ya anunciaron su intención de impugnar el nombramiento.

Los antecedentes y las preferencias de Reich podrían hacer muy dificil la formación de una política bipartidaria hacia América Latina, advirtió el senador Christopher Dodd, portavoz no oficial del opositor Partido Demócrata sobre asuntos latinoamericanos desde el gobierno de Ronald Reagan (1981-1989).

Algunos líderes industriales interesados en la formación del Area de Libre Comercio de las Américas también expresaron temor a que la posición radical de Reich hacia Cuba y su propensión a la beligerancia y las tácticas de presión lo conviertan en blanco de los opositores de ese acuerdo.

Reich, quien emigró de Cuba a Estados Unidos en 1960, a los 15 años, se desempeñó en los últimos tiempos como cabildero de gran éxito.

A mediados de los años 90 ayudó a redactar la ley Helms-Burton, que endureció el embargo comercial de 41 años contra Cuba al permitir acciones judiciales contra empresas de terceros países que adquieran bienes expropiados a compañías o ciudadanos estadounidenses en esa isla del Caribe.

Uno de los clientes más conocidos de Reich es la empresa Bacardi-Martini, que fue una de las principales beneficiarias de la ley Helms-Burton y le pagó más de medio millón de dólares en los últimos años, según el diario The New York Times.

Otros clientes son la tabacalera British American Tobacco y la fabricante de aviones Lockheed-Martin, que el año pasado logró levantar una prohibición de 24 años de antigüedad a la venta de avanzados aviones de guerra a América Latina y vendió 12 de ellos a Chile.

Pero principalmente, Reich es conocido por su polémico papel a mediados de los años 80 como jefe de la Oficina de Diplomacia

Pública de América Latina del Departamento de Estado, creada y administrada por la Casa Blanca para impulsar la causa de la "contra" nicaragüense desde Estados Unidos.

Las actividades de esa oficina fueron descriptas por un grupo investigador del Congreso durante el escándalo Irán-Contras como "propaganda encubierta e ilegal", por ejemplo la redacción de columnas y artículos en nombre de líderes contrarrevolucionarios para su publicación en diarios estadounidenses.

Algunos de los colaboradores de la oficina de Reich participaron de los esfuerzos secretos del gobierno para recaudar dinero en especial de viudas ricas y gente de extrema derecha- para la contra, en otra acción ilegal.

Por estos esfuerzos, Reich fue recompensado con uno de los mejores puestos diplomáticos, la embajada en Venezuela, mientras crecía el escándalo Irán-Contras, por la venta de armas a Irán para la financiación de la contrarrevolución nicaragüense.

Aunque su actuación de tres años en Venezuela fue menos polémica, los medios informaban con frecuencia de su presión al gobierno de Jaime Lusinchi para que adoptara una posición más antisandinista en el proceso de paz de Contadora.

Documentos desclasificados del Departamento de Estado también revelaron la intervención de Reich para la liberación de una cárcel venezolana del cubano-estadounidense Orlando Bosch, preso por la autoría intelectual del atentado contra un avión cubano sobre Barbados, que mató a las 73 personas a bordo.

Tras la liberación y deportación de Bosch a Estados Unidos en 1990, el entonces presidente George Bush (padre del actual mandatario) lo perdonó por los actos de terrorismo de que había sido hallado culpable por un tribunal estadounidense a fines de los años 60.

Los defensores de Reich, encabezados por los legisladores más anticastristas, insisten en que es un diplomático hábil que no permitirá a su fuerte anticomunismo desviarlo de otros intereses de Estados Unidos en el resto de América, en especial la expansión del comercio y las inversiones y la guerra contra el narcotráfico en Colombia y la región andina.

Reich, quien comenzó su vida política en las filas del Partido Demócrata, no es el único diplomático designado para un alto cargo que ha estado vinculado con movimientos anticomunistas contrarrevolucionarios.

El elegido por Bush para la embajada ante las Naciones Unidas, John Negroponte, fue embajador en Honduras mientras la CIA (Agencia Central de Inteligencia) establecía bases de "contras" en ese país centroamericano y entrenaba fuerzas especiales que luego fueron conocidas como "escuadrones de la muerte".

Aunque no se conoce ninguna implicación directa de Negroponte en esas actividades, el funcionario afirmó en reiteradas ocasiones que no hay pruebas de la existencia de los escuadrones hondureños de la muerte.

CESAR CHAVEZ TALK - Dr. Jorge Iber, assistant professor of history at Texas Tech University, gave a presentation last week at South Plains College as part of a multicultural celebration of the life of Cesar Chavez, champion of the rights of migrant farm workers. From left are Dr. Iber and SPC representatives who helped with the event -- Ernest De Los Reyes, 19old electronic service technology major from Spur, Gracie Quinonez, diversity counselor and coordinator of multicultural servies at SPC, Mindy Perez, 20-year-old office technology major from Levelland, and Erica Arias, 19 yearold social servies major from Crosbyton. Reyes and Arias are members of Los Tejanos, a student service organization which assisted in the event.

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Fox Propone Reunión a Marcos y Anuncia Nuevas Acciones

por Diego Cevallos Inter Press Service

MEXICO, El presidente de México, Vicente Fox, envió hoy una carta al jefe de la guerrilla zapatista, el subcomandante Marcos, para invitarlo a una reunión personal, y anunció nuevas acciones para atender las demandas de ese grupo.

Fox ordenó la transformación de tres destacamentos militares, cuya retirada del estado de Chiapas pide la guerrilla, en centros de desarrollo indígena, y pidió a Marcos precisar quiénes son los zapatistas presos para liberarlos lo más pronto posible.

El pronunciamiento del mandatario se produjo luego de que los 24 jefes del Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (EZLN) anunciaron que regresarán a las selvas de Chiapas, pues, según afirmaron, recibieron en la capital un trato indigno por parte de diputados, y del presidente sólo palabras y no hechos.

Los líderes de EZLN habían llegado a la capital hace dos semanas luego de recorrer 3.000 kilómetros desde Chiapas para impulsar ante el Congreso una ley de derechos indígenas.

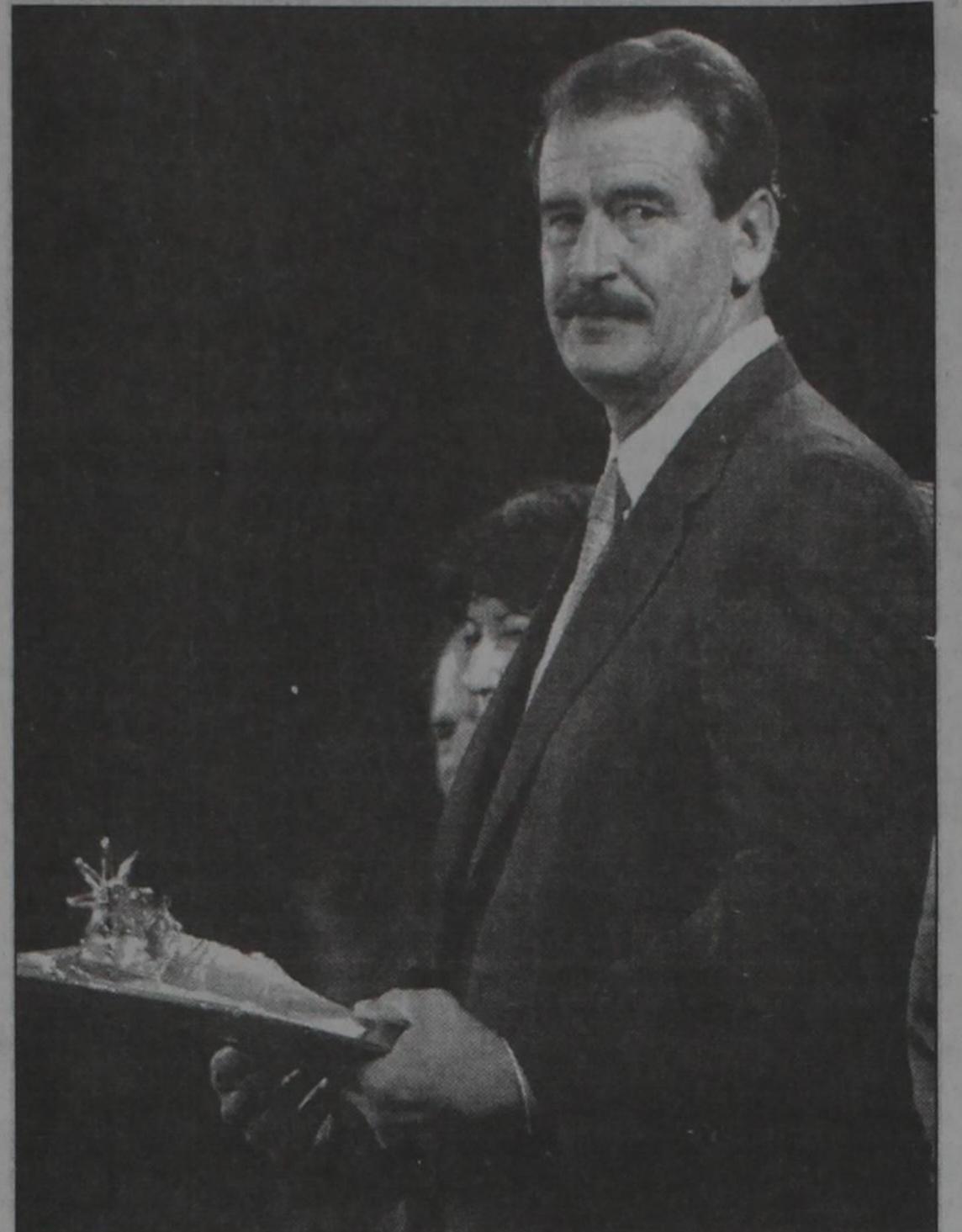
La decisión zapatista demostró que los rebeldes y los políticos que apelan a los carriles institucionales hablan lenguajes distintos, según los observadores.

"Todos queremos la paz y queremos que sea una realidad", expresó Fox, luego de informar que había pedido a los diputados que recibieran al EZLN en el Congreso legislativo para impulsar la aprobación de la ley indígena y que había enviado una carta al subcomandante Marcos.

El presidente explicó que desea mantener una reunión el jefe rebelde antes de que deje la capital, con el objetivo de concertar medios para el desarrollo de los pueblos nativos, impulsar la ley indígena y avanzar hacia

La decisión del mando del EZLN de abandonar la ciudad "es un paso hacia atrás en el proceso de pacificación", expresó Demetrio Sodi, miembro de la Comisión de Concordia y Pacificación del Congreso.

Varios diputados pidieron a los zapatistas la reconsideración



de su medida.

En cuatro meses de gestión, Fox retiró de Chiapas cuatro de los siete destacamentos militares que exige el EZLN, presentó al Congreso el proyecto de ley indígena que respalda el grupo armado y propició la liberación de más de 86 presos zapatistas.

Pero para reanudar el diálogo de paz, suspendido en 1996, la guerrilla demanda la aprobación de la ley, el retiro de los tres destacamentos militares restantes y la liberación de unos 10 presos más. Sobre los dos últimos puntos Fox respondió este

martes. El anuncio de los zapatistas de regresar a Chiapas no debería sorprender, sostuvo el historiador Andrés Aubry.

El grupo, que se levantó en armas en enero de 1994 pero sólo combatió 12 días, demostró que sus conceptos sobre paz, justicia y dignidad son diferentes a los del gobierno y a los del Congreso legislativo, precisó el his-

Antes de que los guerrilleros llegaran a la capital, el presidente Fox hizo múltiples declaraciones de bienvenida al EZLN, afirmó que su visita abría las puertas de la paz e incluso invitó al subcomandante Marcos a dialogar en la casa presidencial, pero el líder rebelde no aceptó.

Lo que el gobierno quiere es firmar la paz y arreglar el conflicto lo más pronto, reconoció el mandatario en esa ocasión, mientras el jefe rebelde declaró que Fox no demuestra interés real en la paz y que sólo quiere una reunión para "la foto"

"El gobierno ha extendido su mano y ha dado la bienvenida a la marcha del EZLN, y en todo momento hemos cumplido la palabra, pero sobre todo hablamos con hechos", dijo el presidente este martes.

"Podemos alcanzar la paz, estamos a tiempo. (...) El presidente hará todo lo que esté de su parte, todo que sea necesario para que esta paz sea realidad",

añadió, luego de explicar que insistirá en reunirse con Marcos.

Fox ve la paz como pacificación, como el silencio de las armas. Cree que se va a firmar la paz, comenzará el desarrollo y viviremos otro periodo político. Pero del lado zapatista dicen no: la paz es algo que se construye", opinó Aubry.

Los zapatistas pedían en la capital ser recibidos en pleno en la tribuna del Congreso y ante todos los legisladores explicar su apoyo al proyecto de ley indígena, pero los diputados y senadores acordaron que sea un grupo el que los reciba y fuera de la sala de sesiones.

"En el (Poder) Ejecutivo y en el Legislativo se pretende hacer política como si nada hubiera cambiado en el país, como si los pueblos indios (indígenas) pudiéramos ser tratados como de por sí nos han tratado durante los casi 200 años que México tiene como nación", expresó el subcomandante Marcos.

"Los pueblos indios ya no andamos ni andaremos tocando puertas para suplicar que nos escuchen y nos atiendan. (...) No haremos cola para recibir sellos de recibido en nuestras demandas históricas", señaló.

La decisión de regresar, luego de que habían afirmado el 9 de este mes que se quedarían en la capital hasta que la ley fuera aprobada, fue calificada de sorpresiva por diputados, mientras algunos empresarios la consideraron errónea.

La posición zapatista es "inmadura e irresponsable", pues no aprovecha las facilidades ofrecidas por el gobierno y el Congreso, pero además no entiende que hoy existe pluralidad política y que no es el momento de amenazas, opinó Alejandro Martínez, presidente de la Confederación de Cámaras Industriales.

Cuando el EZLN decidió marchar a la capital para hablar con diputados, los observadores destacaron que los rebeldes ingresaban al juego de la política institucional, donde existe pluralidad, vicios y tiempos diferentes a los de los indígenas.

Pero las reglas de esa política fueron al parecer insoportables para los guerrilleros, sostuvo la analista Beatriz Cerisola.

Bravo Del Toro

He seems to resists the celebrity that goes with acting in the movies. He is a working man's actor. But after winning the Best Supprting Actor Oscar Sunday for his role in Traffic, he is officially a movie star.

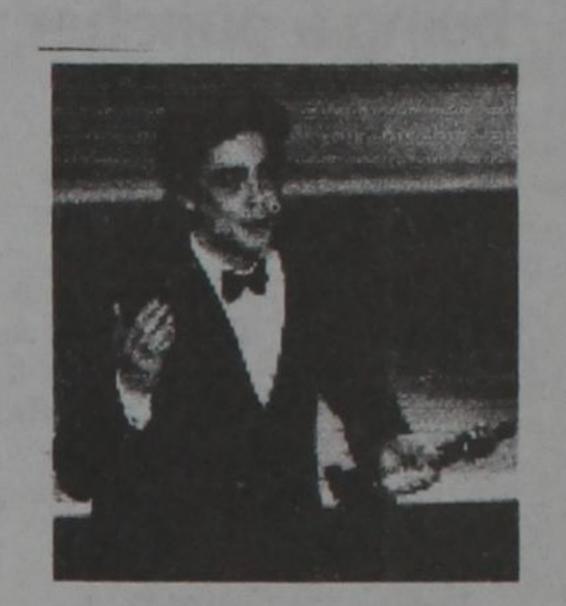
Del Toro was perceived as a favorite before Sunday's ceremony, but expected stiff competition from veteran actors like Willem Defoe and Jeff Bridges. After his name was announced, the Puerto Rican-born actor gave a treat to Mexican bordertown residents everywhere.

"This is dedicated to the people of Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Mexico," said the 31year-old actor, who shot his award-winning role on location in these two bordertowns. The movie Traffic received four awards Sunday.

After his public speech, Del Toro gave thanks to his people back home in Puerto Rico.

"I offer this [award] with pride to my Puerto Rican people, including the beloved and suffering people of Vieques," said Del Toro to El Nuevo Dia.

With his victory for the role of Javier Rodriguez in Traffic, Del Toro became the fifth actor of Latino descent to win the



movie industry's most prestigious award. Fellow countryman Jose Ferrer won an Oscar in 1950 for his leading role in Cyrano De Bergerac. New York City's Rita Moreno, Mexican-born Anthony Quinn and Cuba Gooding, Jr. whose father was born in Cuba, are the other past winners.

Also on Sunday, Mexico's fifth Best Foreign Film nominee, Amores Perros, failed to capture the Oscar from box office hit Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon. Filmmaker Florian Gallenberger did score an Oscar victory for his live action short Quiero Ser (I want to be ...) about two orphan brothers trying to survive the unforgiving streets of Mexico City.

Education Program to Adress Signs of Potential Suicide

LUBBOCK - Cancer, heart disease and diabetes are all leading causes of death; however, there is another health problem in the United States that is often overlooked.

Suicide was the eighth leading cause of death in the United States in 1998, according to the latest statistics from the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. It is the third leading cause of death for young people between the ages of 15 and 24.

To raise suicide awareness, Covenant Health System and the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal are teaming up to host "How to Recognize the Warning Signs of Suicide and What to Do About It" at 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 26, at Covenant's Knipling Education/Conference Center, located on the sixth floor of the West Parking Garage at 21st Street and Louisville Avenue. Anyone who has access to observe potentially suicidal behavior, including parents, high school and college counselors and teachers, and church leaders, is encouraged to attend the suicide education program.

Speaker for the event censed psychologist. Giles, the regional director for psychological services for correctional men-

tal health at the John T Montford Psychiatric Medical Unit, leads inpatient group therapy for Behavioral Health Services

He also developed and implemented the suicide prevention and treatment program for the entire Texas prison system.

Suicide is not just a nationwide problem; it is also a problem in West Texas. According to the "Community Health Assessment of Lubbock" recently issued by St. Joseph Health System, of which Covenant is a member, Lubbock's suicide rate per 100,000 population was significantly higher than the state average in 1998. The data is based on information from the Texas Department of Health. The suicide rate for Lubbock was 16.7 per 100,000 population in 1998, while the state average was 10.4.

"It is a tragic and potentially preventable public health problem. One of the ways we can hopefully curtail this is by educating the public on signs that can indicate possible self-harm," said Ron Rains, director of Behavioral Health Services for Covenant. "This education program is a wonderful way to get this type of information."

For more information about the program, call (806) 725-6395 or (800) 972-7575.

Economic Region: Canada-Mexico-United States ering petroleum or natural gas,

The approval and subsequent signing of NAFTA (TLC as is known in Mexico), by the three North American trade partners, has signaled what could be the continent's first economic front, what happens in the future could be very well de- what kind of economic zone we from Alaska to Panama? termined by the way the region prospers and develops economi-Here is what Ambassador

Berruga had to say:

"It's of paramount importance to develop a clear vision of the economic region we are building in North America. Based on what we accomplish we'll be able to do a better job in the immigration field, legal matters, the borders situation and the environment. So far our Canadian partners have shown great interest in this concept, as well as how to deal with energy

problems. "If we, Canada, Mexico and the United States fail to develop a joint vision in our region our immediate and long term future, it is going to be very difficult to deal wisely with the most urgent matters and stir them in the right direction.

"In a very important paragraph of the document "La Propuesta de Guanajuato" President Fox stated, "We'll strive for the consolidation of an economic front in North America.

"This is the first time that in an official document signed by two of the three countries signatories to NAFTA there is mention of an economic community in North America. We must remember that someth-

ing similar happened before when the creation of the European economic community was the beginning of the consolidation for the European communi-

"Without a clear vision of want to create it's going to be very difficult to implement an the options could be more beneimmigration package. Of course that is a very importante matter by itself but, is just part of a wider and more complex aspect of our relations and closely related to business, investment, telecomunication, environment and disaster prevention matters."

Panama zone President Fox has announced his intention to create a zone for the economic development of Mexico's southern states. The program could include the participation of the Central American countries and extend the developing zone to

What is the status of Plan Zona Panama?

"This project is one of several matters under evalua-

tion, in this case we have to answer one of these questions: Do we focus exlusively on NAFTA as outlined? or do we dedicate our attention to what we call the Mexican preference, that is, to extend the Treaty's space

"We think the second of fitial, there are several reasons for this, we know that as far as energy conduction and transportation is concerned the connections between Alaska and Panama are deficient."

"Let's use as an example what's happening with the energy crisis in the State of Cali-

Mexico sells them enough energy every day to supply 50,000 homes with electricity. We could easily increase the volume to fullfill the needs of 400,000, but California does not have the capability to conduct our production capacity. The existing high tension lines can carry a volume of energy for 150,000 homes.

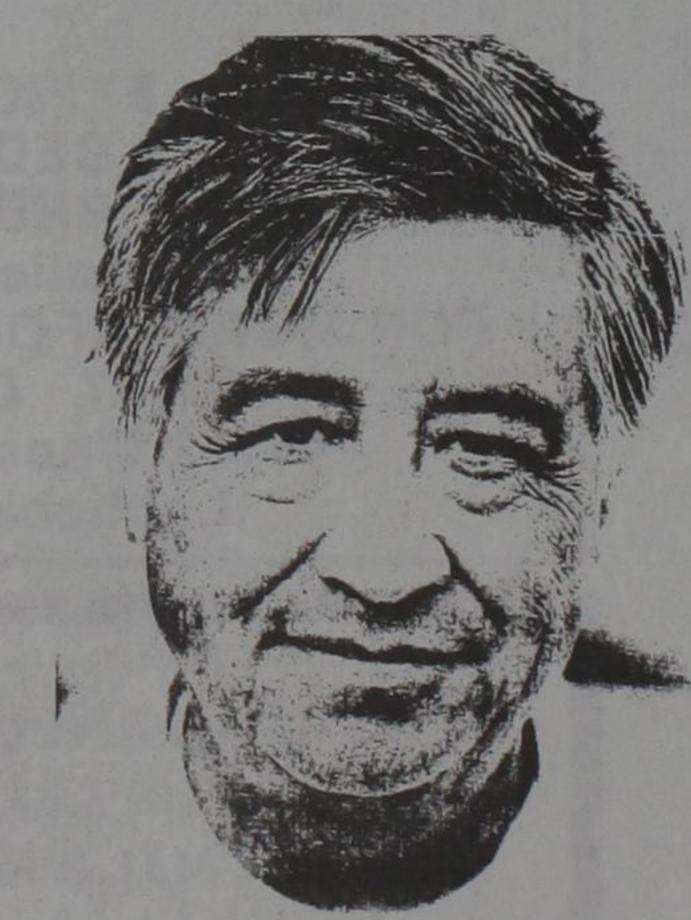
"When it comes to deliv-

the problem is the same, there aren't enough pipelines.

"At the present time the construction of a gasoduct between Mexico and Guatemala, that eventually will reach Panama, is in its final stage. Once this pipeline is completed we'll will be Chuck Giles, Ph.D., libe able to deliver natural gas to all Central American countries.

"The project to build a high speed railroad to acelerate the traffic of overseas containers between the Gulf of Mexico and Pacific Ocean's ports, across the Tehuantepec Istmus in the State of Oaxaca, is still on

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Aztlan Park-1st & Buddy Holly Ave. / St. Joseph's 102 No. Ave. P

The Cesar Chavez Celebration Committee at 791-3545

El Editor Newspapers

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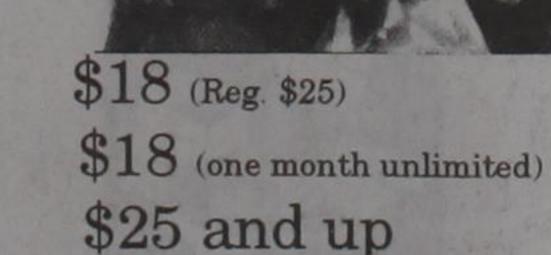
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De La Hoya will concentrate on being a puncher, not a crooner

LAS VEGAS -- Oscar De La Hoya is nothing but a boxer -for the time being.

"I decided I want to box and give it my all," De La Hoya said after stopping Arturo Gatti in the fifth round in his first fight in nine months. "I can do my singing and acting after boxing ... it'll only be a couple of years.

During his layoff, De La Hoya made a CD that was nominated for a Grammy as best Latin pop album of 2000.

"I want no distractions," he said. "I don't want to think about anything but boxing.

De La Hoya and new trainer Floyd Mayweather were pleased with the performance Saturday night, but both thought there is room for improvement.

"I gave myself a `C'," De La Hoya said.

"You only seen 10 percent of Oscar De La Hoya," Mayweather said. "In the next fight he's going to step up to the next level.

De La Hoya, who has won titles in four weight classes, will challenge Javier Castillejo of

The XFL has been introduced

to the public eye as the most

raw and the roughest form of

play in the league has been

football ever. The effort to start

long and strenuous, requiring

lengthy hours of detailed work

by behind the scenes employees

bodies for this demanding by the

players. What would an athletic

Latino players make up a rather

small, but definitely visible per-

centage of these players who

are embarking on a mission to

XFL. Of these, four have at

ball never seen before.

least one

Colorado.

entertain fans in a form of foot-

There are eight teams in the

Latino player. The Chicago

Enforcers have Chris Perez, a

man born in Shawnee Mission,

of Kansas. The Enforcers also

boast Tony Ramirez's presence,

born in Englewood, Colorado,

The New York/New Jersey

5'11" 190 pound kicker, born in

comes from Torrence, California.

Harlington, Texas and out of

Steven F. Austin College in

Texas. Another New Yorker

David Camacho, a 6'7" 310

pound offensive tackle out of

fights off defenses with his in-

The Las Vegas Outlaws have

two Latinos on their squad, Da-

vid Diaz Infante and Angel Ru-

bio. Infante is a 6'2" 296 pound

center born in Parker, Colorado

and was educated and played his

University. Rubio is a defensive

teammate. Going out to Califor-

nia, the LA Xtreme have a Lati-

no kicker, 5'11", 205 pound Jose

Cortez comes to the Xtreme from

gon State University. His home-

playing his college ball at Ore-

town is Corvalis, Oregon. Last-

ly, the Xtreme also have a Lati-

no center. 6'6", 315 pound Jose

Portilla is the only one out of

this group of Latinos actually

college ball at San Jose State

tackle, like Infante, standing

6'2", but weighing fourteen

more pounds than his fellow

timidating size and strength.

Oklahoma State University

Hitmen have Leo Araguz, a

a 6'5" 305 pound offensive tackle

from the University of Northern

Kansas and from the University

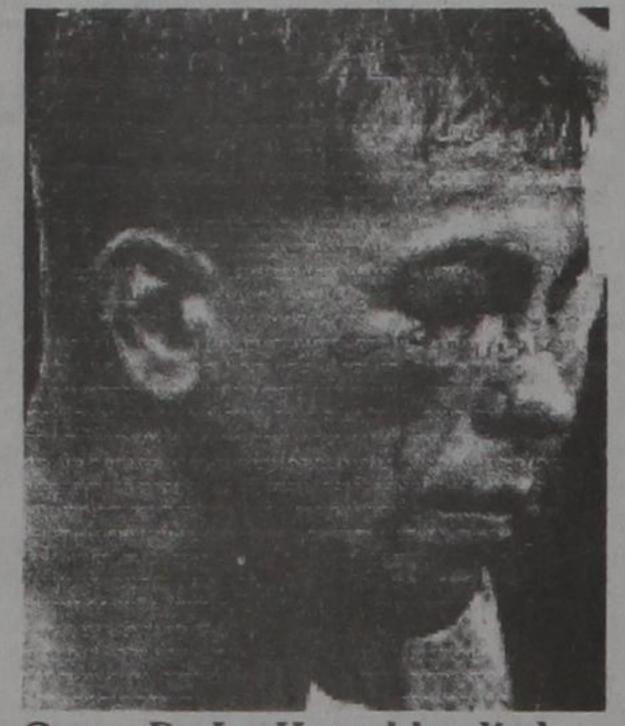
6'6" 290 pound offensive line-

league be without its players?

and especially, long hours of

training and preparing their

XFL Football



Oscar De La Hoya bloodied Arturo Gatti's face in his return to the ring.(AP)

Spain for the WBC super welterweight (154 pounds) title June 9. Castillejo was supposed to attend the fight but was delayed and didn't arrive at the MGM Grand until the post-fight news conference.

De La Hoya, who lost the WBC welterweight title to Shane Mosley last June 17, weighed in officially at the welterweight limit of 147 pounds for Saturday's fight.

Rematches against Felix Trinidad and Mosley are among De La Hoya's goals, but, he said, "Castillejo is next and right now he's the only one on my mind.

Although De La Hoya talks about learning more from May-

weather than from previous trainers, he won 34 of 36 fights before Saturday night. The two losses were on close decisions to

Trinidad and Mosley, two of the best fighters in the world. "I felt kind of bad, I felt confused after my last loss (to

You can tell I've done it be-Mosley)," De La Hoya said. "I'm anxious to get back to the top I'm still looking for the perfect fight and I know I can do it with Mayweather."

Against Gatti, who stayed in front of him and tried to trade blows, De La Hoya threw more right hands and blows to the body that he usually does. Gatti, who had no answer for

De La Hoya's hand speed, was knocked down by three-punch combination with about 20 seconds left in the first round. He also was cut over both eyes and under the right eye.

When De La Hoya had Gatti reeling from a barrage of punches, Gatti's corner threw a towel into the ring and trainer Hector Roca began to climb through the ropes. Referee Jay Nady then stopped fight at 1:16 of the fifth round.

Gatti went to Valley Hospital for stitches and did not attend the post-fight news conference.

Gary Shaw of Main Events said Gatti might fight in September in Canada. The former IBF junior lightweight champion lives in Jersey City, N.J., but he is native of Montreal.

Diaz Infante y Angel Rubio. Infante mide 6'2" 296 libras un centro quien nacio en Parker, Colorado y educado y jugoen la universidad de San Jose. Rubio juega la defensiva, como Infante, mide 6'2", pesa 14 libras más que Infante. En California, los LA Xtreme tienen otro Latino "kicker", que mide 5'11", 205 libras Jose Cortez viene a los Xtreme jugo para el colegio Oregon State. El es de Corvalis, Or-

Ultimo, los Xtreme tambien tienen al centro Latino de 6'6", 315 lbs., Jose Portilla es el unico Latino nacido en un país Latino. Portilla nacio en Zaragoza, Mexico, y jugo para la University de Arizona.

born in a Latino country. Portilla was born in Zaragoza, Mexico, playing his college ball at The University of Arizona.

Latinos en la XFL Hay ochos equipos en la nueva liga de football americano XFL. De estoas equipos cuatro tienen por lo meno un Latino. Los Chicago Enforcers tienen a Chris Perez, 6'6" 290 libras jugando la linia ofensiva nacido en Shawnee Mission, Kansas de la Universidad de Kansas. Los Enforcers tambien cuentan con Tony Ramirez's, con un cuerpo de 6'5" 305 libras juega la ofensiva nacio en Englewood, Colorado, de la Universidad de Northern Col-

Los Hitmen de New York/New Jersey tienen a Leo Araguz, quien mide 5'11" con 190 libras y es un "kicker", de Harlington, Texas de el colegio, Steven F. Austin en Texas. Otro de Nueva York que viene de Torrence, California es David Camacho, 6'7" y 310 libras un jugador ofensivo de la universidad de Oklahoma State.

Los Las Vegas Outlaws dos Latinos en su equipo, David

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Dishes I Have Washed

By Olivia Muñoz

You can tell by the way I wash dishes. You can tell I've worked in a Mexican restaurant.

fore, urgently and for money. Not much money, mind you, but a job. There is nothing I hate more in this world than washing dishes.

The summer after my freshman year of college, I needed a job desperately. I applied everywhere, but no one was hiring a bilingual, college-educated, welltraveled 19-year-old published author in the summer of 1999. Not even Rite Aid.

A Mexican restaurant by our house in Saginaw, Mich., was owned by some friends of the family I had known my whole life. My aunt, my mom, my brother and I all had worked there off and on. My first time I was about 15 and I had just come back from Mexico. I worked to save enough money to go again that same summer.

I don't remember hating it as much then. Maybe it was because I had a specific goal to save for.

But during my summer vacation from college, I wanted nothing to do with the food industry. I wanted an office job. When I couldn't find one of those, I told myself something in retail would have to do. Well, Target never called back.

I needed money and I told myself to stop being a snob, call up María and Chole, the two sisters who ran the restaurant What made me too good to wash those dishes again?

So I began immediately, coming in at 8 a.m. to vacuum, sweep and mop the floors, clean the bathrooms and start washing the pots and pans the cooks had piled up for me.

I woke up every workday only 15 minutes before I was due to start. It didn't take me long to pull my hair back in the braid that went down to my waist. I had no need for jewelry or makeup, and my nails, my pride and joy, were cut, their intricate enamel designs removed. I pulled on my old brown Dickies pants (a staple of my high school days) and a black T-shirt, and I was set to go.

I checked in verbally. I had no time card or any other paperwork that said I actually worked there. I was employed by word only. This gave me the liberty of not being bound by my signature to work specific days or hours other than the ones I requested

every day to go to work. But she didn't know English.

My dad came to this country very young. He learned English perfectly, earned a college degree and Vietnam war ribbons. Now he works at a chemical plant, but for much of my childhood he worked at Kmart, He seemed to enjoy it. He'd ride his bike to work on nice days and come home with stories of chasing down shoplifters. Every year he got a 25-cent raise.

My mom was just happy to be making extra money for the family, I guess. I admired her for not being at all bourgeois, even though, secretly, I felt she had the right to be.

My parents never complained about their jobs, as I do about that summer when I wasn't "honor-roll Oli" or "fun-loving Oli." I was just "dishwashing Oli." On the bright side, I guess I can call it a humbling experi-

(Olivia Muñoz, of Saginaw. Mich., spent a work-study semester as a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C. She is currently on break from school and dishwashing to explore the possibilities of Southern California.)(c) 2001, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate, a division of Tribune Media Services

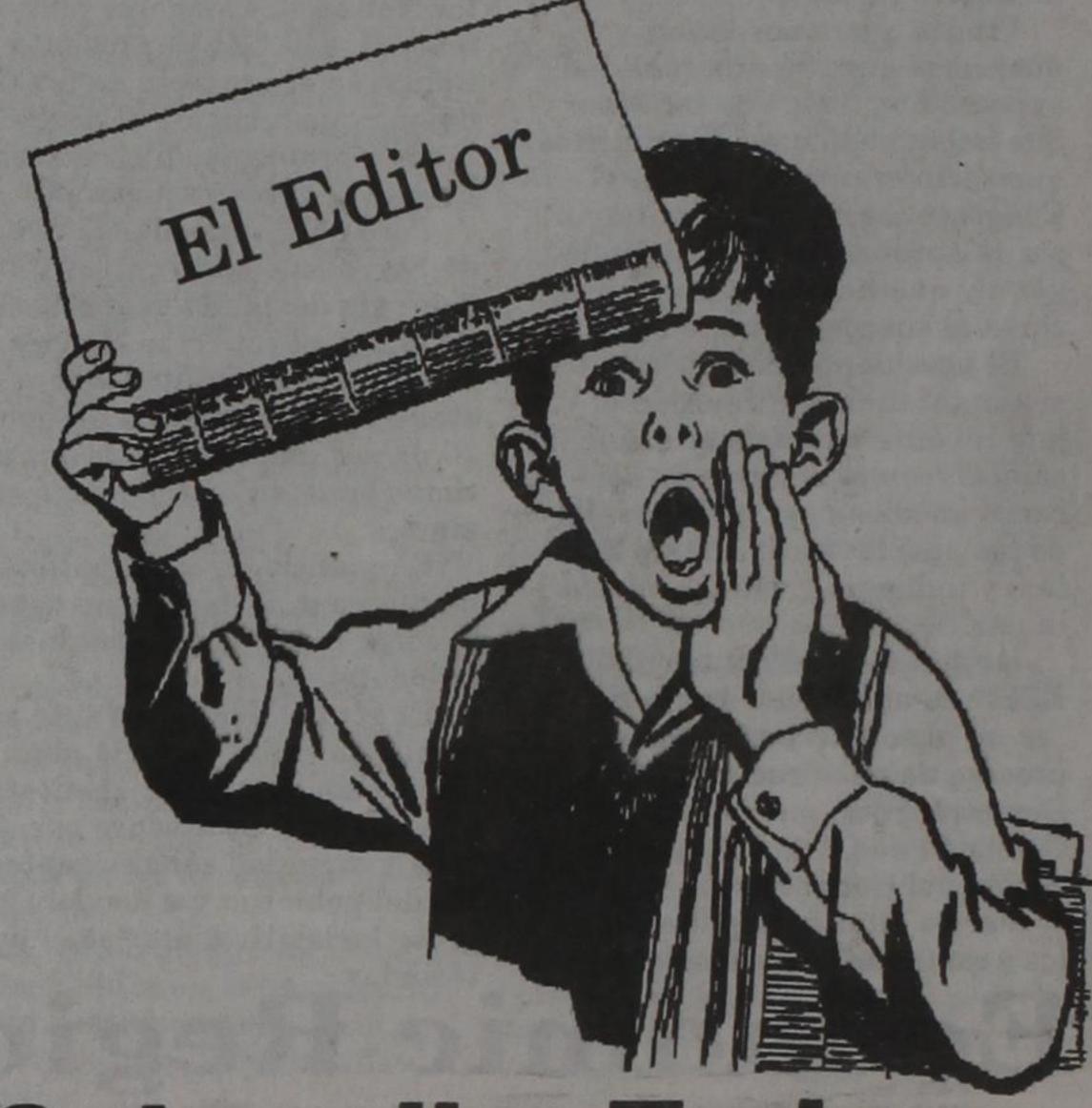
of Chole the night before. It also gave her the freedom to pay me whatever. She decided \$5 an hour was fitting for someone with my experience, exactly what she had paid me four years

earlier. I hated every minute in that restaurant, though the work itself wasn't as demeaning as my status. I envied the cooks who got to chatter with each other and left earlier than I did. I resented the waitresses who got paid better and collected tips, and who never pronounced any of the dishes correctly. None of

them talked to me much. The work was nothing and although there was plenty of it all day long, it was mindless. "I'm in college," I thought. "What am I doing here? I know English!"

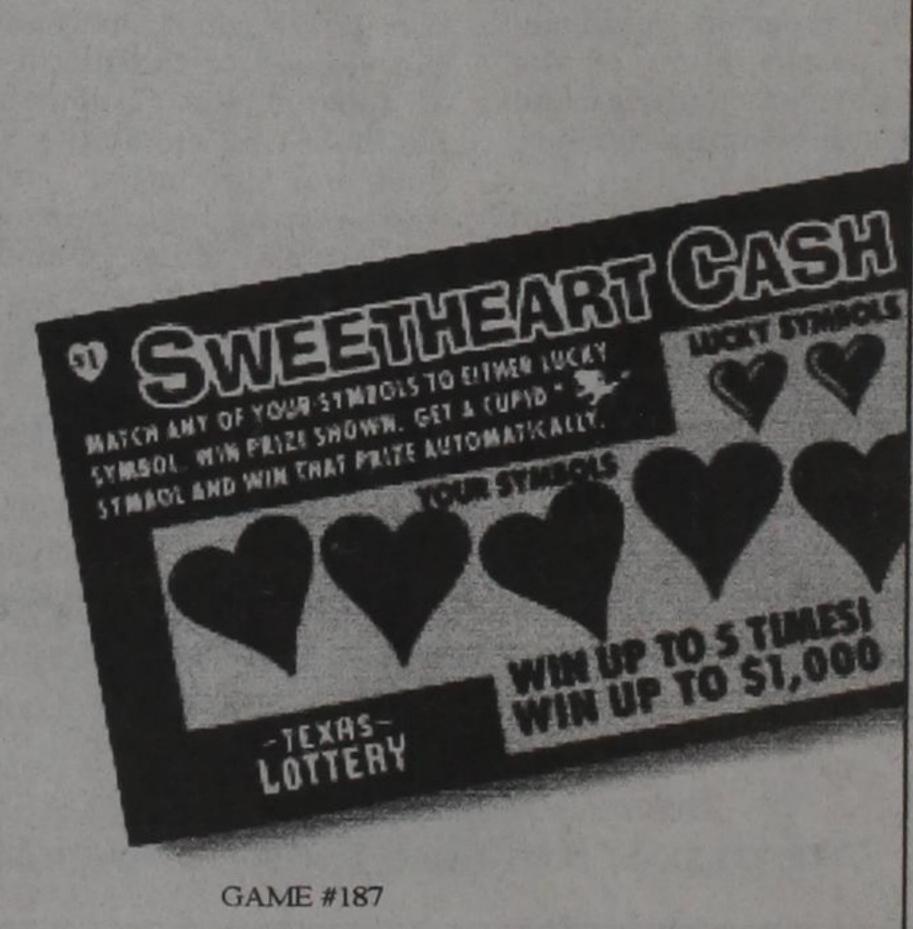
My bosses knew Spanish. That's the language I used to speak to them. I wondered how many people thought I was an immigrant or illiterate, dirt poor or illegal. I felt sorry for the Guatemalan guy who washed dishes when I wasn't there because he was all those things.

I thought about my parents. My mom had worked in the fields and cleaned houses -- still does -- no matter what lawyers she had worked for in Mexico. She used to dress up impeccably



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LA Softball Team Wins Lubbock's 1st of Spring Tournament

Going undeafeated in a bracket of 26 teams, Petersburg's LA (Latin Assassins) managed to win El Editor's First of Spring Tournament held this past week at MacKenzie Parks.

Playing in sometime freezing weather, all Lubbock teams played closes games that enabled players to keep warm despite the weather.

Lubbock Bud Boyz managed to come back from the loser's bracket after being beat by O'Toole early in the tournament. The surprizing O'Toole teams came in a close 3rd behind Bud Boyz and Mix-Ups came in

The tournament marked the first major tournament held in Lubbock since softball started this year with teams playing Saturday and Sunday to the enjoyment of all. The tournament was sponsored by El Editor Newspaper and hosted by Los Yaquis Softball team.

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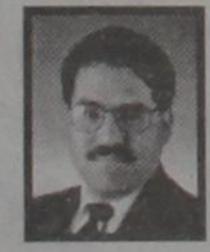
Physicians Network Services

announces, effective April 2, the relocation of Patti Hood, M.D. & Robert Martinez, CFNP



Patti Hood, MD, PhD Parkway Community Health Center 406 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Lubbock, TX 8am-5pm, Monday through Friday Call 767-9744 to schedule an appointment.

If you are currently seeing Dr. Hood, your medical records will be sent to the Parkway location.



Robert Martinez, CFNP Freedom Square Community Health Center 1301-50th Street, Suite 8 Lubbock, TX 8am-5pm, Monday through Friday 762-3597 If you are currently seeing Mr. Martinez for your health care, your medical records will be sent to the new Freedom Square location at Suite 8.

If you have any questions regarding these relocations and your medical records. please call 762-3597.